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McInteer Sermon Outlines - Acts

Jim Bill McInteer

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1. As the new year opens, we are encouraging all to read the Bible thru in a year.
   A. How much time?
   B. How many chapters?
   C. What will I get out of it?
     1. Have you ever read it thru?
     2. In one yr.?
     3. See the stimulation & the unity that can come knowing we are all reading together.
     4. J. C. Howard to encourage new folks to start c us.

II. Illustrate c Acts.
   A. Can you really grasp other books if you don't know it?
     1. See this truth.
     2. See particularly its relation to scheme of redemption.
   B. Bridge between gospels & Epistles.
     1. Were gospels complete?
        a.) Predictions.
        b.) Promises.
        c.) Expectations.
           (1) Build church.
           Matt. 16:18 "And I say also unto thee, That thou art
           (2) Send Holy Spirit.
           Lu. 24:49 "And, behold, I send the promise of my Fa
           Jn. 15:26 "But when the Comforter is come, whom I
           (3) Go into all the world.
Acts 11:26 "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the
2. Epistles speak of things that already have happened
about which gospels are silent.
a.) Where'd Paul come from?
b.) When did become apostle?
c.) Catholicity.
Col. 1:23 "If ye continue in the faith grounded and set
d.) Location of many churches.
1 Cor. 1:1-2 "Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus C
1 Thess. 1:1 "Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto
Gal. 1:1-2 "Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither b)
e.) Indwelling of HS.
1 Cor. 6:19-20 "What? know ye not that your body is
Gal. 4:6 "And because ye are sons, God hath sent for
2 Tim. 1:14 "That good thing which was committed unto
f.) Name Christian.
1 Pet. 4:16 "Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let
C. What Acts does.
1. Shows results of carrying out gospel.
2. Ans. above qts.
Acts 2:1-4 "And when the day of Pentecost was fully
Acts 2:38-39 "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and
Eph. 1:13 "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard
Gal. 3:14 "That the blessing of Abraham might come on
Acts 8:4 "Therefore they that were scattered abroad with
5. Christians.
Acts 11:26 "And when he had found him, he brought him
   1. Ea. gospel cites it.
   2. Obey composite & in Kingdom.
   2 Pet. 1:5-11 "And beside this, giving all diligence,
   3. Note harmony.
   Matt. 28:18-20 "And Jesus came and spake unto them.
   Mk. 16:15-16 "And he said unto them, Go ye into all
   Lu. 24:46-47 "And said unto them, Thus it is written,
   John 20:21-23 "Then said Jesus to them again, Peace
   Gal. 1:6-9 "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from
   a.) Pentecost.
   b.) Jailer Acts 16:16-34
      (1) Believe.
      (2) Only or obey.
   Acts 16:34 "And when he had brought them into his ho
   Rom. 10:17 "So then faith cometh by hearing, and he
   (3) Saul.
   Acts 9:1-19 "And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings
   22:1-16 "Men, brethren, and fathers, hear ye my
   26:1-19 "Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Thou art p
   III. Point - we can't skip one book & still grasp fullnes
   of Bible - study it all.

Rev.: End 1-4-81
EVANGELISM, THE LIFE BLOOD OF THE CHURCH
Acts 1:1-3

I. Evangelism—tell others Christ has come and is willing to save their souls.
      1. He was author of another Book—former treatise.
      2. Writer identified by peculiarities of style and personality.
         a) Our idiosyncrasies do it.
         b) 50 words here not found elsewhere.
         c) Many medical terms.
      3. Acts has no ending since the work of God is never done. Our Lord still works, great days are not over. Kingdom movement goes on and on. Only thing finished was Jesus’ earthly life as he gave plan of salvation, bowed head and died saying it is finished.
      4. No ending to book, no consummation, no reaching out to great climax, it just stops. (Criswell)
      5. Covers about 34 years AD 30-64.
C. Treatise
1. Taken in hand implies a difficult task.
2. Accurately—to trace down smallest and very last detail.
3. Writes to produce faith & certainty of things heard.
4. Treatise—Walker says narrative better word.
5. Historical record.
6. 2nd volume implies account of things Jesus continues to do & teach after his ascension and to be done by Holy Spirit in his followers.

D. Addressed to Theophillus
1. Otherwise unknown.
2. Excellent, great & noble stature, affluent.
3. Society had plebes, common people, knights, wealth, dignity, highest allocades—Senator.
5. Only gospel addressed to a man.

II. The Theme—Jesus Began Both to Do & Say
A. Central figure of all gospel—Jesus.
1. Incarnate Son of God.
2. Living, eternal, all powerful.
3. Came to earth in human form.
4. Flesh & blood rubbed shoulders with humanity.
5. Was soon to leave earth, but his message to go on—not through angels or voice of God but through frail, fallible humans.
B. Began to Do & Say
   1. Favorite word--31X in gospel, 10X in Acts, thus a little token of his authorship.
   2. Do & Say summarizes story of Jesus.
   3. Subject same as Luke's gospel--Jesus!
   4. We are to be acceptable with Jesus--start to finish.
   5. Note order--1st life and then lip. Deeds before words--Did & Taught.

C. Taken Up
   1. Not earlier authorized to announce Messiahship. "On the contrary whenever he discovered a disposition to do so, He uniformly forbade it and this not only to various recipients of his healing power by the apostles themselves." (McGarvey)
   2. Tell man I am Christ (Matt. 16:20).
   3. Stir no political ferment--had to train apostles as their crude conception of messiahship resulted in gross misconception nature of expected Kingdom.
   4. They had a promise and wait for Holy Spirit to guide.
   5. Their question about restoring Kingdom shows misconception of Christ's Kingdom--shows at that time Kingdom not established.
6. Finally when taken up first step in unsealing their lips.
7. Ascension seen.

D. Thru Holy Spirit Commands to Apostles
1. Promise they could testify of Jesus.
2. Holy Spirit be their guide in future fulfillment.
3. Spirit testifies of Jesus and His work done through Him.
4. Apostle = one sent, official position.
5. They will proclaim the gospel.

Luke 24:44

III. Revolutio nal Theme—Resurrection
A. Showed Himself Alive
1. The most incredible fact of history must be reckoned with the resurrection of Jesus.
2. Resurrection brought hope to a desperate world.
3. It makes known of God with possibilities.
4. Gloom and despair of crucifixion dispelled.
5. A new way is opened to all.
6. Hope is found exclusively in Jesus—not industrial development, war victories, technological advancement, human progress, self-improvement—only in Jesus.
7. The vision of the Risen Lord altered the whole world's perspective and certainly the outlook, work and future of the apostles.
9. Passion—suffering is over.
10. Vicarious sacrifice, ascension, 
    atonement, Resurrection, coronation—
    keystones of Christian faith.

B. Via Infallible Proofs
1. Proofs strong word indicates 
   demonstrative proofs.
2. Aristotle used word as comparing 
   sign.
3. Galem, GK Dr. as a demonstrative 
   evidence.
4. Word nowhere else in NT.
5. Means a sure sign.
6. Means positive proof to the senses.
7. Jesus did it by look, tone, gesture, 
   act to leave no uncertainty.
8. He spoke, ate, walked with them.
9. He showed scars on hand & side.
10. Convincing proof by sight, touch, 
    hearing—beyond any reasonable 
    doubt.

C. Seen 40 Days
1. No monetary hallucination—saw, spoke, 
   touched—evidence irrefutable.
2. Resurrected body had no need of 
   material food & drink, yet 
   convinced them he's no phantom.
3. Appeared to apostles but to no 
   enemies.
4. Yet though not needing food ate 
   with them to convince them.

Luke 24:43
Acts 10:41
5. 40 days--only X in Scripture cited for lapse of time between resurrection & ascension. Yet add 10 days while they waited for Holy Ghost it equals 50 days between Mosaical sheaf of wave offering and Pentecost.

IV. The Message: Kingdom of God
   A. Rule of God
   B. Church not restricted to Jerusalem but uttermost parts.
   C. Not the earthly Kingdom of Israel.
   D. Matthew calls it Kingdom of Heaven--Jesus now King.
   E. 124X in ministry of Jesus.
   G. Do what God commands.
   H. To the will of God every knee will bow (Phil. 2:10).

   Dissecting the affairs of God's realm
   Speaking of the concerns of the King
   Discussing the interests of the King

Goodlettsville - 9/23/01
WHERE IS THE MOTIVATING EMPHASIS?
Acts 1:1-14

1. Often we speak of the early church - how did they worship - what work did they do - how successful were they.
   A. All rightful qts.
   B. But I ask what was their motivating emphasis - what were they preaching?
   C. How could one ever better learn than seeing the preface of their work - even before the church began. They are just coming out of the dressing room to play the game of life - and -

II. This, as we read these verses, was their game plan - and one they played extremely well!
   A. Their work was a continuation of the gospel!
      2. Addressed to an unknown "lover of God." (We do not honor men because of their worldly (but rather godly standing.
   B. Jesus was their theme.
      1. His words & work.
   V. 1 "All that Jesus began both to do and teach."
      a.) Could tell His Messiahship during his ministry.
      Matt. 16:20 "Then charged he his disciples that they should go into the..."
      b.) Now they understood fully.
      c.) Jesus made flesh & dwelt among.
   2. His passion - Jesus died for me.
      a.) He's substituted for me.
      b.) Death has no real power over me.
3. His resurrection.
   a.) 40 days.
   b.) 10 appearances.
   c.) 500 folk at one time.
4. His ascension.
C. Gift of the Holy Spirit.
1. Told to wait in a troubled city - peril.
2. Was not their home - Galilee was - yet Jer.
   center of influence.
D. Jesus 2nd Coming.
1. He made a promise.
2. Jesus never leaves us alone - orphans.
E. The Kingdom of God.
1. Apostles misunderstood nature.
2. K. was not yet established.
4. Now Jesus is King.
F. Prayer.
1. Returned Sabbath day journey.
   a.) 3/4 mile - 7/8 mile.
   b.) 1000 paces.
2. Manner of men & their characteristics seen.
   a.) 11 named.
   b.) Only 3 take scene in Acts.
   c.) Yet surely work for others unnamed.
   d.) Women - Mary for last time - brethren of Jesus.
3. Prayer - Upper Room - waited on God.
   a.) Scene of Last Supper?
b.) Where 1st Sun. nite met disciples?
c.) Week later Thomas?
d.) Name great among them - it was humble folk of modest means, moderate ability.
e.) But were united & empowered.
f.) They expected the fulfillment of a promise!
g.) Came c great joy.

4. Please observe.
   a.) Diverse talents.
   b.) Men at post ready to do duty.
   c.) God finally consumated His Word of grace & sent Jesus to this world.
   d.) He'll come back.
Recently in our church an Internal Revenue agent stood up to give a testimony and described how a great change had come into his life. He told how going through the tax returns he came across a case in which a man who had an income of less than $5,000 a year, listed a contribution to his church of $684. So the agent decided to call on him. He went to the young man's humble cottage and knocked on the door. The man came to the door and the agent told him he was from the income tax service and he had come to talk to him about his return. He expected the man to squirm and tremble. Instead, the man welcomed the agent and invited him in. The agent then questioned the man about his salary of less than $5,000 and the contribution of $684 to his church. There was no flustering nor hesitant excuse; he just looked the agent in the eye and said it was his tithe and a small offering that he gave to his Lord. The agent asked for receipts as proof.
and the young man was able to produce them for he kept them in the drawer where he kept his church envelopes. The agent said everything was correct, apologized, and was about to leave when the man invited him to attend his church. The agent thanked him and told him he belonged to a church already. Then the young man said, "Excuse me, sir, but somehow that possibility had not occurred to me."

As he drove away, the agent said the last sentence of that young man stayed in his mind. "Excuse me, sir, but somehow that possibility had not occurred to me."

What did he mean? He said he never understood it until the following Sunday morning when the offering plate passed before him and he dropped in his usual quarter. He couldn't help but think of that young man. He worked with his hands - he was a laborer - and he made less than $5,000 a year. But he dedicated to God a tenth and had added a love offering beside.

HEIGHT

When I was young, my producer, George Tyler, told me that were I four inches taller I could become one of the greatest actresses of my time. I decided to lick my size. A string of teachers pulled and stretched till I felt I was in a medieval torture chamber. I gained nary an inch, but my posture became military. I became the tallest five-foot woman in the world. And my refusal to be limited by my limitations enabled me to play Mary of Scotland, one of the tallest queens in history.

— HELEN HAYES

...An educated person can entertain a new idea, entertain another person, and entertain himself.

— SYDNEY HERBERT
MANIFESTED BY LOT
Acts 1:15-26

I. Man, says McCartney, was never to launch so great an enterprise as the church.
A. But Jesus died.
B. Disciples fled.
C. Jesus arose.
D. Said "wait" Acts 1:4
1. 10 days in prayer.
2. Ascension occurred.
3. Upper room meeting place.
E. Judas betrayed Lord – what will the public now think if we come 11 instead of 12, how do we explain.

II. "And in those days" (Acts 1:15).
A. Peter's Proposal.
1. Always speaking. One who denied now speaks.
2. New Test. holds no vituperation.
3. No. of names – 120 (Acts 1:15)
   (a) Name = person.
   (b) Hebrew way to count.
   (c) Separated from world – names of saints.
4. Brethren.
   (a) NT church organization very simple; & very honest!
   (b) Peter forgets past & forges ahead in spite of past mistakes.
   (c) "Church" united.
   (d) No Rt. Rev. – Cardinal – Excellencies!
5. This Scripture must needs have been fulfilled (V. 16).
(a) Ps. 69:25 Ps. 109:8.
(b) Respect for Scripture.
(c) Knew it was inspired - "The Holy Ghost by the mouth of David."

II Pet. 1:21 "For the prophecy came not in old time John 10:35 "The Scripture cannot be broken"

1. All things must be fulfilled.

Judas described.
(a) "Guide to them that took Jesus" (V. 16)
(b) "Numbered in us" (V. 17)
(c) Obtained part of this ministry (V. 17)
(d) Purchased field c reward of iniquity (V. 18)

1. All Jerusalem knows.
2. Aceldama = Field of Blood.
3. Innocent Blood
4. Fell headlong - bowels gushed out.
5. Went to own place - each of us makes our own (V. 25).

7. Judas must be replaced.
V. 20 "For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let
(a) Why need to replace him - didn't martyr James
(b) Because of Judas' defection?
(d) Don't think worse of any office because some fall in theirs.

B. Peter Cites Apostolic Qualifications.
1. Companied c us all the time of Jesus.
2. Began at John's baptism to ascension.
(a) No novice.
(b) Character well known.
3. Be a witness of his resurrection.
(a) Chief business of all - witness of Christ.
(b) Must know chief proof - resurrection.

III. Two Qualified Men.
A. Joseph.
1. Justus, called Barsabas.
2. Know nothing about him.
3. No name recognition.
4. Don't know how he felt when not selected.
5. Barsabas = son of an oath.
B. Matthais "gift of God."
1. No mention of him earlier.
2. No mention of him again.
3. Name "gift of God" appropriate for method used.

IV. How do you choose between the 2?
A. Today's work.
1. I asked a med. student - "What kind of Dr. will you be?" He ans., "Whatever kind the Lord wants me to be." How will he know.
2. I asked grease monkey "I'm waiting for the Lord's direction in what he wants." How do you see Him ans. prayer.
B. The 1st picked men that met qualifications.
1. They did all they could in light of what they knew.
2. Used all wisdom they had.
3. Men didn't pick selves.
4. I have no right to ask God to bless something foreign to His instruction, i.e., sign whether I will or won't commune. I must be Scriptural.
C. They prayed.
   V. 24 "Thou Lord, which knowest the hearts of all
1. Sought Heaven’s guidance.
2. He knows our hearts—lit. "heart knower."
3. Prayer to Jesus or Jehovah?
4. Lord in NT usually means Jesus.
5. 1st prayer to Jesus—proves His divinity.
D. They casted lots.
   1. Some selections we have to make.
   2. OT usage.
   Prov. 16:33 "The lot is cast into the lap; but the
   whole disposing thereof is of the Lord."
   Lev. 16:8 "Aaron cast lots upon the 2 goats
   3. Did they use right method?
   4. Were they premature as accused?
   5. McBee says silence of Scrip. on future of men
      shows it was not God’s way. ???
   6. Lots used after earlier selection made on more
      reasonable grounds.
   7. No more lot casting after HS came.
   8. Apostles that these 2 men equal, thus need for
      lots.
V. Our Method of Providential Guidance.
   A. Can we submit to lots if we have no fear of God?
   B. Does this allow His providence to be employed?
   C. Was it a blind appeal to chance?
   D. Did they bring to it all the talents they had?
   E. Is this an apostolic example for our answer to
      prayer.
   1. Use the best judgment I have.
2. Submit my dilemma to God in prayer.
3. Seek an answer w/in the scope of conscientious procedure - remaining as neutral & then as accepting as I know how.
4. Be sure my choices are all w/in the bounds of scripture & conscience.
CONTRAST THE BEGINNINGS
Acts 2

I. It is said there are eleven great religions in the world--each asking man for his loyalty.
   A. All of them began in the East--that's where life started.
   B. Only one of them proclaims a Savior--that is Christianity.
   C. The beginnings can be pretty well documented.
   D. We contrast two: Muslim with Muhammad and Christianity with Jesus.
   E. First we will see the beginning and results of the Muslim one.

II. Islam (I rely on Rod Parsley's "Silent No More").
   A. Its origin.
      1. Muhammad, the beginner.
         a) Born 570 AD, Arabian town of Mecca.
         b) Now the heart of Islam.
            1) Town encircled black building called Kaaba.
            2) It houses a meteorite called The Black Stone.
         c) Tribes with more than 270 gods met there to worship.
         d) One god among many was Allah.
e) The Quraysh tribe said he was the only god—Muhammad of this tribe.
f) One dad died before he was born, mother died shortly after giving birth.
g) Uncle Abu Talib raised Muhammad, teaching him how to be a caravan leader.
h) Lonely, epileptic, would cry himself to sleep on desert floor.

B. Muhammad's travels took him to far reaches of Middle East, learned of many religions.
1. Saw Jew and Christian with one faith made them great and powerful.
2. Arabs had many gods, and no unity.

C. Muhammad employed by wealthy widow, Khadija, 15 years older than he—two fell in love and married, thus Muhammad became wealthy.
1. He'd go to mountain outside of Mecca, pray, ponder this matter of faith.
2. Once in a cave on a peak of Mt. Hira in A.D.610 had an experience that became the foundation of a new faith.
a) Prostrate on cave floor, voice came saying "Recite." Thought it was a demon, mistaking him for ecstatic prophet, but he had no intention of becoming a prophet. Aloud, "I am not a reciter."

b) For a moment nothing, then a violent rush of unseen spirit gripped him, thought he'd die, suddenly let go, pause, then firmly "Recite."

c) Said "I am not a reciter." Seized again, crush was more than he could bear.

d) Released, paused, Muhammad angry. No compliment to be called a prophet, revolted.

e) Again repeated, grip, release then nothing.

f) Voice came speaking through Muhammad's mouth: "Read, Proclaim" in name of your Lord and Cherisher, who created man out of a mere clot of congealed blood: He who taught the use of the pen, taught man that which he did not know.

g) Thought this a mistake. Muhammad illiterate as were many in his day, spirit wrong.
h) Yet he was possessed, he was a mad prophet.

D. In terror he rushed from cave.
1. Found a summit—about to throw self off it.
2. Voice again—"O Muhammad! Thou art the apostle of God, and I am Gabriel.
3. Stopped, breathless, seeking to understand, what should I do?
4. In a flash decided to go to his wife.
5. Crawled on hands and knees, whole body convulsed, fell into her lap.
6. Begged her to cover him with blanket or shawl.
7. She did, he now looked like a prophet.
8. She said, "Rejoice O dear husband and be of good cheer. You will be the prophet of this people."
9. He knew Allah meant the god, merely one of many deities worshipped there and he was their prophet.
10. See attached Page 99.

E. Thus settled the mind of Muhammad.
See attached Page 100.
III. What does Islam champion?

A. Five articles of faith each Muslim subscribe to.

1. Belief in God. (Introduced as we see it by evil spirit—not Jehovah)
2. Belief in angels.
   a) Two angels assigned to each person.
   b) One records good deeds, other bad.
   c) Evil one Shaitan.
   a) Quran supposed compiled revelations of Muhammad.
   b) Muhammad illiterate—wrote nothing, left nothing of the written word.
   c) When he died they had only secondhand notes of his followers, things memorized, common sayings.
   d) Took years to collect and get Quran recitation.
   e) 691 compiled, 114 chapters or surahs, organized longest to shortest only in Arabic.
   f) Message confessing says kill Jews and Christians then let them live in peace since they are people of the book.
g) Only authoritative in Arabic.

h) 30% of Muslims literate, fewer can read classical Arabic, 70% cannot read the book that created their religion.

i) Also there is the hadith, an additional collection of Muhammad sayings, the Torah of Moses, the Psalms of David, gospels of Jesus.

j) Ishmael, Abraham's child of promise, not Isaac, descendants of Ishmael, the Arabs, the chosen race, thus Jews stole the promise.

k) Jesus born of a virgin, did miracles, was a prophet, however not divine or Son of God.

4. Belief in the Prophets.
   a) Muhammad last and greatest.
   b) Christians can keep Christ.

5. Doctrine of last days.
   a) Death enter Paradise.
      1) Recline on soft couches.
      2) Tended by maidens with whom men can mate as freely as they please.
      3) Boys of alabaster skin serve them.
      4) State of women uncertain.
5) In other words rewarded with pleasures forbidden on earth.
6) No assurance as Christians have.
7) Do all the good deeds you can. If enough go to Paradise, if not fires of hell.

6. Belief in Fate or Kismet
   1. Thus six fates.

IV. Five pillars of faith applied to become a Muslim.
   A. Recite creed: "There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his prophet."
      1. Repeats this 1,000 times in his life.
      2. Whispered in his ear when he is born.
   B. Devote self to prayer.
      1. Five times a day.
      2. First face Jerusalem--changed to Mecca.
      3. Unifying ritual.
   C. Give alms approximately 2.5%, give to poor and needy.
   D. Must fast.
   E. Make pilgrimage--once in lifetime.
V. Jihad (struggle) — holy war.

A. Four jihads.

B. Jihad impress the will of Allah on people.
   1. See Card — Page 111.
   2. Get suicide boomers.

C. Facts
   1. Allah not personable.
   2. Virtually unknowable.
   3. 99 names for Allah, not one is love.
   4. Islam = submission.
   5. Muhammad had dozens of wives and dozens more concubines. Could satisfy all wives in one night. He married a girl when she was six years old. Consummated the marriage when she was nine.
   6. Women are enslaved.

VI. Some quotes.
   Photocopy: pg. 89, 91, 92, 94.
Allah, there is no strength but your strength. Destroy, therefore, the Zionist occupation and its helpers and its agents. Destroy the U.S. and its helpers and its agents. Destroy Britain and its helpers and its agents. Prepare those who will soon unite the Muslims of the world and march in the footsteps of Saladin. Allah, we ask you for forgiveness, forgiveness before death, and mercy and forgiveness after death. Allah, grant victory to Islam and the Muslims in the coming war.

—The prayer of the Mufti of Jerusalem, Sheikh Ekrima Sobri, two weeks before September 11, 2001

It was to defeat Islam, among other dreams, that Christopher Columbus sailed to the New World in 1492. He was a young boy when the devastating news of the fall of Constantinople to Muslim armies reached his land. It marked him. He grew into manhood surrounded by tales of the Crusades into Muslim lands. When he determined to fulfill Marco Polo’s dream and return to the east by sailing west, he did so in part to harvest the wealth of the New World to liberate the Old World from Islam. As he wrote to Isabella and Ferdinand from the Americas on his first voyage:

--Rod Parsley
Silent No More – pg. 91

- over -
I hope to God that when I come back here from Castile...that I will find...gold...in such quantities that within three years the Sovereign will prepare for and undertake the reconquest of the Holy Land. I have already petitioned Your Highnesses to see that all the profits of this, my enterprise, should be spent on the conquest of Jerusalem, and Your Highnesses smiled and said that the idea pleased them, and that even without the expedition they had the inclination to do it.¹

Though later generations would tend to see this and most wars in nonspiritual terms, Americans of that generation understood their battle as the Rais Hudga Mahomel Salamia did. He was the Muslim captain of a ship manned by American captives at the start of the war. He warned his enslaved crew of Christians that they were to be treated harshly, "for your history and superstition in believing in a man who was crucified by the Jews, and disregarding the true doctrine of God's last and greatest Prophet Mahomet."³ Clearly, the Tripolitan War was a battle of faiths, and Americans are reminded of this deeply religious conflict every time the U.S. Marines tell us in song that they were fashioned first "on the shores of Tripoli."

---Rod Parsley, "Silent No More" - pg. 92
Did you know that there are some 1,209 mosques in America, 25 percent of which have been built since 1994? And did you know that there are nearly a billion and a half Muslims in the world? But how would we know this—after all, it's not in *People* magazine or on *Access Hollywood*. All these statistics do not bode well if Islam is what I believe it to be.5

--Rod Parsley
*Silent No More*
Muhammad knew what this meant. For he was of the Quraysh tribe, a people deeply devoted to Allah. The name means “the god,” but this deity was merely one of the many worshiped at the Ka’aba. For the Quraysh, though, Allah was primary, and Muhammad knew that if he was a prophet at all, then he must be a prophet of Allah.

Still, could he be mistaken? Could he be possessed? Khadija protested, “You are kind and considerate toward your kin. You help the poor and forlorn and bear their burdens. You are striving to restore the high moral qualities that your people have lost. You honor the guest and go to the assistance of those in distress. This cannot be, my dear.”

He wanted to believe but was unsure. Khadija saw his doubt, and it sparked an idea. She would go to her cousin Waraqa, a Christian who was wise in such matters and would give advice. She ran quickly to find the blind old man and told him the story. When he heard what had befallen Muhammad, he cried, “Holy, holy! By Him in whose hand is the soul of Waraqa, there hath come unto Muhammad the greatest Namus (Name), even he that would come unto Moses. Verily Muhammad is the Prophet of this people. Bid him rest assured.”

Something in the Christian’s words settled the matter. Upon hearing Khadija repeat what the old man had said, Muhammad resigned himself—he was indeed to be the prophet of his people, a prophet of Allah. He was reluctant but willing. Soon there were more trips to the mountain, more revelations. They came like the clanging of bells and often left him shaken and feverish. But the spirit spoke again and again. This spirit, this Gabriel, told Muhammad that Allah, the god of the Quraysh, was more than a local deity, more than just one of hundreds, but rather the lord of creation, the god of all men. And so they must know; they must be converted. This Allah must be given due honor and must be obeyed. Men must submit to their true lord.

--Rod Parsley
Silent No More
These words became the meaning of Muhammad's life, his answer for his people, and his message to the world: "There is no god but Allah, and I, Muhammad, am his Prophet."

Now, this is the story of Islam's beginning. Muhammad had an experience with his tribal god, and it told him he was a prophet. Muhammad thought the spirit was a demon and almost killed himself out of fear that he was possessed. A Christian told him he was hearing from God, though, so Muhammad came to believe that he was hearing from the only true God and that he was this God's only true prophet.

Before I show you what Islam teaches, let me make a couple of matters clear from the story you have just read. First, Muhammad did not hear from the true God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Muhammad heard from a demon spirit, which portrayed itself as a tribal deity. This god was but one of the hundreds worshiped at the Ka'aba and was the god of Muhammad's tribe. What I want you to see is that any comparison to Jehovah—the Creator of the universe, the God of the Old and New Testaments, and the God of Jesus Christ—is fiction. Allah was a demon spirit. Even Muhammad thought so at first.

I want you to also notice the way in which the spirit manifested itself to Muhammad. It did not come in peace and truth, as the angels and messengers of the true God did in Scripture. Instead, it came in violence, fear, control, and domination. It forced its will upon Muhammad with such oppression that Muhammad thought he was losing his mind. This is not the way of a true messenger of the true God, as we see in the Old and New Testaments.

Finally, though, I want you to consider what effect this had on Muhammad. This man, sadly convinced by a Christian that he was hearing from God, continued to have revelations. They would come on him with a gripping fear. He would hear the sounds of loud bells in his head, and they would force the breath from him. When a revelation ended, Muhammad would be left in a fitful fever for days on end. These signs befit a man who is gripped by a demon, but not a man who has the revelation from the true God.

—Rod Parsley
Silent No More
"From those, too, who call themselves Christians, We did take a Covenant, but they forgot a good part of the Message that was sent them: so We estranged them, with enmity and hatred between the one and the other, to the Day of Judgment. And soon will Allah show them what it is they have done" (Surah 5:14).

"And fight them on until there is no more tumult or oppression, and there prevail justice and faith in Allah altogether and everywhere..." (Surah 8:39).

--Rod Parsley
Silent No More

pg.111
Muhammad was once asked what deed was dearest to Islam. He responded, "Prayers, obedience to parents, and religious fighting, in that order."
WHAT'S MEANT BY THE UNCHURCHED?
Acts 2

I. We oftentimes say the same thing but in different ways.
   A. Unchurched--tho not Biblical, what is meant?
   B. Lost.
   C. Backslider.
   D. Disinterested.
   E. Christian vs. Religionist.

II. What are some facts?
   A. 61 million Americans not members of anything.
   B. Churches continue to decline in membership.
   C. Yet lot of believers out there--how can we interest them?

   1. Change habits?
   2. 8 out 10 Americans believe one can be good Chr or Jew & never attend anywhere.
   3. Are there those who feel excluded?
   4. Are some unreachable?
   5. Is the crime the institutional church? Would my actions make the church live or die?

      a.) 41% all adults "unchurched."
      b.) What entered making it so?
         (1) Basic religious beliefs.
         (2) Religious practices.
         (3) Attitudes.
         (4) Values & goals.
         (5) Lifestyle.
         (6) Involvement in organizations.
         (7) Influence of home & environment.
(8) Social status.
(9) Mobility.
(10) Sunday activities.
(11) Radio & TV.

III. What are General Attitudes in America.
A. 1980's "return to Normalcy!"
B. More emphasis on Family ties.
C. More respect for authority.
D. More emphasis on working hard.
E. 74% disapprove marijuana usage.
F. 62% opposed to more sexual freedom.
G. 70% less emphasis on money.
H. 75% more emphasis on self expression.
I. Unchurched still weakest on resistance to drug & sex change.
   1.) 53% adultery always wrong (unchurched)
       74% of churched say it is.
   2.) In HS it's 66% vs. 80% for 2 groups.

IV. Attitudes toward Religion.
A. 6 out of 10 church OK but 80% of churched say they have a great deal of confidence in church; 38% unchurched do.
B. Unchurched say we've lost real spiritual part of religion & too concerned with organization matters as opposed to theological & spiritual.
C. Unchurched say churches do not help find meaning to life.
D. Not enuf concerned c social justice.
E. Smaller portion say religion plays a key role in their lives – only 70% of churched say it is; 53%
G. Belief constant.
2. 13% another leader like Muhammad.
3. 7 in 10 life after death.
4. 9 out of 10 pray.
5. 93% churched believe in resurrection; 68% unchurched do.
6. Unchurched remains remarkably religious.
7. 77% of unchurched come from religious background; 74% want child to receive some religious education.
8. Friends, good preaching & good program lead to membership as highest 3 things.
9. Most of churched have dropped out for 2 yrs. or stayed unchurched:
   a.) Moved & never got started.
   b.) Found other interest.
   c.) Grew up & made decisions on my own.
   d.) Competing activities.
   e.) Church no longer a help in life’s problems.
   f.) I wanted a deeper spiritual meaning.
   g.) Shift to liberalism.
V. What’s going for us to get them back?
A. 52% of unchurched see where they could become active members.
B. 23% of 91 M church members quit 2 yrs. & came back.
C. 4 out of 5 unchurched want kids to have religious educ.
D. 2/3 unchurched pray & believe in God, Jesus, after life - have deep religious roots.

E. Return because people are sensitive to their needs - we are alienated thru 'inhumanity.

F. Will we:
1.) Reexam. our rel. ed. program.
2.) Strengthen program of spiritual counseling.
3.) Reexamine status of rel. in home - families must talk about God's Prog. (apply Chr. principles, practice their faith, go to church.
4.) Develop active program of evangelism.
   a.) Deal c problems of life.
   b.) Strengthen moral development of children.
   c.) Understand the meaning of life.
   d.) Enrich our spiritual lives - prayer, study, etc.
5.) Reach out to new people - all they need is an invitation.
6.) Use religious broadcasting.

(Much of this came from Geo. Gallup surveys)

West End Home Builders Class 1-14-81
I. To see Christ and the church, must know:
   A. Death, Burial, Resurrection and Ascension.
   B. Pentecost
      1. Priests in the Temple were offering the first loaves of the new harvest in celebration of Pentecost.
      2. Suddenly the Holy Spirit came in baptismal measure with the first fruits of our inheritance, (Meyer)
      3. Ten days after the ascension of Christ.
      4. Not the best account of the beginning of the church but the only account of it. (Coffman)

C. Question arises "What Happened?"
   Let's see the day without equal.
   Acts 2:1-4 "Now when the Day"

II. First what day? Pentecost
   A. And
      1. History flows
      2. It is not an isolated event
   B. Pentecost - one of three major feasts
      Passover, Tabernacle
      1. 50th day
      2. Harvest Festival Lev. 23:15
      3. Present in great number— as Passover saw humiliation Pentecost exaltation of Jesus.
      4. Fifty days after offering of barley sheaf at beginning of Passover
5. Brought two baked loves of new fine leavened flour -- gratitude for completed harvest
6. Sunday
7. Feast of weeks
8. After A.D. 70 Jews changed the festival to the commemorating of the giving of the law. They reacted to the Christian's observance of Pentecost (Kislemaker)

9. If so -- two laws, Moses and Christ came on Sunday.

C. "Fully Come"
1. Luke gives enough to create excitement but not enough to satisfy every curiosity.
2. Lit. "was being fulfilled"
3. We will see grain now ground and individual heads of grain made into one loaf - thus the unity of the church.
4. "Had come" from verb Luke uses only here
5. Means a significant time in the accomplishment of God's purpose

III Who Was There and Where?
A. They
1. 120 or 12
2. Apostles as we trace the antecedent of the pronoun

Acts 1.26
Acts 2: 7
3. Apostles spoke – not the 120
5. Those who go for the 120 have only the argument of "basic Christian harmony" to offer

C. Place of Unity
1. One accord
   a. Sharing
   b. Fellowship
   c. United
   d. All centered on one subject with the same end in view.
2. One Place – later called house.
   a. Not told where.
   b. Not in Temple court but adjacent? close by? upper room?

IV Descent of the Spirit
A. Suddenly
   1. Without Warning
   2. Jesus will so return magnificently and every eye see Him

B. Sound of a Rushing Mighty Wind
   1. Gale of wind in sound from Heaven
   2. Wind and Spirit go together
   3. Wind sound – not force as Spirit is invisible yet powerful
4. No wind – only sound  
5. No fire – tongues resembling it  
6. Blowing of a violent wind in sound  

C. Filled All the House Where Sitting and There Appeared:

1. Cloven Tongues of fire  
   a. Emblem of Language  
   b. Win not with sword but words of truth  
   c. Failure comes only in our failure to carry the message  
   d. Cloven shows diversity  
   e. Fire shows presence of God 

Exo. 3: 2-3  
Exo. 19: 16-20  

f. First in one mass (flames) then descended on each apostle  

g. Gloven shows each apostle has same power in manifestation "And to them tongues as of fire appeared that separated and rested on each one of them!"

h. Audible and visual manifestation of the Power  

i. See the boldness via fire  

2. Sat on Each  

a. Shows it was no illusion  

b. Tongue on each disciple in order that by his influence the new law of
light might be promulgated.
(Clark)

D. All Filled
1. Baptismal measure once for all
   Luke 24:49
2. Only on 12
   Acts 1:5
3. Filled – not like a bottle overflowing but in the sense occupancy, authority, control
4. They had the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit had them.
   (Laurin)
5. Yet not a catoptric experience

E. Speak with Other Tongues
1. Tongues of all the world was an earnest that the whole world in due time praise God in various tongues. (Wesley)
2. Not a luke warm man among them – all in earnest
3. Words to convert men.
   Rev. 12:11
4. In O.T. when spirit came they prophesied
   Num. 11:26
5. Miracle will be on the tongue of the speaker, not ear of the hearer.
6. Glossalalia – a language not estacatic utterance
7. Language in which he had no command in normal circumstances.

8. Yet try the Spirit
   I John 4:1

9. Content, not manner, is what is important.

10. Not Babel that divides but truth that unites

F. Spirit Gave Utterance
   1. Immediate inspiration
   2. At Pentecost a new Spirit entered world — it is actively alive today.
   3. They said what Spirit told them — how great if we would stay His Message today.
   4. They proclaimed
      verse 11 — wonderful works of God
      verse 38 — repent and by baptized

Locust Grove - 12/1/91
Bethany, Franklin, KY - 12/8/91
Westwood, Minnville, Tn - 12/22/91
SUDDENLY, IT'S SALVATION
Acts 2:21

I. Think of things Biblical that came suddenly.
   In a split second, see:
   A. After 7 days of repetitious marching, Jericho's walls fall flat. 
   B. After cringing in a corner the Red Sea opens & over they go on dry land. 
   C. After centuries of partial truth plus 400 years of silence, suddenly angels shout, "Glory to God in the Highest." 
   D. With an equal suddenness came the events of Pentecost. I'd like to tell that story.

II. The Pentecost Account.

A. Please recall Acts 2.
   1. The Day of Pentecost was fully come.
      (a) Means 50 days after Passover.
      (b) Also called Feast of Harvest, Weeks, & Days of 1st Fruits.
      (c) Multitudes were in Jerusalem.
      (d) Disciples were all with one accord in one place.
   2. v. 2 "And suddenly there came a sound
      (a) Suddenly after 14 1/2 centuries, the light of God will truly dawn.
      (b) Air of expectancy was there.
         (1) v. 5 "Ye shall be baptized
         (2) v. 4 "Commanded them that they
         (3) Acts 2:2 "Suddenly there came a sound from Heaven as a rushing mighty
(c) Sounded like a rushing, mighty wind.
   (1) Filled house where sitting.
   (2) Cloven tongues sat upon ea.
   (3) Filled c Holy Ghost - spake.
   (4) See that startling scene.

3. Devout men from every nation there - noised abroad - multitude convened & were confounded - each heard in his own language.
   (a) About 9:00 A.M. that summer Sunday morning.
   (b) Was in temple area.
   (c) Presence of devout men showed they were interested in things of God.
   (d) 15 nations named.
   (e) Manifestation of God always arrests interest and provokes inquiry.
   (f) They spoke "The wonderful works" or "The mighty deeds of God" v. 11

4. Sought to explain it?
   (a) Galileans?
   (b) v. 12 "They were all amazed"
   (c) v. 12 "They were all in doubt"
   (d) v. 12 "What meaneth this"
   (e) v. 13 "Others mocking said, These
      (1) Jews couldn't drink on a feast day
      (2) It was 9:00 o'clock
      (3) Lump of moist clay & block of ice placed in the sun acts differently - one hardens, other melts - as the
CARD ON NEW IDEA

divine will does to men.

(4) Yet some labelled it irrational intoxication.

5. By this time no one's seated - Peter stood up with the 11.

(a) And so some things under way I newly see anything

(1) Power - Rushing
(2) Purity - Fire
(3) Proclamation - Spake

(b) He denies drunk charge

(c) He cites prophesy's fulfillment from Joel. - 5 Things.

(1) Spirit's universal effusion
(2) Spirit to come in last days
(3) Spirit universal proclamation of Gospel

(4) Spirit's proofs offered via miracles to arrest & confirm.

(5) Purpose of Pentecost v. 21 "And it shall come to pass that whoever

6. How can salvation come?

(a) Philosophers call purpose teleology = plan, design toward a given end.

(b) This plan contains

(1) Universal evangelical invitation (whosoever)
(2) Universal evang. condition (call)
(3) Universal evang. provision (saved)
7. Introduce Jesus !!!
(a) Here is salvation
(b) Bruce says NT sermons followed this outline
   (1) Messiah has come
   (2) Rehearse his ministry, death, triumph
   (3) Cite OT prophecy to so prove
   (4) Call to repentance & obedience
(c) What did Jesus do?
   (1) Christ crucified
   (2) Christ resurrected (22x - in Acts)
   (3) Christ ascended
   (4) HS descended
   (5) Christ declared Lord of all (Lord 110x in Acts)
   (6) Door of salvation wide open
Matt. 11:28-30 "Come unto me all ye
(d) Do you believe the incontrovertible
diety & universal Lordship of Jesus?
(e) What's happened to him is prophesies
   fulfillment. Price Card #3
   (1) History's not haphazard
   (2) It is not a knotless thread
   (3) There is meaning and sense to all
   (4) To believe in prophecy is to believe
       God's in control
   (5) Jesus is not a book but a living
       presence and is alive forever more!
(6) Second coming says history is going somewhere - there will be a consummation.

(7) Jesus alone is salvation; receive Him - good; reject Him - bad!

(8) What do you think of Jesus?

(1) Do all acts prove He was God's son?
(2) With lawless hands would you kill?
(3) Crucifixion is world's greatest crime - shows what sin can do to loveliest life that ever lived - are you in sin?
(4) Did He die - was he buried - did He rise - Did he go to the Father - did the Father make him Lord & Christ?

(5) Does the resurrection make men pulsate c confidence & change cowards into heroes?

(6) Is sin rebellion against God & He'll call you to account for it?

(7) Are you pricked? Voltaire #4

(8) Will you be satisfied to do what they did?

(9) If so, Suddenly - it's Salvation!!

8. Jesus ask obedience.

"Now when they heard..."

Huxley said: "Conscience takes up more room than all the rest of a fellow's inside."

D. Webster: "The most impotent that ever entered my mind is my personal accountability to Almighty God."
Dr. Charles M. Crowe in his book *SERMONS FROM THE MOUNT*, says prayer is for the adventurous life. No call to adventure—no need for prayer. He tells about a certain man who had retired. Every morning he would get up and read the obituary column in the newspaper to see if his own name were there. If he wasn’t listed among the dead, he would go back to bed for the remainder of the day.

A lot of people are satisfied just to be alive. They have no high dreams and lofty hopes, no great ambitions and burning desires. Someone took a survey and found that nine out of ten people have no definite plan in life.

*ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE THROUGH PRAYER*

*pg. 53 - by Charles L. Allen*

"Your Unsatisfied Desires"

"A new idea is delicate. It can’t be killed by a sneer or a yawn; it can be stabbed to death by a quip and worried to death by a frown on the right man’s brow." -- Charles Brower

*LIFE IS TREMENDOUS*

*BY Charles E. Jones*

page 15, Leadership Is Learning to Live
There are profound theological answers to these questions, I am sure. It is enough for me to believe that God is in the process still—just as certainly as he was while his Son hung on the cross—of bringing us back to himself. By permitting wars where thousands of young men are killed? Where even women and children and elderly people are burned and murdered by falling bombs? No. He is about the business of continuing redemption by permitting man to go on living—man makes war, not God. But simultaneously he is also continuing his relentless pursuit of every human heart. God could not put
an end to war without putting an end to man. God's peace is an inner peace, brought about by each of us responding for himself to God's call. He does not "save" nations en masse. He saves people--person by person.

Voltaire said, "I am abandoned by God and man: I shall go to hell!" Edward Gibbon said, "All is dark and doubtful." Queen Elizabeth, dying as the ruler of a kingdom on which the sun never set, cried out in anguish, "Millions of men for an inch of Time."

But the last words of some are inspiring. George Washington said, "Doctor, I am dying, but I am not afraid to die." John Wesley said, "The best of all, God is with us." Dwight L. Moody exclaimed, "This is glorious! Earth is receding, heaven opening. God is calling me!"

Woods, B. W. God's Answer To Anxiety, page 109.
WHAT DID THE APOSTLES TEACH ABOUT BAPTISM?

ACTS 2:37-38

1. End of Peter's Pentecost sermon
   A. Pierced hearts c accusation.
   B. They immediately reacted c a q.
   C. Got a direct ans.

Acts 2:37-38 "Now when they heard this, they were p
II. Let's see Baptism further in Acts.
   A. It was administered in the name of Jesus Christ.
   Acts 2:38 "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be
   Acts 10:48 "And he commanded them to be baptized it
   Acts 8:16 "(For as yet he was fallen upon none of then
   Acts 19:5 "When they heard this, they were baptized
   Matt. 28:19 "Go ye therefore, and teach all

1. Phrase from Hellenistic banking to denote a sum
   of money placed to the credit of another person.
2. Thus, in baptism a man passes into the ownership
   of another to whom he henceforth belongs.
3. Confession of faith & a submission to His authority.
4. G. R. Beasley - Murray "The believer was
   baptized for the sake of the Lord Jesus & made
   over to him. Pg. 100 Baptism in the NT
B. It was connected c Repentance & HS.
   Acts 2:38 "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be
   Acts 22:16 "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be
   C. It was connected c forgiveness, entry into church
      fellowship, joy.
   1. Order of events: Hear, faith, confess, baptized.
   Acts 18:8 "And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagog
   Acts 2:41 "Then they that gladly received his word we
Acts 8:12-13 "But when they believed Philip preaching
35-36 "Then Philip opened his mouth, and began
2. Baptism comes to those addressed by the word &
   who are old or wise enuf to respond.

D. It was immersion.
Acts 8:38-39 "And he commanded the chariot to stand:
   1. Means douse, saturate.
   2. Immersion in the sea of death.
   3. Linked c the metaphor of removal of clothes before
      entering baptismal bath & putting on fresh
      garments after one comes out.

Gal. 3:27 "For as many of you as have been baptized i
Col. 3:29 "Lie not one to another; seeing that ye have i
Rom. 6:3 "Know ye not, that so many of us as were ba
E. No hint of magic as to baptismal efficacy nor was
   it ever delayed or said inconsequential.

Acts 22:16 "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be l
   1. Accept c alacrity.

III. Baptism as taught by Paul.
   A. Assumes all knew baptism was universal practice -
      common to reader & writer.
Rom. 6:3 "All of us"
Col. 2:1 "For I would that ye knew what great conflict
B. Said it was into Christ.
1 Cor. 1:13 "Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for y
   6:11 "And such were some of you; but ye are wa
Eph. 5:26 "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with t
C. Avoided any superstition about baptism.
   1. Person who administered it nonimportant. - Peter,
1 Cor. 15:29 “Else what shall they do which are baptized?
D. By it, enter church.
1 Cor. 12:13 “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into
Gal. 3:27 “For as many of you as have been baptized!
E. Live as those who are dead to self & alive to God.
Rom. 6:1-4 “What shall we say then? Shall we contin
2. Live out what your baptism proposes to represent!
F. A new birth.
Titus 3:5 “Not by works of righteousness which we have
Jn. 3:5 "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto the
Col. 2:12 “Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye
Col. 1:11 “Strengthened with all might, according to
3:12 “Put on therefore as the elect of God, holy
3:10 “And have put on the new man, which is ren
Gal. 3:27 “For as many of you as have been baptized!
1. Denounce old life like shedding a garment.
2. Put on new set of clothes.
A man took his small son to the hospital to see the family's newest arrival. The boy stood in front of the large nursery window and peered in at the babies. Noticing that two of the cribs were empty, he exclaimed, "Look, Daddy, they have two more traps set."—True, 10-73.

On a bus in Tel Aviv, a mother animatedly, in

We have become reversed in our ways, Lord. They are not Your ways, but our ways. Ah, Lord, we have made a mess of things, Please turn us around. Guide us back to Your ways. Please, Lord, save us from being reversed.

"Living Reflexions" by Dink Bennett.
THE WHOLE WORLD'S TALKING ABOUT BAPTISM!
Acts 2:38

I. After years of abuse, ridicule, and false accusation it seems somewhat unreal that today the whole religious world's discussing baptism!

A. It is one of hottest theological discussions.
B. I just read Bailie's book.

II. It seems appropriate when it's a most popular subject to surely reacquaint ourselves with the Bible truth.

III. We seek to ask some questions and see if we can find Bible answers.

A. Why be?

1. Jesus said we needed all out obedience.
   Matt. 28:20 "Teaching them to ob.
   Luke 6:46 "And why call ye me Lord

2. We give these answers:
   a. To be saved.
      Mark 16:15-16
      I Peter 3:21
      Heb. 5:9 "Jesus is the author
   b. To enter the kingdom.
      John 3:5
   c. Remission of sins.
      Acts 2:38

B. How be?

1. Usually folk say one of 3 ways--sprinkle, pour, immerse.
   a. Never knew one to have all 3 on same person.
b. Jesus was baptized--just one--don't you want just what He had?
(1) Baptized into the Jordan--Mark in margin--came straightway out of.

2. Some passages.
   John 3:23 much water
   Acts 8:36 Going to water
   Rom. 6:3-4 Burial and resurrection
   Acts 8:39 after come up out of
   Matt. 28:19 Candidate handled --not the water.

C. For the dead?
1. This has caused much concern--is it proxy baptism or does it mean something else.

2. Note this explanation.
   a. Some Corinthian teachers said there was no resurrection from dead.
   b. This doctrine brought consequences:
      (1) Christ is not risen.
      (2) Apostles preaching is vain.
      (3) Corn. faith vain.
      (4) Apostles false witnesses.
      (5) Corn. yet in their sins.
      (6) Those now dead have perished.
      (7) We have hope in Christ only here.
   c. Paul states truth--Christ was raised.
   d. These folk were baptized for the dead--they believed in baptism therefore they must believe in the resurrection--their
argument is inconsistent.
Acts 18:8

e. We are all baptized in behalf of our own
dead body. Rom. 6:3

f. I Cor. 15:29 has Greek usage that shows
they were baptized in possessive case--
something they had themselves.
g. Why be baptized in behalf of our dead
bodies if Christ not raised.

D. Width of understanding.
Acts 3:19-20 "Repent ye therefor and turn

1. 3 clauses.
   a. That sins may be blotted out.
   b. Seasons of refreshing come.
   c. Send the Christ.

2. Are they purpose or result clauses?

3. All sustain same relationship to repent
   and turn.

4. They are purpose--they express design
   or aim.
   a. So says Thayer, Dana and Mantey,
      Gloag, Wordsworth, Alford, (he said it
      could not mean when--but only "in order
      that")
   b. These clauses show the sending not the
      receiving; what God sends rather than
      what man receives.

5. Thus although remission of sins may be
   primary we cannot say baptism has only
e one design. McGarvey says here 2 other
   consequences are used as an inducement
to comply.
6. D. Lipscomb said teach everyone just what the Scrip. teach on baptism,
a. Does violence to select one out of a number of blessings and say you must know this to the exclusion of all other. b. Christ baptized to submit to whole law --to honor God, life's most acceptable motive.
c. Comm.--name of all three, yet baptized into Christ is most frequently used.
d. Scriptures give variety of multiplicity of shades of blessings. All embraced in one great desire--honor God.
e. We are to give all the instruction, person hears and acts on whether he knows one or more scriptural ends.
f. To select one motive and say this is it is like select faith to exclusion of other conditions.
g. To submit to baptism because some preacher or church thinks one should is no better than infant baptism done because the parents think its right. Let faith be individual and act on it.

E. What hinders?
1. Lack of faith
   Mark. 16:15
2. Lack of repentance.
   Prov. 13:15, way of transgressor hard
3. Lack of understanding. Rom. 6:17
I. We study the beginning of the church.

A. Time AD 30 or 31.
   1. First Pentecost after Jesus' resurrection.
   2. Pentecost, second of three annual feasts.

Exo. 23:14-17
34:18-24
Lev. 23:4-36
Deut. 16:1-7

3. Place - Jerusalem.
5. 40 days are passed between resurrection and ascension.
6. During these frequent appearances Jesus spoke of the Kingdom (Acts 1:3).

Matt. 28:16-20
Mk. 16:14-20

Acts 1:4-5

9. Many people came to Jerusalem.
10. Mealy of voices.
11. Two veins- drink or truth.
B. Peter's speech.
1. Addressed Jews.
2. Quoted Joel.
3. Address about Last Days to all.
4. Verse 22.
   a) Refer to miracles.
   b) Jesus a man approved of God.
   c) David quoted.
   d) Miracles prove His existence.
   e) Verse 33 - quote.
   f) Proof Jesus is Son of God.

C. Reaction to speech.
1. Hearts pierced.
2. Heard, convinced, convicted.
4. Jesus is the promised Messiah.

D. Everyone accepted--asc ould not be denied--asked what must we do?
1. Told to repent and be baptized.
   a) In order to the forgiveness of sin.
   b) He answers the question fully.
   c) First sermon preached under great commission.
2. Obedient promised gift of Holy Spirit.
3. Jesus has power to forgive.
4. Plan of salvation given. Next move being man's as he appropriates what has been provided.
5. "Save yourselves" - man can do something about it.

II. Results
A. Then they that received the word were baptized.
   1. Word "seed of Kingdom."
   2. Bears fruit.
   3. No quibble, no dispute, no hesitancy.
   4. Received authoritative word.
B. First announcement of reign of Christ.
C. Beginning of all things in His name.
   Luke 24:48-49
   D. Peter called it the Beginning.
   Acts 11:15
BAPTISM--HOW COMPLETE MY COMPREHENSION
Acts 2:37-41

I. Surely no one wants to be satisfied with partial information when he can get more.

II. Neither do we want a failure to grasp truly to be a limitation of our employment of a beneficial matter
A. I don't know all the chemical qualities of an aspirin, but I use them.
B. I don't understand electricity, radio, or TV, but I employ them.
C. I've never been able to measure "so loved" of God (Jn. 3:16), but I rejoice in its extension.

III. On baptism, how wide must be my comprehension?
A. May I ask some questions; the one usually asked is "do you know it is for remission of sins?"
   And the qn. is asked to see "if you understood the proper purpose." But could we not ask other questions:

Mk. 1:4 "John did baptize in the wild.
Lu. 3:3 "Preaching the baptism of repentance
Lu. 7:29 "And all the people that heard him rejoiced
Rom. 6:4 "Therefore we are buried with him
Col. 2:12 "Buried with him in baptism wherein
1 Pet. 3:21 "Baptism doth also now save us
John 4:1 "The Phar. had heard that Jesus
John 4:2 "Tho Jesus himself baptized not, but his disc
Matt. 3:15 "Suffer it to be so now, for thus it became
1 Cor. 1:14 "I thank God that I baptized none
1 Cor. 1:15 "Lest any should say that I
1 Cor. 1:17 "For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to
Matt. 3:6 "And were baptized of him in Jordan, cons.
Mk. 16:16 "He that believeth & is baptized.
Acts 2:38 "Repent & be baptized.
Acts 2:41 "They that gladly received his word were bat.
Acts 8:12 "And when they believed Philip preaching it.
Acts 10:47-48 "Can any man forbid water, that these.
Acts 16:14-15 "Whose heart the Lord opened, that she.
Acts 16:32 "And they spake unto him the word of the L.
Acts 16:33 "And he took them the same hour of the nig.
Acts 18:8 "Many of the Cor. hearing believed.
Acts 22:16 "Arise & be baptized, wash away thy sins.
1 Cor. 12:13 "For by one Spirit are we all baptized in
Gal. 3:27 "For as many of you as have
Matt. 28:19 "Go ye therefore and teach
1. That's 26 passages - did they grasp it all?
2. Is there anything they need not know?
3. Is there any one design of baptism?
B. Do we know fully what each act of obedience
brings us?
1. Abraham.
   Heb. 11:8 "By faith A., when he was called
   8 "And he went out, not knowing
   Heb. 11:17 "By faith, A. offered...accounting.
   D. Lipscomb, "Abraham's example teaches us that
the only thing God requires is that we shall under-
stand what He commands, & do it, leaving God
to bless when & as it pleases Him. The man that
refuses to obey God, until he knows what God
will give for the service does not do it to obey
God, but for the good he gets for the service,
and this destroys it as an act of faith. Unless I know I am to get remission of sins in baptism, the baptism is void. This subverts the whole order of God and is worse than the baptist mistake. It introduces the commercial idea into the service of God."

2. High motivation—please God. "The simple desire to do what God tells us to do is the spirit that pleases God above all others." D. Lipscomb

3. Is remission of sins a reward or part of the commandment? It can't be both.

4. I remember instructions to "put stove wood in wood house so we can cook supper."
   (a) Did I think we weren't breakfast & dinner?
   (b) Did I know Dad was just trying to keep me busy
   (c) Did I understand increased combustibility of dry wood?
   (d) Did I understand a practical usage was made of my red wagon?
   (e) Did I understand the yard would look better to be free of the wood—and that it would be closer to the house?
   (f) Did I know a reprimand was in store if I didn't do it?
   (g) Or did I understand simply Dad said do it, because we loved each other?

C. Questions asked.

1. Who commanded it?
   Matt. 21:25 "The baptism of John, whence 1 Cor. 1:15 "Lest any should say that
2. Whom were you honoring?
Acts 19:3-4 "Unto John's baptism
Col. 3:17 "Whatsoever ye do, in word or deed
3. Does this one act of obedience to Christ justify my staying where other commands of His are set aside - why not bow to Him all the way.
4. If baptized because of the wrong commander - church, preacher, people; or if continuing where all commands are not honored - alter now that situation.
**Verse End 5:19-14**
in the form of a pocket book entitled “365 True Swedish Jokes.” Here are a few of them.

• Why don’t Swedes ever play hide and seek?
  Because no one would ever bother to look for them.

• When Karlsson heard that 95% of all automobile accidents occur within a distance of four kilometers from home—he moved.

• Hear about the Swede who failed his driver’s test?
  No.
  He opened the door to let out the clutch.

• And then there’s the one about the Swede who shot an arrow into the air—and missed.

• A Swede was at a restaurant and ordered a pizza. When asked whether he wanted it cut into four or eight pieces, he replied: “Cut it in four, I couldn’t possibly eat eight.”

• And then there’s the one about the Swede who was so dumb even his countrymen noticed it.

• One day Svensson and his son were summoned to the principal’s office.
  “Mr. Svensson,” said the principal, “I asked your son who shot Abraham Lincoln and he replied ‘Not me.’”
  “Well Sir,” said Svensson, “If my son says he didn’t do it, then he didn’t.”
  After they had left the office, Svensson turned to his son and said: “Tell the truth now son, did you do it?”

• Hear about the Swede who set out to swim the English Channel?
  No.
  Halfway across he got tired and swam back.

• A Swede and a Norwegian came to heaven and the Swede was given a fantastic reception. The Norwegian wondered why and asked St. Peter.
  “Oh you know,” said St. Peter, “We have to celebrate. It’s so long since we’ve seen a Swede here.”

• Two Swedish astronauts were sent into space. Several days later one had to leave the capsule to make some repairs. After an hour outside he was ready to climb back in and knocked on the door.
  “Who’s there?” replied the second Swede.
WHOM CAN WE FELLOWSHIP?
1 Cor. 1:8 Acts 2:41-42

I. The subject question is one I cannot answer in all completeness—for me to do so is nothing short of popery. You in light of truth and conscience must answer it. (Steone card) #1
A. I will try to define fellowship.
B. I will read you what wiser heads have said.
C. I will introduce some problems.
D. I will leave it for you to formulate.

II. What is Fellowship?
A. Koinonia

1. First time I heard it was a social club at Harding.
2. Building People -- #2
3. Brewster Card -- #3 & #4
4. It is partnership, communion, association, sharing, having in common, being a party to. (Bagster's Lexicon)
5. To share, participate, partner, associate, intercourse, intimacy. (Thayer)
6. Chuck Murphy -- #5.
7. Eaton article -- #6
8. Fellowship--two fellows in a ship.
9. Thayer also said it was "a benefaction jointly contributed, a collection, a contribution.

B. Summary--these meanings:
1. Share
2. Participate
3. Partner
4. Associate
C. Does it involve endorsement? Approval? Likemindedness?
D. Remember fellowship's purpose.
Heb. 10:24-25 Consider one another, provide love.
Acts 2:42 Then they that gladly received

III. Whom Can I Fellowship in view of the definitions we've found? Read I Cor. 1:9, 2 Tim. 2:19. God is faithful, by whom called. (T. Warren said God does not approve all unity nor condemn all division)

II Thess. 3:5-16 Read
Rom. 16:17-18 Read

B. No fellowship with:
   a) "Brethren can differ with each other & have opinions freely without danger to fellowship as long as believing the lie does not lead to committing sin. Any lie or wrong doctrine believed in, as long as it does not cause one to sin, may be comparatively harmless; but to believe a lie that will lead one to commit a sin is of course to believe that which will bring spiritual death, & it is obviously dangerous & cannot be tolerated by the man who wants to please God." (McGarvey)
C. Not those in darkness.
2 John 9:10 Read
James 5:19-20
Gal. 6:1-2 Read

D. But there comes to us
"The almost OK folk."
1. Campbell quote.
3. Lipscomb quote.
4. F. F. Bruce.
5. Lipscomb
6. Larrimore
7. Lemmons

IV. For me personally:

A. I can fellowship those I do not approve.
1. Crieve Hall & Jubilee,

B. I can pray & study for a deeper understanding--See 50 point test.

C. I can work toward a betterment based on truth, not compromise.
1. Favorite doll story.
2. "Suppose they don't care."
3. Walter Scott, "The race of mankind would perish did they cease to aid one another."

Crieve Hall - 3/23/97
THE SIGNATURE OF THE SAINTS
Acts 2:41-43

I. Various organizations & organisms have various identities:
A. Politicians have their platforms.
B. Companies have their contracts.
C. Saints have their signatures--by this I am known--it is mine--this will always be a part of us.
   1. Just what are those identifying things?
   2. With what will always be associated with Christ's church?
   3. I find it in these verses.

Acts 2:41 "Then they that gladly received"

II. The Unmistakable Terms.
A. Look at "then".
   1. Things are happening at Jerusalem.
   2. One thing leads to another.
   3. There is logical movement.
B. "They"
   1. I've tried for years to get brethren to move to first person.
      a) They are having a VBS.
      b) They are having a meeting.
      c) They are having a camp.
      d) Are you not part of it?--change to "we".
   2. But here I am thankful for "they", "them".
      a) We get a greater view when we stand on the shoulders of our predecessors.
      b) We are indebted to the trail-blazers.
C. Gladly Received the Word.
   1. Glad for their chance of salvation.
   2. Immediately adopted what God wanted them to do.
   3. Word was joyfully received, readily, willingly. Get to be forgiven.
   4. Retained and acted on it.
   5. Appreciated what apostles taught.

D. Baptized
   1. It logically follows--preach it--receive it--obey it.
   2. 3000 did.
   3. Do you suppose everyone who heard believed it?
   4. Remember Peter stood up with the much preaching going on.
   5. Went over to another party, as towns put themselves under another government.
   6. They are now Christians & hear the call of another King.

III. Now Comes the Signature of the Saints.
A. And they continued steadfastly in the Apostles' Doctrine.
   1. After all that's how they got where they are--hearing the apostles' teaching.
   2. Note steadfastly.
      a) Very strong.
      b) Used other places.

Mk. 3:9
Acts 1:14
Acts 10:7
3. Countenance unaltered—even within this pattern.
4. Would not do this unless they believed the apostles spoke truth.
5. What if today we limited ourselves to the Scriptures?
6. This is the 1st of 4 things that you must always see if it is the true church.
7. A church lacking any of the 4 is in danger of decay.
10. Apostles taught the truth.

Matt. 28:19-20 Go ye, & teach

11. Holy Spirit guided them.

Jn. 16:13 Spirit of T. he will guide you into all

12. Swindol said they were spiritual pediatricians as they nourished them on the word.

13. Sound teaching is necessary.

1 Pet. 2:2 Desire the sincere milk of the word.

B. Number 2 is Fellowship.

1. That famous Koinonia.
2. Root word "common." in his family
3. Openly received word and also one another. Spoke same thing & worked together
4. It's joint participation.
5. It's brotherly association.
6. They listened to & cared for one another. Not side line players. Carpenter
7. Built each other up.
8. We are one with all who are His.
9. Ortlund wrote church can be a bag of marbles, simple, single units that don't affect each other except in collision. Or can be a bag of grapes with juices mingled—no way to extricate yourself if you tried—each is a part of all.

C. Number 3 is Breaking Bread.
1. Lord's supper or a common meal?
   Perhaps both.
   
   Lu. 24:35 **know in the breaking of bread**
   2. Supper
      a) Regularly remembered Jesus.
      b) Jesus wanted it.

   Lu. 22:19 **This do in remembrance of me**
   c) Saw man at Daytona share it with baby son.
   d) Kept minds focused on Jesus—
      not Mother's day prayers as guy did at W.E.
   e) Neglect—weak & sick.

D. 4th Signature—Prayers.
1. Lit. "in the prayers."
2. Public & private.
3. How earnestly do we pray?
4. Why do we pray?
   a) Powerful God who can answer.
   b) Never gives the wrong one.
   c) Place complete confidence—
      believing he loves me.
5. They were united in prayer.
6. Prayers a priority as they kindled a personal involvement with one another.
7. Pray for increase in grace, establishment of truth, extension of the Kingdom.

IV. Do you know what effect it had on others?

v-43 "Fear came on every soul"

A. Church is a powerhouse when in this simple devotion it extends itself.

B. Awe shown in all people.

C. Fear restrained enemies from interfering with disciples at this crucial time.

Deut. 11:25 There shall no men be able to stand

D. All enmity was paralyzed & the disciples had time to multiply, consolidate & establish themselves before storm of persecution came. (P.C.)

E. They had just seen all the miracles, noted the power & boldness of apostles' preaching the resurrection & ascension of Jesus as proof that Judgement is real.

F. Reverentially struck by confirmed resurrection, gift of tongues & miracles and they saw 3000 respond.

G. Reverend awe & inward dread. (Wesley)

Granny White - 5/21/97
Oak Grove, So. Fulton, TN - 6/9/97
Pleasant Valley church, Little Rock, AR - 6/15/97
Lehman Ave., Bowling Green, KY - 7/2/97
Locust Grove, KY - 7/6/97
Hilldale church, Clarksville, TN - 7/13/97
Beech Hill, Ripley, MS - 7/27/97
Pond church - Dickson, TN - 9/21/97
Germantown, TN - 10/27/97
Double Springs, AL - 11/9/97
Bethany church, Lick Skillet, KY - 11/30/97
I. It's birthday time—and these are always exciting—especially the first one.

II. This story has to do with the start of the church—I'll let you see as it was in the beginning so is it now!

III. The Birthday (Elam notes 4/5/25)

A. It's Pentecost on the Jewish calendar.
   1. Design given (Lev. 23)
   2. Feast time
   3. Feast of weeks (Deut. 16:9-12)
   4. 1st day of week
   5. Holy Spirit promised
   6. He came "suddenly"; "rushing mighty wind sound" filled the house.
   7. Tongue like as of fire.
   9. He gave them utterance—mouth piece.
   10. Spoke in tongues—intelligent ones.

John 16:13-14

   a) Teach—bring to remembrance.
   b) Guide into all truth.
   c) Comfort.
   d) Bear witness of truth.
   e) Convict them.
   f) World could not receive—Holy Spirit vs Spirit of world.
   g) Church, Kingdom of God vs Kingdom of Satan—world.
   h) Sent by Jesus (John 16:7)
i) Right time (Jesus gone); Right persons (apostles—not world); right place Jerusalem (Lu.24:49)
j) Moses, pattern, filled (Exo.40:33) now living stones filled (Eph.2:19-22)

B. Peter preached the one recorded had keys (Matt. 16:18-19).
1. 1st sermon under great commission.
2. 1st after ascension & coronation of Jesus.
3. 1st after descent of Holy Spirit.
4. Identifies person & work of Jesus.
5. Prophesies fulfilled.
6. v-36 "Therefore let all the house"
7. Command to believe in Him.

C. They Heard This
v-14 Harken to my words
v-22 Hear these words
v-33 Ye now see and hear

D. Pricked in their hearts
1. Via facts presented.
2. Felt guilt—what shall we do?
3. 1st time under reign of Christ question asked.
4. 1st time answered, not about earlier dispensation but current one under Christ.
5. "True & infallible answer for all such inquiries in all subsequent time," McGarvey said of the answer.
6. 1st time Repentance, Remission of sins preached in name of Jesus.
7. Never before were people commanded to do this in the name of Jesus.

8. Answer: "Repent ye and be baptized every one"
   a) Convinced Jesus is Son of God, Christ, Savior.
   b) Convicted of sins against Him.
   c) Repent--turn from sin--humble and contrite heart--acknowledge unworthiness--desire to right the wrongs, show by works he has repented, obey command.

Acts. 17:30-31

   d) Baptized--immersed.
      (1) Much water (John 3:23)
      (2) Went down into (Acts 8:38)
      (3) Arise (Acts 22:16)
      (4) Leave house (Acts 16:34)
      (5) Performed in the water (Matt. 3:6)
      (6) Washed (Heb. 10:2); Birth (John 3:5); come out of (Acts 8:39).
      (7) Name of Jesus.

9. Remission of Sins
   a) Release from
   b) Pardon
   c) Forgive
   d) See Quote

10. Gift of Holy Spirit

11. Save yourself
   a) Work out your own
   b) Obey God (Heb. 5:7-10)
Phl. 2:12-13

13. v-41 They that gladly received—Baptized—Added
   a) Only pardoned added
   b) Work of God

14. Continued steadfastly, fellowship

15. 3,000
   v-47 And the Lord added to His church:
   a) Saved
   b) Pardoned

16. His work

Locust Grove, KY - 100th anniversary - 5/22/05
THE CHURCH THAT WAS & TODAY IS
Acts 2:41-47

I. In this time of misunderstanding:
   A. See the church that was.
   B. Know the church that is today.
   C. If you are not a part of this practice then come now to it.

II. About the church you must see certain things.
   A. Since it contains the saved how in the world do you get in it? Do I do something beyond salvation's requirements?
      Am I beholden to the approval of men?
      Am I divinely placed in it? Is there something different to do for church membership vs. salvation's joys?
   B. What did they do?
      1. Peter preached along with 11 others.
         a) Holy Spirit as promised came and convicted people by hearing the word.
            Jn. 16:7-13
            Acts 2:37
      2. A religious people were shown how to call on the name of the Lord.
         Acts 2:21
         2:38 Pentecost is words not wobbling Testimony 'Tongues
         22:16
      3. The minds of the Jews changed with the coming of the Spirit.
         a) Medium used was words.
         b) Pierced their hearts when they heard the facts of the gospel.
         c) Change came in feeling and in conviction.
d) Note "when they heard."
e) Thus not by direct agency of the Spirit, they ignored his miracles, but heard words of truth.
f) Faith comes by hearing, words must be believed.

B. They asked a question—What?
1. First time question asked.
2. First time under Christ it's answered.
3. Whatever said before now we hear the authoritative answer under the reign of Christ.
4. It will be the same terms for all men for all time.
5. Pardon the greatest quest of the human soul.
   a) Offer conditional.
   b) Offer understandable.

C. What were they told to do?
"Repent and be baptized"
1. Isn't that simple enough?
2. If this was all that was said would it not have been clear?
3. Qualifications that have caused trouble:
   a) "For"
      (1) Because of or
      (2) In order to
      (3) Blood shed for remission--already or to be?

Matt. 26:28
Acts 2:38
(4) Whatever baptism is for repentance is for.

(5) Did they repent because sins already forgiven?

(6) Eis = toward, never backward, in order to obtain.

(7) God doesn’t command saved folks to be baptized.

Jn. 2:3-4

b) Strike out remission, you still get import of words.

c) Never commanded men to do what they've already done.

d) Name

(1) Under his authority.

(2) They already believed--it caused them to cry out.

e) Remission and Gift

(1) Holy Spirit's gifts & fruit not to be confused with the gift of the Spirit.

f) Obeyed--save yourself

Conditions they could comply with.

III. What was the continued action of the church?

A. Continued steadfastly.

1. Apostles' doctrine.

a) Authority of truth.

b) Not the whims of men.

c) Apostles present to instruct--still are via word.

d) Declared their faith & continued in it.

e) Never leave the truth of apostolic doctrine.
f) They craved inspired instruction.
g) Let the church have this today.

2. Fellowship
   a) See the warm spirit.
   b) All things common.
   c) Something to belong to to be responsible to.

   a) Not in private home.
   b) But at the house where church assembles.
   c) Had things in common but each his own table.

4. Prayers
   a) Plural
   b) Wide participation

B. Fear
   1. Every soul.
   2. Reverence--lost ours?
   3. Wonders & signs done?
   4. What impresses us today?

C. Believed were together.
   1. All men's good every man's rule.
   2. Yet maintained private ownership of houses.
   3. Continued daily with one accord.
   4. Thought of others more than self.
   5. Members called believers.
   6. Note every day.
   7. Religion came to daily life.
   8. Present at all times of public worship.

IV. How Was Church Received?
   A. Ate meat with gladness.
1. "When I'm in tune with God the whole world is singing." (Criswell)
2. Ate and worked with same spirit in which they worshipped.

Ecc. 9:7

B. Singleness
1. Persistent
2. Like the evenness of ground without stone.
3. No stone of unbelief or selfishness.

C. Praising God.

D. Favor with all the People.
1. Way Jesus grew isn't it and we are His body.
2. People moved by their sincerity.
3. Church was attractive.
4. Impression great and favorable.
5. Later, hierarchy caused disfavor as they presented their own self interests.

V. The Continuing Cause

A. Lord Added
1. Future lies in the hands of the exalted Jesus. Baptize in name but don't say "Tongue in the
2. It's His action.
3. To their number in the same place to the assembly. (E. Ferguson)
4. Word church is missing in old MMS.
5. Imperfect--kept adding.
6. They did their part day by day--the Lord did his.
7. Jesus is Lord.
B. Daily
1. Any church saved 1 a day?
2. Are we indifferent to carrying the gospel?
3. Is Pentecost the big end of the horn?
4. Speaks of daily salvation, not a gradual salvation of individual believers.

C. Saved
1. Present participle—salvation a continuing process.
2. Justification accomplished.

Eph. 2:5
5. Those who heeded & complied the exhortation were added to the church.
6. The public approved all did not come into the church.
7. Lord permitted none to be added but those that were saved.
8. God united those daily converted to those who had already been converted.
9. No hint of indestructibility of the saints.
10. There is the saved and the lost—where am I?

Hillsboro - 6/11/92
Foote St., Corinth, MS - 6/23/92
Philo Road, Urbana, IL - 10/8/95
Pond Church, Dickson, TN - 10/29/95
DAILY DUTIES OF DISCIPLES
Acts 2:43-47

I. How great were the early days of the church.
   (Child that of day in black & white) (I think of
   early church: in glorious color!)

II. What did they have? 
   A. Fears (Philos)
      1. Means awe, reverence, presence of one superior
      2. We see life w/i that fellowship. Never in our sense
      3. Reverence & power there in Synagogues
      4. Fear in imperfect tense - continuing action.
      5. Great to see human awe in respect of divine
         deeds. Feel presence of God - lost in wonder, love, prayer.

B. Came because of Apostles' Signs & Teachings.
   1. Need the continuation of it (the teaching
      apostolic) today.
   2. Apostles did signs - not 120.
   3. 120 not baptized in HS.

C. Believers Were Together.
   1. Glory of united action.
      a.) Held together.
      b.) Based on word.
      c.) It was received, gladly!
      d.) Steadfastly persevered in it.
      e.) Exhorted one another daily.

2. All Things Common.
   a.) Earl Browder says this is Christian communism.
   b.) Did Lord or apostles ever ask for this?
   c.) See an experiment that failed.
   d.) Coffman has great points.
(1) They praised God, not blasphemed Him.
(2) They gave, not confiscated.
(3) Commies take, deny worship.
(4) Acts is a community of distribution, not in production!
   e.) Ananias sold property - it was still his!
   f.) Christians owned things.
Acts 12:12 "And when he had considered the thing, h
3. But note spiritual man is not self sufficient - he needs others.
4. He loves in a practical way.
5. Tense shows they sold from time to time - as need arose.
6. Gave as need - not on equal division.
   irrespective of talent.
7. Love of property gave way to love of man.
   a.) Did they give it all away & later have to be helped themselves?
   b.) Lord never laid down rule there must be equal shares.
   c.) Wealth is a loan from God - we are stewards.
   d.) What was new was the enthusiasm of the sharing.
11. Need.
   a.) Love neighbor as self.
   b.) Poverty can be happy.
   c.) More blessed to give.
Acts 20:35 "I have shewed you all things, how that s
d.) GK proverb, "Common are the possessions of friends."

e.) Prior to enjoying their own food they gave to poor.

f.) Acts of liberality should not die in our lives for want of exercise.

g.) Yet "house" shows they still held private property.

D. Daily One Accord in Temple.

1. Day by day shows it a regular practice.

2. Continually devoted to this — not a hit or miss proposition.

3. One accord.
   a.) United purpose.
   b.) Regular worship and consistent instruction.
   c.) Jesus walked in Solomon's Porch.

John 10:23 "And Jesus walked in the temple in Solomon's Porch.

Acts 4:1 "And as they spake unto the people, the priests

Acts 5:12 "And by the hands of the apostles were many

E. Broke Bread From House to House.

1. Sign of new family relationship.

2. Symbolic — to break bread is to share in one's life with another.

3. New society like unto which never on earth before: new feeling, purpose, new engagements.

4. To break bread, eat salt together created a bond.

5. To eat is not only an emblem but a seal of fellowship.

6. Universal good will in giving banquets finds this extension today.
7. Ancient Chr. not hermits.
8. They did not deny themselves food & company.
9. They enjoyed their food more by enjoying it together.

10. Are we grateful we have bread?
11. We have a self acting machinery that tells us when to eat - a sentinel ever watchful.

F. Was this Ordinary or Lord's Supper?
1. Ash says yes, Coffman no.
2. Could be love feasts or common meal. Agape.
3. To eat with a god in sacrificial meal shows fellowship with him.
4. Flesh of sacrificed victim that to be flesh of their god & thus they fed on their god & were strengthened.

5. O.T. sacrificed called the "bread of God."
Lev. 3:11  21:6, 8, 17

6. Joy to run into our Redeemer's presence in the minor activities of life.

7. Only on great things does the stranger approach the King but in everything the appeals of a child is welcome to the King.

8. Remember Corinthian agape was not an avenue of worship.

G. House to House.
1. Either at home or else means by households.
2. We enjoy belonging.
3. We are drawn together by what we believe.

H. Had Gladness.
1. RSV — "with gladness & generous hearts."
2. Nothing drab or grim.
3. Keystone of Christian character is joy & singler
   1. Singleness.
   1. No pride, self seeking hypocrisy.
   2. All were transparent.
   3. Had 1 great aim.
4. Praising God.
   1. Prayed & praised together.
Lu. 2:13 "And suddenly there was with the angel a m
   20 "And the shepherds returned, glorifying and
   19:37 "And when he was come nigh, even now at
Acts 3:8 "And he leaping up stood, and walked, and
3. Didn't gather food like dogs, but thanked God
   for it.
4. Praise is the natural history of regeneration.
5. As soon as Israel safely thru sea they clustered
   on cliffs & make the desert ring c/a jubilant
   psalm: "Sing unto the Lord for he hath triumphed
   gloriously."
K. Favor of man.
   1. Favor of the people.
   2. Why not?
      a.) Generous.
      b.) Helpful.
      c.) Holy.
      d.) Worshipful.
      e.) Happy.
   3. Had great influence.
4. Favor not a class, but all people.
5. Church reflected Jesus growth.

Lu. 1:30 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit,
  2:52 "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature,
1.) Saved Daily Added.

1. Continuous Growth.
   a.) People wanted to join such a group.
   b.) Not stationary, nor declining.
   c.) Daily - not blank pages in birth register of
      God's family.
   d.) Night comes when even Son of Man cannot do
      His work.

2. Salvation.
   a.) Central thought - Salvation.
   b.) Lit. "people in way of deliverance."
   c.) Lord added.
      (1) It's His prerogative to add.
      (2) Not saved & left alone - added to church.

Ps. 68:6 “God sets the solitary in families"
   (3) Unity - added together or to the same.
   (4) No reference to predestination.
   (5) Simply means the Lord guided them into way
       of salvation.
   (6) 2 sides - Lord adds & they added themselves.
   (7) Whosoever calls on name shall be saved and
       as many as the Lord our God shall call.
   (8) If we've added something else get out of it.
WHAT ATTRACTS PEOPLE TO SERVICES?

Recently a church growth consultant published some interesting findings on what attracts the average American to a certain worship assembly. He listed five factors:

2. Fellowship of believers.
3. Manifestation of strength in the face of trials.
4. Assurance of a personal relationship with Christ.
5. Their dedication to Christian service.

Equally revealing was a list of distractions that discouraged the outsider from attending:

1. Extravagance -- spending too much on non-essentials.
2. Exclusiveness and egotism -- the "better than you" philosophy. Pride and selfishness among church members turn the unsaved person away from Christ and the church.
3. Hypocrisy -- people in church who are not real or genuine.
4. Lack of love -- the people at church don't really love God, each other, and certainly not outsiders.
5. Poor reputation of the church -- the track record of the church is one of division, disgruntled members, and lethargy.

When Paul wrote that we "adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things," (Titus 2:10), he was suggesting that we make our religion attractive by the righteous manner of our lives. There is certainly room in any congregation to dress things up a bit. Giving more emphasis to brotherly kindness, fellowship, cooperation and unselfish service will attract people.

Kerry Knight
Houston
I. Via Brother Mike your elders sent me word: "We want this church to grow, say what you will to help this become firm in the hearts of all."

II. 1st thing I say is that your elders and the Holy Spirit are of the same mind set.
A. One does not even start in reading Acts until he sees this principle.
1. They had unity.
   Acts 1:14 "These all continued with one accord"
   a) Prayer, supplication, women.
   b) v-16 Scripture fulfilled.
   c) Resurrection accepted - v. 22
   d) Ministry - v. 25
2. They had Pentecost.
   a) Preaching salvation.
   b) Joy and hope - 2:26
   c) Christ raised, exalted, crucified, made Lord and Christ.
   d) Baptized, rec. word, 3000.
   e) Continued steadfastly in apostles!
3. v-47 Lord added daily.
4. Gate Beautiful story--power in Jesus--opposition came.
   Acts 4:4 "Many...heard...believed...5000
5. Jesus exclusively.
   v-12 "Neither is there salvation"
   v-20 "For we cannot but speak"
   v-32 Multitude believed - 1 heart
6. Acts 5
   v-14 "And believers were the more added multitudes both men and women"
III. Surely Growth is a holy desire, but it has a price tag.
A. If we are to Win Souls there are definite "musts."
B. From the "I" of Winning there are certain musts.

IV. Let's look at the "Is" of winning.
A. Invite
1. You must love one another and present strong friendship among yourselves.
2. People are lonely, isolated, and want friends.
3. You must want to be productive.
4. When visitors come be alert.
5. Herb Miller facts #1.
6. Dick Marcear article #2.
7. Reasons for coming #2½.
B. Instruct
1. "Preach" all through Acts.
3. Myers article #5.
4. Leadership is important.
   a) 330,000 churches in USA.
   b) 85% under 225.
   c) 75% avg. less 175 attenders.
   d) 1% above 700.
5. Got to love--S. Main #6
   Do we care?

C. Ignore setbacks and correct them.
1. Low involvement those averages are:
   a) Give 1-2 hours 30% members
   b) Give 3-5 hours 39.3% members
   c) Give 6-7 hours 25% members
   d) Give 8 hrs. per wk. 5.7% members
2. Owston article
   a) Attitude
      (1) "Them" accusation.
      (2) Clannish.
   b) Resist change
      (1) 100 years ago--no class rooms, baptistry, nursery, A/C, no toilet, no literature, no full-time preacher, no VBS, no camps.
   c) Unprinted signs.
      (1) No welcome to singles, divorcees, welfare, uneducated.
      (2) 70 to 80% 1st time visitors have been invited.
      (3) Return if folk friendly.
d) Division
   e) Short ministries
   f) Inadequate facilities.

D. Inherit. *Invest yourself*

Esther 4:14 Who knows whether thou
Acts 4:13 Took knowledge of them
Acts 4:24-30 (READ)

Highland Heights, Lebanon, TN - 1/7/01
Smithville, TN - 2/4/01
Graymere, Columbia, TN (BC) - 2/18/01
Dr. Flavil R. Yeakley, Jr. of Harding University quotes from Herb Miller's book How To Build A Magnetic Church. Miller says, "No other single factor makes a greater difference in improving annual membership ... than an immediate visit to the homes" of visitors. Here are some excerpts from his research:

1. If lay-people make a 15 minute visit to the homes of those who visit the worship services within 36 hours, 85 percent return the following week.
2. If the lag time is 72 hours, the figure drops to 60 percent.
3. After one week, the figure drops to 15 percent.
4. If the minister makes the visit instead of lay-people, the percentage of repeat visits drops in half.

(Continued inside, page 2, column 1)
In 386 A.D., John Chrysostom was the preacher for the Church of Christ in Antioch. His style was very simple. He preached verse by verse and made practical applications. He had a great understanding of the Scriptures, and his ability as a speaker blessed everyone who heard him. Thousands were converted.

During his 12 years there, attendance grew to 100,000 per Sunday. However, the emperor could not stand the idea that anyone was more popular than himself. He forced Chrysostom to move to another city and eventually into exile. He died in 407 A.D.

It would be wonderful to be able to preach like that, but few men can speak with such power that the church will simply grow because of it.

Well, how does the church grow? What is the key?

According to numerous church growth studies, the No. 1 way to stimulate church growth is through invitation from a friend or relative. If the visitors like Bible class and their children are happy and the sermon not too long, they may come back. But the invitation comes first.

Seems simple, doesn't it? But it is effective! There are lots of people who would come if someone just invited them. So, let's get busy. Invite someone every day. Don't be stingy with your invitations. Let's start using the key that will build the church.

-Dick Marcear

Wednesday Night!

Mid-week Bible study offers a wonderful opportunity to learn in an informal setting. At this time we are involved in a Bible survey of the Old and New Testaments. Join us at 7:30 p.m., and invite others.
According to a survey in a denominational group, people were asked why they chose the church with whom they worshiped. Here are the results:

9% because of the beauty of the building
18% because it was close to their home
14% because of prior affiliation with that church
3% because of the ministers of the church
22% because there were members they respected
34% because a neighbor or friend invited them

These figures reveal something that we have thought for some time. First, that not many people go to a particular congregation because of who is preaching; and secondly, that the influence of the members and the invitation of friends play the most important part of one's choice of a church. This should be an encouragement for each one to continue inviting friends and neighbors to worship services.

Rather, church growth depends on conviction that the biblical revelation has been given by God and that, in the absolute matters concerning man and God, God has revealed himself and his perfect will authoritatively. Christians in this century or any other, this land or any other, may confidently go forward, knowing that they are basing their actions on unchanging truth.
The second amazing factor in the multiplication of early Christians was their absolute certainty that God had, in very truth, opened the way of salvation. Those early Christians had no education, no seminary training, no ordained ministers, no church buildings, no philosophy, no history of missionary expansion. But they were certain that God had opened the one way of salvation.
We hear a lot of talk about church growth, and that's the way it should be. The Lord wants His church to grow; there is no doubt about that. But since the church is made up of people, and people order their lives by their philosophy, we need to be concerned about the philosophies of church growth. You see, we all live our lives according to certain philosophies, whether conscious or unconscious of them.

Now, understand that a philosophy is a goal that a church works toward and is not to be confused with a method used to reach that goal.

1. Biblical Preaching - someone has said that preaching is mass counseling from the Bible. While I do not concur totally with that concept I do believe that the Book of Books is to be followed so that we might know God and His will for our lives. It alone contains the answers to life's problems.

2. Quality Teaching - whether done when the church comes together or in the home, teaching must concern itself with the goal of changing the lives of those who are being taught. To do this effectively takes a lot of time and prayer.

3. Biblical Leadership - which is Biblically qualified. When you read the New Testament you find leaders that are men of great spiritual depth and who were ministers, not simply administrators of the church. I fear that in many instances we do not have the right view of many of the offices (works) of the New Testament church.

4. Evangelism - the "good news" is to be heralded every place, both locally and throughout the world. People must be taught to use spontaneous opportunities to speak to others about Christ. Our responsibility to "every creature" begins with our daily associates.

What is your vision for the future of the church? How do you see the church's future? What are you doing RIGHT NOW to insure the existence of the church for future generations (your children, and grandchildren)? Let's give these thoughts some serious consideration and resolve to be busy in the work of the Lord.

Edwin Myers
Germantown, TN.
LOVING CHURCHES HAVE MORE MEMBERS

That's what the article said. Based on a survey for 8,600 people from 39 different denominations Dr. Win Arn found that "Growing Churches are more loving--to each other and to visitors--than declining churches."

Arn said, "Loving Churches attract more people, regardless of their theology, denomination or location. Probably you already knew that. Arn concluded, most churches that are growing today have learned how to love. A church that loves people is a church that grows. Unfortunately not all churches are practicing the command to love..."

So, are we a loving church? Let's test ourselves. Remember, people judge groups by individuals. What have people seen in me? In you? That's how they'll judge the church.

1. Do I speak to strangers at church with a warm word of greeting, or do I pass them by and look for my friends?
2. Do I look for visitors in my Bible class so I can make them feel welcome?
3. Do I ever invite a visitor out to lunch or to my home for fellowship?
4. Is it important to me that guests feel "at ease" at our services.
5. Do I introduce myself? Do I ask others their name?
6. Do I pass visitors in the hall and not speak?
7. Do I sit by a stranger, visitors in the worship services so they will not be alone?

Let's concentrate on being more loving to visitors and to each other. "By this will all men know you are my disciples if you have love one for another." (John 13:34-35)

adapted from Central Bulletin

MARKETPLACE - 29 A.D.

VBS A Bibletimes Experience AUG. 6

WE ARE STILL IN NEED OF - 8 tribal leaders, 1 beggar and 1 magician
2:41 gladly 40,000 added daily
4:4 heard Belw. 5,000 men
4:32 multitude Belw.
5:14 added multitude
5:14 men and women
5:14 disciples multiplied
6:1 multiplied greatly
6:1 great crowd present
8:4 scattered preached
8:14 Samaria heard
11:20-21 centurion great
12:24 word grew multiplied
13: Paul's journey
14:1 great multiplied great need
16:3 lived in no. daily
17:4 great multitude child women
19:32 needy Belw. honorable women
18:9 many corn. Behold, Belial
19:10 all Asia know
19:20 mighty few word prevails
21:20 thousand and seven bells
THAT BEAUTIFUL LITTLE PHRASE

Acts 2:47

I. If there is anything you've heard preached to you, it's the glory of Pentecost just after Jesus' resurrection.
   A. I love it all--marvel at its fundamentalism.
   B. So important because it's a model, it's a first, it's the beginning of the church.

II. I want to review it, refresh your minds and ask you if you were aware of the little phrase I'll mention.
   A. Day fully comes--been waiting for it since the ascension of Jesus.
   B. You recall the details.
      1. Sound from heaven rushing mighty wind.
      2. Sitting disciples.
      3. Cloven tongues as of fire.
      4. Holy Spirit let them speak in tongues.
      5. Diverse group from everywhere, devout men of every nation.
      6. Brought curious men to see and hear.
      7. Heard even own language.
      8. Simple Galileans.
      9. Amazed-- "what means this?"
10. Drunk?
11. Peter stood with the eleven, not the eleven with Peter as head.
12. Prophesy fulfilled.
13. You crucified one approved of God known miracles, God raised him up.
15. Jesus raised—right hand of God exalted now Lord and Christ.

C. Cut to heart—what shall we do? and answer given.

D. Results
1. Receive word
2. 3,000 baptized

III. Thus you have a called out people.

A. What did the baptized do?
1. Continued steadfastly, apostles' doctrine.
   a) Strongly adhere
   b) Presently cling to
   c) Constant attention to
   d) Great zeal and courage
   e) Not spasmodically, intermittent
   f) No matching, dispatching
   g) Everybody could see and hear this as they clung to the Oral Bible

2. Fellowship—Womack and Trammel case.
3. Breaking bread--what does your Board others for?
   a) Lord's Supper
   b) Or beginning of a home meal
4. Prayers
B. It did something to the participants.
   1. Fear on every soul (every and all resonant in these words).
   2. Apostolic signs and wonders--I believe the record of them.
   3. Unity "all that believed were together."
      a) No factions
      b) No parties or specials
      c) Just one!
4. Had all things common.
      a) Sold possessions and goods.
      b) No other church did this.
      c) Imperfect--keep on selling.
      d) Met the needs.
      e) Brothers--Sisters
      f) Parted as need.
5. Daily in the temple--thus absorbed in the work.
6. Opened their homes, broke bread from house to house.
7. Attitude; singleness, gladness.
8. Praising God
C. All volunteer!
D. One phrase that's in this summation--"I have not use, what is it?"
V-47  "Lord added to the church daily."

1. But that's not it.
2. Guess again, though in our mobile society it's hard to duplicate these things.
3. What caused the phrase--unused as yet to come into minds of outsiders?

IV. What did these events show?

   A. Unity
   B. Sharing
   C. Dedication to a goal
   D. Change of heart
   E. Higher pattern of living
   F. Religion that acknowledged the Lord
   G. My phrase--Favor of the People
CONCERNING PRAYER

Hindrances to Prayer

Ps. 66:18         Regard Iniquity
Ps. 24:1-4        Remove Landmarks
Prov. 21:13       Stop cry to poor
Prov. 17:5        Mock poor
I Pet. 3:7        Family

Times

Mark 1:35         Great while before day
Luke 6:12         Prayed all night
Eph. 6:18         Praying always

Awesomeness

I Chron. 28:2-10  Open mouth wide
Ps. 81:10         Obey—went out not knowing
Heb. 11:8        Obey—went out not knowing
2 Kings 19:15    God alone
Isa. 25:1        Done wonderous
Rev. 7:12        Blessing, glory

Reason to Pray

Matt. 21:22       Ask
John 14:13        Whatsoever ask
I Jn. 5:14        Ask accord will
Jer. 33:3         Call—I'll answer
Ps. 50:15         Call—trouble
Eph. 6:18         Praying always
IT LIFTED HIM--IT LIFTED ME
Acts 3:1-8

I. We expected it to happen--
Acts 2:43 "Many signs & wonders were done by the apo
A. Miracles were there for a purpose.
   1. No one could deny this miracle.
   2. Miracles were bells to call people to the church.
   3. Let's study the one in Acts 3 - it's filled also w/so many modern day applications.

   A. Peter & John.
      1. Good friends.
      2. Fellow fishermen.
      3. Inner circle of apostles seeing 3 rare things.
      4. Each had a brother in the apostleship.
      5. Both regularly engaged in religious routine.
      6. Perhaps we need to stop and see they "went up together."

   Lu. 5:10 "Partners c Simon - Fear not from
   Lu. 22:9 "He sent P. & J. 'Go prepare us the
   Jn. 18:15-16 Palace of HP - brot in Peter
   Jn. 20:6 "Then cometh S.P. following
   Jn. 21:20-21 "Lord's breast qt. man do
   Acts 8:14 "Heard Sam. rec. word sent
   Gal. 2:9 "Cephas & John - pillars - Rt. hand
   7. Unity of purpose & energy great thing.

   B. Temple at Hour of Prayer.
      1. Didn't abandon it immediately.
      2. God now has a greater temple.
      3. 9th hr. of prayer.
a.) 3rd - 9:00 A.M.
b.) 6th Noon
c.) 9th 3:00 P.M.
d.) At 3 Jesus died.
e.) Lot of folks would be at temple at this hour tho
we do not know how long after Pentecost this
occurred.

4. Do we have a fixed time for prayers? A certain
place? (Little boy was asked did he pray in the
A.M. & ans., "No, ain't scared in the A.M.)

C. Certain man.
1. Lame from mother's womb.
   a.) Congenital cripple.
   b.) Over 40 yrs. (4:22).
   c.) Carried - totally disabled.
   d.) Does being lame from birth imply harder to heal
       than if lame later?

   a.) Daily would make him well know. Also shows
       pitifulness of his condition & shortness of his
       "security." What if you were that dependent or
       another?
   b.) Beautiful,
       (1) 9 doors to Temple - ea. 45' hi.
       (2) Gate of Nicanor - 75' c lots of Corinthian
           brass.
       (3) Near court of Gentiles & women - Jesephus.
       (4) Wonder why Jesus had not earlier healed this
           man?
c.) Alms - Temple.
1.) Beggars seek to touch us at our most vulnerable points.
2.) Surely at Temple (or church) there's compassion.
3.) Can we allegorically apply to us?
4.) Does love of God & love of man go hand in hand?
d.) Saw Peter & John - asked alms.
1.) Shows no faith in Christ.
2.) Why did he single this team out of all the multitude?

D. Team's Reaction.
1. Peter & John fastened eyes.
2. Look on us.
   a.) Arouse sense of expectation.
   b.) Jesus most quickly won attention when He healed.
   c.) Ramsey, "In mission work no avenue leads more
d.) Directly to the popular heart than the relief of
e.) Disease & physical pain."
3. Gave heed - expecting to receive.
4. Peter's speech.
   "Silver & gold have I none - but such as
   a.) Our job is to release power of God - not to give money.
   b.) But what ought we to do c what we've got - give
   c.) Men have less need of alms than spiritual renewal.
   d.) What have I got to give?
      "In Name of Jesus Christ of N. rise up
   a.) Name = authority.
   (1) Baptized into triple name - all done by authority.
of Christ, thus in name of Christ.
(2) Name identifies us with person to whom it belongs.
(3) To other people all you are is envoked by the
name.
(4) Do you suppose this name was new to him?

b.) Rise up & walk.
(1) Took by rt. hand & lifted up.
   a.) No faith on man's part.
   b.) Peter's grasp made walking easy as he helped
him.
   c.) He'd never learned to walk.
   d.) God gives sufficient help if one desires to
   obey. (Lipscomb)
   e.) Traded cripple for "this perfect soundness".
   f.) Pope Innocent II caught by Thom. Acquinas
   counting sacks of gold. "Peter can no longer
say silver & gold have I none" (Pope) "nor to
lame man arise & walk". (Acquinas)

   c.) Immediately ft. & ankle bones rec. strength.
   1.) Precision of healing typical of way Dr. would
tell it.
   2.) Rec. strength = were consolidated.
   3.) Wonder why this 1 was healed?

5. Man's reaction.
   a.) Leaped.
   b.) Stood.
   c.) Walked.
   d.) Entered walking, leaping, praising.
(1) Whole of man rejoiced.
(2) Peter announced the lofty superlative.
AGAPE Annual Membership Banquet 10-19-78
Huntsville, Ala.
West End 5-6-79

East Braeger Church Memphis 5-9-79
POWER IN ANOTHER RIGHT HAND
Acts 3:1-11

I. Earlier we studied Jesus' use of his powerful hands.

II. Too we see him empower others to advance His cause.
   B. Some salient facts:

Mark 16:20 "And they went forth and preached..."
1. Jesus and his folk are interested in human suffering else why all the announcements about the sick.
2. Why are feelings hurt if calls are not made?
3. Jesus used the healing power as a confirmation of the words.
4. Every sick person was not healed.
5. If there is miraculous healing today why not step in and relieve Tenn Care?
6. New Testament everyone was not healed.

2 Tim. 4:20
7. New Testament healing was not selective--all came with all cures via Jesus.
8. Our duty today--preach--word is given us.

Mark 16:20

1 Cor. 13:8-12

10. Do healers preach the whole truth?
11. R.C., Christian Scientist, Holiness will not accept each other.

III. Let's study the Acts 3 healing.

A. Peter and John were fishermen, not together as preaching apostles.
1. Go to temple 3:00 p.m. to pray—and preachers need this.
2. Surely praying preachers want to convert praying people.

B. Man crippled since birth.
1. At Beautiful gate.
3. Why do beggars come to the church door today?
4. Should not worshipping people be in a mind to give?

C. Spotted Peter and John and they looked like generous men!!
1. They in turn asked the cripple to look at them.
2. He needs to know the source of his blessings.
3. Man thought they were going to give money.
4. Woman came to me in Captain D's—"need gas"—who doesn't!
D. Silver and gold have I none BUT:
   1. Is money all we have?
   2. Does the church need money to operate?
   3. Are there things more valuable than money?

Prov. 22:1 "A good name is rather..."

Psalm 19:10

   Kindness and love more valuable.

4. Use what you have to His glory.
5. Took him my right hand (v-7).
   a) See command and encouragement.
   b) Transferred his sincerity.
6. Immediately well.

V-7 - "And immediately his feet and his ankle bone received strength."
   a) Cripple had faith to lay hold on the promises.
   b) V-16 - perfect soundness.

E. Effect of the Cure
1. Leaping - he advertised his cure.
2. Glory to God.

Psalm 107:2 "Let the redeemed of the Lord."

3. Held to Peter and John
   a) They shared.
   b) They were equal.
   c) They had appreciation expressed to them.
Psalm 107:1 "O give thanks unto Jehovah."

4. All the people saw him and took knowledge of him.
5. Filled with wonder.
   a) Violent emotion of awe.
   b) Astonished.
I. Via of comparison and citation of excellency in various spheres whom would you extol?
A. Sports - McGwire, Jordan
B. Music - Beethoven, Adkins
C. Writer - Shakespeare
D. Slick Politician - you guess

II. When it came to prophets - it was Jesus: Prophet, Priest and King
A. Peter tells this at the end of his lame man sermon - uses an interesting word - raised. Let's study it.
B. Our text will be Acts 3:22-26.

III. Citation of Prophets and their work.
A. Moses first named, then Samuel and Jesus is implied.
B. Moses' prophesies.

V.22 "For Moses truly said unto the
1. Quote Deut. 18:15-18
2. Also Lev. 23:29
3. Moses held in highest esteem by Jews
C. Said God would raise up a Prophet par excellence
1. See Prophet
   a. Felt some great Prophet (teacher) would come after him

John 1:21 "Are you the Prophet?"
John 6:14 "Truth - prophet should come
John 7:40 "He is the Prophet"

b. Jesus destined to be the superior one
c. God would raise up - in due season
d. Raise = exalt, promote, make known
e. Raise from the dead
f. From the brethren
   (1) Be a Jew
   (2) Our fellowman who feels, understands and leads
   (3) Like passion-tempted in all points
   (4) Able to succor those that are tempted
   (5) Actual humanity - been there, done that

g. Hear him in all things whatsoever he shall say
   (1) Both Moses and Christ taught only what God said
   (2) It is not pick and choose on our part
IV. I want us to take another look at The Prophet - surely not Mohammed

A. His (Jesus) is unapproachable greatness

B. Like all great ones before Him—only greater

C. He's legislator, man, leader

D. The great hero of sacred Scripture
E. He's God's choice above all
F. The greatest in succession line
G. Redeemer, law giver, judge, mediator
H. Sent by God

V. Him God Raised Up
A. Two meanings - appointed, set up, elevated - comprehends whole mediatorial exaltation of Jesus, provided, given prepared, extend (whom God raises you best not dethrone!)
B. Can also mean resurrection
   1. Triumphant proof
   2. After resurrection to all nations

Luke 24:47
   3. Renewal of his commission
   4. From Samuel on all spoke of Him

C. Incidentally some truly blessed.
   1. Children of the Prophets
      a) Inherited their work
      b) Salvation first to Jews
      c) We can flitter away our inheritance
      d) Aren't we a blessed people?
   2. Part of blessing all nations.
VI. What was His mission?

V. 26 Unto you first God, having
   A. Sent Him to bless you
      1. He blesses whom He serves
      2. His supreme desire to bless you via salvation
      3. Came to bless, not condemn as you deserve, but justify
      4. His coming was to bring blessings
      5. Blesses by leading us from sin

Matt. 1:21

B. Does it by turning away every-one from his iniquities
   1. It is not health, fame, power, but turn from sin
   2. Righteousness requires putting away sin
   3. It's to each (individual) to all (collectively)-very personal
   4. Essence of salvation - turn from sin
   5. Saved from sin, not from Romans 6:7
   6. No man can have his sins blotted out who does not turn from them.
7. If a man does not turn from sin, the death of Jesus profits him not at all.
8. He gives us grace to enable the turnings.
9. None happy who continue in sin — God declared blessed if you turn.
10. None can do it unless they believe in Jesus.
11. National — sent to chosen folk, moral — must repent personal — each one.
12. God cannot consistent with His own nature and inherent hatred of sin bless man in his sin. (DL)

C. Consequence of the failure — destroy — cut off.

Smithville, TN — 3/30/99
Vullee — 4/4/99
Virginia Floyd's Ladies Class — 4/6/99
THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH
Acts 4:1-13

I. There are at least two ways I can learn - "what does a cooking stove do?"
   A. I can do it by a lecture as we study its various parts.
   B. I can do it by a demonstration as we see a stove in action and thus learn what it does.
   C. It is the latter position I'll take on the mission of the church - see two men in action and you will sense the mission of the church. (For fear you'll miss it in a moving story I'll add a few "did you - see - the point")

II. I want to tell you the story of the 1st persecution against Christ's church. We'll use Acts 4:1-13.
   A. "And as they spake".
      1. Peter & John both speaking.
      2. Healed a lame man at the Gate Beautiful.
      3. Gave reason for their work - (one mission of the church).
      4. They are in the big middle of the people - they are where the people are - (mission of the church).
      5. They skillfully employed the fullest opportunity - (Another mission)
      6. They were interrupted while they spoke.
      7. We face today time & opposition does not let us finish everything.
B. The Interruption.
1. No small army; Priests, capt. of the temple & Sad. came upon them.
   a) Quite a delegation.
   b) Capt. probably head of temple police - 2nd in command to High Priest.
   c) Might break morale of crowd to see such big shots descend on poor little men.
   d) After all crowds attract attention - we wonder "what's going on!"
   e) Note the 1st move against the church came quickly - we need to duplicate this page from Devil's manual in doing good things.
2. The opposition was "grieved".
   a) Sore troubled.
   b) Much annoyed.
   c) Highly incensed.
   d) Indignant.
   e) What troubles one does not another.
   f) Various motives motivate us.
3. Reasons: taught the people & preached the resurrection of the dead - thru Jesus.
   a) They thought they were through with Jesus forever - sadly fooled - mission of the church to keep him ever before folk; move among people & preach the liberating truth of the resurrection.
3.

b) Arrest not due to political intrigue, or protest against social evil like slavery, nor burdensome taxes but rather doing a good deed & preaching the resurrection- (Stedman)

c) Some governments today are fearful of the message of Jesus - can't pray in our schools. Final exam be prayer.

d) What we preach determines the nature of the opposition we get - preach resurrection the Sadducees act up.

e) Rich men with vested interest did not want the truth.

4. Arrested immediately & put in Jail.

a) Jailed them without a charge.

b) Suppose they ever thought "I'm in jail for doing a good deed & preaching the truth - what kind of world is this?" The mission of the church - carry on even when you don't understand.

c) Miller: "The early church had bold preaching, divine withdrawal & honorable shame".

d) Abuse is never a legitimate answer to an argument.

e) Christian gets into little trouble these days due to our religion. Note.

f) Interpreters ask - is official religion encased in a magnificent building - or on the street outside?
4.
g) Is ours an indoor affair divorced from life?
h) Some men who earlier denied Jesus now go to jail for him - mission of the church is to change men.
i) Can a deed of love & a sermon offering a blessing be offensive? - Ash.

5. Eventime.
a) Rushed them to jail quickly - no time to decide it tonight - kept safely til tomorrow.
b) Men visited in London where Spurgeon preached. He asked, "Do you want to see the heating apparatus of this church? Who wants to see a boiler room in July - he rather took them to a room where 700 were praying before the service began.

c) Bunyan "Pray often, for prayer is a shield of the soul, a sacrifice to God, and a scourge to Satan. Prayer is as the pitcher that fetcheth water from the brook, therewith to water the herbs. Break the pitcher & it will fetch no water, & for want of water the garden withers. Suppose they prayed? Would you?"

1. Many which heard believed.
   a) Growth often comes after one experiences what might be viewed as a setback to the church.
   b) Belief: synecdoche - stand for all they did.
   c) In Christ.

Rom. 6:3
1 Cor. 12:13
Gal. 3:27

2. 5000
   b) 5000 saw healing of body & spirit - mission of church.
   c) "Howbeit" - nothing stops gospel.
   d) One source said 5000 defied every semblance of truth - others its the adding in of the earlier 3000 - thus 5000 total. I'll take 8000! (Though imprisoned cause marches on. Can't imprison truth.)

III. The Next Day.

A. On the morrow - they lost no time to press (Permission of church is to bring men to an immediate judgment)

B. The delegation.

1. Rulers - owed office to blood, wealth, prestige.
2. Elders - not there by proper reason.
4. Annas
5. Caiphas
6. John - unknown - (Jonathan?)
7. Alexander - unknown
8. Kindred of the High Priest
9. Sadducees
   a) Sanhedrin thus gathers.
   b) 71 counting H.P.
   c) Sadducees - few, wealthy, influential, aristocratic.
   d) Did not believe in spirits, resurrection, 39 books, Divine intervention in life.
   e) Ceased to exist after Fall AD 70.
   f) Rationalist, materialistic, interested only in earth - no Bible history of one ever becoming a Christian.
   g) Yet Henry Farrar has Commie Dr. at Harding.

10. Sadducees make 1st move against church - not Pharisees.
12. Last thing they wanted was for anyone to disturb the status quo.
13. Rome very tolerant but on public disorder she was merciless - Barclay.
D. The Question: By What Power, Name
1. Ist see the healing was an admitted fact. Can't deny it.
2. Most of our Christianity is talk - do we ever put it into action. This mission did!
3. Let the world see a few resurrected healed individuals!
4. Power, Name
   a) We can discredit deeds by throwing suspicion on their origin. Improper means?
   b) What blinds us to truth?
5. You done this.
   a) In GK comes last.
   b) Gives it the connotation of scorn, contempt.
   c) Bruce "people like you".
   d) They taught but "I'm the teacher".

E. The Answer
1. Question tailor-made for Peter - perfect set up.
2. An unexpected opportunity came to preach Christ before rulers.
3. Note Peter's case, skill, sarcasm, boldness as he mentions guilt of crucifixion - Vaughn.
4. Beheld group - deliberate contemplation.
5. Speaks to the most powerful audience in the land & he is not the victim but the judge.
6. He knows he is in the very court that condemned Jesus.
7. Raw courage - knowing danger he faces - missionaries do same!
   a) Lord kept promise.

Luke 21:12-15
b) Spirit alive & well today.
9. Not so much personal defense but rather a chance to preach.
10. Moonies spent $10 million; 300,000 pieces of lit. to tell what they are. Tod says they'll have to sell another rose.


12. Peter shows respect for his audience.

13. Earlier he was cringing before a maid - now bold via resurrection.

14. Wants all to know -
   a) Message to all people.
   b) Gospel universal.

F. The Speech.

1. Good deed.
   a) Persecution contrasts good & evil.
   b) Stars can only shine at night.
   c) What are our good deeds - our mission.
   d) Healed man offered undeniable proof - stood there. V 10, 14.

2. By Name of Jesus Christ, Resurrection
   a) Name: Authority, Crucifixion.
   b) Name of Jesus inextricably woven into healed man's story.
   c) Can we defend ourselves in name of Jesus - our lives in accord?
   d) Jesus is all.

John 6:63 - Words are spirit & life
12:40 - Judge in last day.
3. Crucified.
   a) No word of apology or hint of compromise.
   b) Death for us.
4. Raised.
   a) Jesus is real.

1 Jn. 1:1 - Heard - seen - looked - handled
5. Stone - Ps. 118:22

Matt. 21:42
   a) Can't secure a building without right cornerstone.
   b) Brings two opposing walls together - Jew & Gentile.
   c) Sadd. have opportunity now to be saved - one more chance.

Truth crushed to earth shall rise again
The eternal years of God are hers
While error, wounded, wretches in pain
And dies amid her worshippers.

   a) Salvation & healing from same word.
   b) Jesus the only Savior of the world.
   c) We don't like exclusivism.
   d) One religion is not as good as another.
   e) God does not accept child sacrifices & caste systems.
   f) No man on earth has the choice of whether he will accept gravity's law.
   g) Christ or Chaos - Stanley Jones.
7. Three truths.
   a) Jesus crucified.
   b) Jesus has become preeminent.
      (Men often reject the best)
   c) Jesus alone can save.

G. The Reaction.
1. Marvelled.
   a) Kept on marvelling.
   b) Stunned silence?
   c) Had no answer! - Convince the
      gainsayer - mission.
2. Ignorant & unlearned.
   a) Uneducated formally.
   b) Unlettered.
   c) Untrained - ordinary folk.
   d) Ignorant: idiot - then a private person
      who possessed no official position or
      special ability.
   e) Ordinary member - same word used in:
      1 Cor. 14:16
      f) "What right do you have to preach".

3. Knew they'd been with Jesus!

Detroit Metro Bible Lectureship 3/21/85
Franklin, KY Lectureship (Radio) 3/24 - 3/28/85
Smithville, TN 4/9/85
Union Ave., Memphis - 5/7/85
THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTED LIFE
Acts 4:1-4; 13-14

I. Our study of the above falls into distinct categories.
   A. The Audience v-1
   B. The Message v-2
   C. The Reaction, Unfavorable v-3
   D. The Results v-4
   E. The Reason for the Results v 13-14

II. Let's Examine:
   A. The Audience
      1. Peter & John speaking.
      2. Opposition provided by priests, captain of the temple, Sadducees.
      3. This represents:
         a) Religion via priests.
         b) Politics via Captain.
         c) Rationalistic unbelief and secularism via Sadducees.
      4. Priests—all with axes to grind.
         a) Their position would decline if Christianity took over.
         b) Had thus a selfish reason.
         c) Did priests feel apostles' teaching would infringe on their territory?
         d) Leonard Tyler's treatment of me.
      5. Captain of the Temple.
         a) Officials wanted no confession on temple ground.
         b) Any Messianic movement would disturb Rome.
         c) He was head of temple police—(sagan the term).
d) Maintain a certain image—good defense.
e) M. Henry said he was a Gentile.
f) P.C. said a Jew.

6. Sadducees
a) Rejected resurrection.
b) No belief in unseen world, or the eternal—yet priests came from this group.
c) Said Resurrection not in Pentateuch.
d) Secularist of their day.
e) Position threatened as we hate to give up power.
f) Shows men in highest position can be wrong.

7. Grieved over the teaching apostles gave.
a) Is glory of Christ's Truth and Kingdom a grief to you?
b) Is your support of it nominal?
c) Thoroughly fatigued with Christ and preaching of Him.
d) After all, if the message is true they are in danger of collapse.
e) Grieved = intensity of trouble.
f) Grieved over things of which angels rejoiced.
g) This grief would result in eternal grief!
h) What troubles you?

B. The Message—taught and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.
1. All centered in Jesus.
   a) Stay with what He said & taught, Epistles are no enemy--these men wrote them.
   b) Jesus verified the doctrine of the resurrection.
   c) He is first fruits.
   d) All was attainable only through Him.
   e) Note union of Jesus and Resurrection.

Acts 17:18

f) In a moment for first time we'll see Jesus & salvation are synonymous.

g) Jesus via resurrection is alive; all He said is true and thus power to do miracles.

h) Note their message is not involved in social services--mission of church to preach salvation.
   (1) Resurrection says Christ is alive; life has new meaning; He gives life like unto no other person.

2. Preached the Resurrection.
   a) Resurrection their warrant for all they said.
   b) Meddled not with matters of state but of Heaven.
   c) Sadducees denied it.

Luke 20:47
d) No life to come made Sadducees cruel in treatment.
e) It exposed the pauperism of Sadducees religion to help people.

C. The Reaction--Laid Hands & Put in Custody.

1. Power of darkness tried to stop them.
2. Reacted against the teaching that said disbeliever should obey and the believer should grow in better-ment.
3. Persecution days can be ones of greatest growth.
4. We get concerned when existing powers are assaulted.
5. Put in hold
   a) First resisted to bonds, later to blood.
   b) Did they think a night in jail would stop the preaching?
   c) They gave no explanation for their police action.
   d) Peter & John offered no opposition--but wonder how they felt about that night?
   e) When reason fails, men imprison.
   f) Men who think ahead of their times often persecuted.
   g) Note they had said nothing disrespectful of the temple.
   h) 1st arrest & 1st imprisonment for preaching after the resurrection of Christ.
i) No trials after dark--came at 3PM--too late to do any more.

D. The Results
1. Many Heard the Word.
2. They believed.
3. Now about 5000.
   a) 5000 fed bread from heaven.
   b) Now fed Word.
   c) Great to see 5000 in 1 city.

E. The Reason for the Results
1. Saw Something.
   a) Rest assured somebody is watching you.
   b) They check your conduct.
   c) Means perceived, ascertained.
   d) Saw boldness.
      (1) Once we get the real meaning we can't be quiet.
      (2) Their courage surprised them.
      (3) Courage brings confusion to persecuters.
      (4) Word means free, outspoken.
      (5) We need boldness & love & moderation.

2. Saw Peter & John
   a) Peter had been a bit scarce earlier.
   b) Note John was also preaching.
   c) Unlearned.
      (1) Ordinary
      (2) Common man
      (3) Unlettered
d) Ignorant
   (1) Unskilled
   (2) Untrained
   (3) Had not studied in Rabbinical schools.
   (4) Private person.
3. Marvelled & searched for an answer--took knowledge they'd been with Jesus.
4. Been with Jesus.
   a) High compliment.
   b) Jesus the explanation for their boldness, eloquence.
   c) Do people realize there is something about us that cannot be accounted for except been with Jesus.
   d) Our company is always influential.
   e) Good men are known by company they keep.
   f) Good manners are taught by association with the well mannered.
   g) Thought they'd gotten rid of Jesus and here He is in these men.
   h) Lit. "they began to recognize they'd been with Jesus--one after another--they began to see it."
   i) Did not shut their eyes as we do.
   j) All Christians must behave & conduct themselves so as to show been with Jesus.
k) Taught:
    His birth
    Lived His life
    Prayed in His name
    Gloried in His Resurrection
    Holy, Cheerful, Spiritual.

l) Ps. 90:17 "The beauty of the
    Lord be upon us."

5. Behold the Man
   a) Irrefutably healed.
   b) If so, the doctrine is true.
   c) Say nothing--met Waterloo
       (on cabinet when I took epidurals)
   d) Stood with Apostles--do we?

Stroudsville - 6/14/98 (BC)
Central Church, Huntsville, AL - 6/17/98
Beckwith - 7/7/98
Locust Grove, KY - 7/12/98
Sycamore Chapel, Ashland City, TN - 8/30/98
THE CONTAGION OF THE CHRIST
Acts 4:13-18

1. A great miracle had occurred.
   A. Lone man - always crippled healed.
      V. 7 - Rt. hand, lift, immediately.
      V. 8 - Leap, stood, walked, entered temple.
      V. 9 - People saw & praised God.
   4:16 "Notable miracle . . manifest.
   B. It was followed by a great sermon.
      1. One of 3 speeches Peter made.
      2. Spurgeon was criticized, "Your sermons are all alike." He ans., "That's right. Wherever I take a text, I immediately make a beeline to the cross & preach Jesus."
      3. Out of Christ - no salvation.

II. Enemies Reacted.
A. Now when they saw:
   1. Peter & John had nothing to expect from the judges.
   2. It was an undeniable event - must deal w/ facts.
B. Saw Boldness:
   1. Fluency - "unless there is fluent within us that which is about us, we shall soon yield to that which is about us."
   2. Spoke w/ ease & conviction.
   3. Where not nervous or rattled.
   4. Does lack of courage cause us to fall before ignoble foes?
C. Saw Unlettered:
   1. Had no technical education.
   2. Didn't know Rabbinical law, but did know government of God.
   3. Lit. unable to write.
4. Remember the untrained men could not have spun the threads of Christianity.

D. Ignorant.
1. Layman vs. professional.
2. Obviously education should give us calmness & confidence.
3. Remember some of life's sorriest specimen are born in King's courts & to the wealthy.

E. They marvelled.
1. Saw much.
   a.) Able speakers.
   b.) Via style & dress - untrained, not scholars.
   c.) Disciples of Jesus.
   d.) Irrefutable miracle.

F. Been c Jesus.
1. Character of the Lord is contagious.
2. Obvious they'd seen him since acted as He did.
3. Words mean it's important evidence & they direct attention to it.
4. What did they see?
   a.) Boldness.
   b.) Conviction.
   c.) Interest in downtrodden.
   d.) Calmly assured.
   e.) Carrying out his work tho they that He was dead.

G. Obvious points.
1. Let the disbeliever see the evidence of the Christi life. "It is wonderful taste to be gratified with.
2. Live to present the facts. Medicina when the
3. Religion's not the answer; Jesus is before us. Discard.
a.) Islam slaughter.

b.) Hindu c Kirshna - 330,000,000 gods &
    reincarnation. (Pres. of Congress party pointed
    to feet, "I have never worn shoes; I have never
    defaced or disgraced the hide of a sacred cow."
    Could come back as a dog, a spider, if vile a
    serpent, or if real bad a woman!)

4. Enemy has uncanny way of recognizing a Christi
5. They'd been a Jesus, now Jesus is with them.

III. What Happens When Your Identity is Seen?

A. Confusion.
   1. Man was standing (V. 14).
   2. Say nothing against it.
   3. Call a meeting - sent apostles out. (70 men
      baffled by 2 ignorant ones).
   8. faint men.

B. Contempt.
   1. Could accept facts - they are stubborn things.
   2. Cannot deny )
      Notable miracle ) V. 16
      Manifest to all Jerusalem 
   3. Qt. was what shall we do c these men; not what
      shall we do c the facts.

C. Confinement.
   1. Let them go but shut up the word.
   2. Correct: if it stops, the Jesus interest will die.
   3. Broke no law - how shall we punish - what
      reason to give.
4. Note no effort to refute resurrection.
5. What about your courage?
   a.) "The trouble is that the voice of their neighbors sounds louder in their ears than the voice of God." - H. G. Wells.
   b.) Of John Knox, "He feared God so much he never feared the face of man."
D. You can give irrefutable proof of Christianity.
   1. Steinmen poem
   2. Meg Hanl - OLC

*West End 7-25-81
"Into this world to eat and to sleep
And to know no reason why he was born
Save to consume the corn
Devour the cattle, flock and fish
And leave behind an empty dish."

"What More Can God Say?" — By Ray C. Stedman — Page 183
AIRCRAFT—Corporate

Corporate aircraft sales are up, as airlines continue to cut back on service to smaller centers following deregulation. Many companies find it's more convenient to have their own planes, ready to fly where they want when they want.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Membership statistics in the newly published Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches 1981 (Abingdon) showed only a slight gain of .06 per cent in 1979 and failed to keep pace with the annual population growth of 1 per cent. In both 1977 and 1978, church membership growth had been roughly 0.7 per cent. Conservative churches once again led in growth. The Presbyterian Church in America increased its membership by 5.83 per cent; the Church of God (Cleveland, Tennessee) grew by 4.8 per cent; the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons), by 4.4 per cent; and the Seventh-day Adventists, by 3.25 per cent.

Losses moderated in several mainline Protestant communions, but only the Episcopal Church managed to reverse its recent slide, posting a gain of .92 per cent. Among those reporting losses were the United Presbyterian Church in the USA (—1.71 per cent), the United Church of Christ (—1.33 per cent), the United Methodist Church (—0.8 per cent), the Lutheran Church in America (—0.71 per cent), and the American Lutheran Church (—0.61 per cent). The Southern Baptist Convention showed an increase of 1.37 per cent, bringing its total to 13,372,757. The Roman Catholic Church reported a gain of 0.42 per cent, with a membership total of 49,812,178 in 1979. Data for the Yearbook are obtained from the religious bodies themselves, according to editor Constant Jacquet. — Christian Century, 8-19-81.

...Prosperity is no just scale; adversity is the only balance to weigh friends. — PLUTARCH.
   A. Peter & John enter temple—9th hr.—40 yr. inside.
   B. Healed—crowd to Solomon's porch.
   C. Peter preached a sermon—clergy to Christ.
   D. Priests, captains of temp., said, STOP it—imprison them.
   E. Trial next day. By what power?—Jesus.
   Acts 4:12. "Neither is there salvation in any other...
   F. Rulers couldn't deny, threatened—must stop.

Acts 4:19-20 "But Peter & John ans'd: We said unto them...
1. Isn't this a good method? It:
   e) Many bel.-5000 men v.4-6
   b) Enormy marveled v.13 perplexed v.16, confused (v.11)
   c) All men glorified God v.24
   c) Toward to return 1) one accord (unified) v.24
   b) Prayed together v.21 3) filled with H.C. v.31
   4) Spoke boldly also v.31

II. What was the method?
A. God was to be supreme in their lives.
   Acts 4:19 "Whether it be right in the sight of God...
   b) Acts 20:20 a. khís of the Ephesus, Absalom made them go to...

II. No division.
  a) Jesus of men & God; nor
  b) Brotherhood of Fatherhood; nor silent.
  a) Boy & prayers.
  1. They told the truth.
Acts 4:12 "for we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard God's truth as He did us.
Jn 14:26 "He shall teach you all things and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said to you."
1 Tim 3:16-17 "All scripture is given by inspiration, Thru Thy truth, Thru all things."

2) What did H.S. tell them to say? They said?
6) What is your attitude—what if P. did the same?

2. Know must not temper—"we cannot but speak.

1. Manner of telling it:
   a) Convinced it was real.
   b) Not imagination but things "cruised on into eternity" (P.C.)
   c) Chipping on priest.

2. Things seen—Their own experiences.
   b) Not imitators but selves (like pulling on Dad's shoes—same size—before we knew how). Christ left us in individuals.
   b) They experienced these things—people don't.
   a) What kind of experierence? (lit.)
   c) "Cannot but speak what we saw and heard" (lit.)

2. Lord must tell it to others.
   Acts 20:17 "But his word was in mine heart..."

Locust Grove, Ky.
Minnacle 3/14/57
Estes 10/1/57
Greer Ave 9/15/57
Another Priest Baptized In Italy, Tells of Events of Life

Our hearts were recently made to rejoice in the conversion of another Priest to the gospel of our Lord. During the period of study that Brother Paden and I had with Brother Rubia, he truly characterized child-like humility, simplicity, and eagerness to learn. I thought the readers of the Christian Chronicle would enjoy the brief account that Brother Rubia wrote of his conversion.—Carl Mitchell.

I would like to describe briefly the events that brought about my departure from the priesthood of the Catholic Church; and my entry into the church the Christ established.

From the beginning of my theological studies; I noticed that many doctrines and many reasonings used to prove various positions, were not altogether convincing, but rather were adopted to justify an end. It often occurred that in our classes, some student, wanting to be clearer in some of these issues would seek a more logical and substantial defense for certain doctrines.

Invariably, the professor would respond that the student should not use such a method of reasoning that would lead either to protestantism, or rationalism. In brief, one needed to believe more than to reason, to accept rather than question, to follow some who taught an accepted tradition, rather than to accept the Bible given by God.

"GREAT EMPTINESS"

Finishing my studies in this manner, being thoroughly convinced in some matters, I must confess that I felt a great emptiness inside of me. My beliefs were more based on human teachings, than on divine precepts, and I could not be truly convinced in that which I practiced.

You see then, that many of those who are supposed to be leaders of Catholicism, often deep in their hearts are not convinced of that which they teach.

The thing which most decisively convinced me of the errors in the Catholic Church, was an authoritative book of the Catholic Church written just before the last war, called, "Ut Vitam Habant," The author said that more than 80 per cent of the Catholics actually lived in open violation of the law of God. If this was the fruit of Catholicism, what must one conclude of the tree?

EIGHT YEARS IN AFRICA

I had the opportunity of going to Africa for a period of eight years as a missionary. During this time, I contacted people of many nationalities and of diverse religious thought. I began to see that many of these had great faith; and gradually my spiritual eyes began to open in a trans-
FEARLESS FAITH
Acts 4:23-31

I. You have just preached Jesus.
   A. Proved point by a miracle.
   B. Drew attention of enemies.
   C. Council met, decided to threaten and muzzle.
   D. What would you do?
Acts 4:19 "But P & J ans... Whether it be right".

E. They were further threatened, wanted to punish but could not, let them go.

II. Now what did Peter & John do in the demonstration of Fearless Faith?
   A. Being let go—went to own company.
      1. Scroggie says there are many "let go's" in life—we then must choose our own company—thus our plan for our purposes.
      2. Company they chose was Fellow Christians.
   B. Choosing our Own Company.
      1. Strong as were Peter & John, they needed the support of others.
      2. We too need Christians who care, share & listen.
      3. Arnot says like draws like.
      4. We need company of like kind—answer to our enemies lies in the quality of individual Christians. (Laurin)
      5. Was this a report for counselor to awaken them? (Thomas)
      6. Don't we want to talk with others when confronted with things of great importance?
7. Does wise, sympathetic cooperation help?
8. Are we genuinely sympathetic and caring as we weep with those that weep?
9. Are you truly interested in your brother?

III. Note what they reported.
A. All Chief Priests & Elders said --
   1. 28 High Priests from Herod the great to Titus 72 AD.
   2. First plural of H.P. in Acts.
B. Will be first test of civil disobedience--so need counsel.
   1. First test of principle & strength between Christianity and human law.
   2. Case: Can a Christian disobey a law because of conscientious scruples?
   3. Governments are given by God.
   4. Governments are servants of God (Romans 13:1-7).
   5. But can human conscience alone be basis for disobedience?
   6. Must not conscience rest on direct precept of God?
   7. "Only when there is a clear cut case of conflict between word & will of God and the will of man that conscience is superior to law." (Stedman)
   8. Thus a very important time in the history of the early church.
IV. The Joint Reaction.

A. Lifted up Their Voice.
   1. Run? No, prayed. Coffman mentions they can flee Jer. 40 years later when sacked.
   2. Luther calls prayer a godly Christian weapon.
   3. It was with a loud voice—not timid.
   4. It was prayer not political or popular pressure though they had the latter.

B. It was unified—One Accord.
   1. 11X in Acts.
   3. Unity present.
   4. Moved by a common impulse as one man.
   5. Godliness was in the air.

V. Their Prayer to God by Jesus.

A. Lord
   1. Behold reverence.
   2. Began spontaneously—no one called for it.
   3. First recorded prayer after Pentecost.
   4. Had Scripture in it.
   5. Addressed to God in name of holy child Jesus.
   7. Lord thou art God.
      a) Made everything (24).
      b) Controls everything (25–27).
      c) Purpose for everything (28).
B. Ascribed to God.

1. Maker of everything.
   a) Creation acknowledges his limitless power—so he can take care of this little disturbance—creation vs evolvement.
   b) Made Heaven.

Ps. 146:6
Exo. 20:11

c) Made earth—so it's not evil nor has it been nor will be eternally here.

d) Sea

Jer. 5:22 "Placed the sand for the bound of the sea by perpetual decree that it cannot pass."

2. Spoke to man through men, thus inspiration.

Ps. 2:1–2

a) Recognize the revelation of the Lord.

b) Heathen rage—fierce neighing of an untamed horse, later the naughty conduct of men.

c) People imagine vain things means to give anxious thought & care to anything.

d) Kings stand—Rulers gather against Lord & his Christ.
   (1) Powerful opposition—so this not a new event.
   (2) How could one so poor be the Messiah?
(3) Enemies still oppose in sinful spirit of opposition against claims of Jesus.
(4) Quite a combo opposition.
(5) Could not understand the suffering Christ.
e) Oppose holy child Jesus.
   (1) Holy—set apart.
   (2) Only one who is sinless.
   (3) He's God's Son!

3. Enemies act within the scope of God's plan—counsel determined before to be done.
   a) Balance of God's sovereignty and man's freedom very hard.
   b) Did God cause the rebellion or use hearts as they were—even Pharaoh's?

2 Kings 19:14
   c) God holds the world in his hand and is involved in it and its events.
   d) Makes his enemies do his purpose.

Job 12:10-25
   e) Things ordained.

Acts 4:28
Rom. 8:29-30
1 Cor. 2:7
Eph. 1:5
Eph. 1:11

4. Lord, we've another threat!
   a) Purpose no solution—put it in his hands.
b) God our true court of appeals.
c) Can pray without telling Him what to do.
d) Hez.

Isa. 37:16-20

e) God's plan for salvation does not eliminate suffering.
f) Song, "From every stormy wind"

5. Servants involved.
   a) Are men of unusual courage.
   b) Not trying to make God partisan in every angry contention among men.
   c) Bondservants--God is master.

C. Their Request--With all boldness speak thy word.
   1. All--not some.
   2. Take note of enemies and let us speak with boldness.
   3. Shows great, positive faith.
   4. No request for revenge as in Jer. 12.
   5. No request for immunity from danger.
   6. No request for safety.
   7. No request for enemy destruction.
   8. Not even for victory.
   9. Counterbalance Sanhedrin with our boldness in truth.

10. Boldness 3X in this chapter:
   13, 29, 31.

11. Speak freely.
D. Adendum
   1. Stretch forth hand to heal.
      a) Fact is that God gives strength and validates.
   2. We must be helpful.
   3. Courage has tenderness--dualist shot into air or at a leg--not Jackson--stomach wound--to bleed to death.
   4. Heal--a medical term.
E. Ends in Name of Jesus.

VI. Results!
A. Place shaken.
B. Filled with Holy Ghost.
   1. Third filling in Acts.

2:4
4:8

2. No one ever prayed for the filling.
C. Spake word with boldness.
   1. Tell all who will listen what God has done for you.
   2. Silence can be sin.
   3. Note: spoke the word.
   4. Spake--imperfect tense thus they continued to speak.
   5. Done with fearless courage.

Acts 5:42 "Every day in the temple"
Mt. Juliet, TN - 8/10/94
Let me share a quotation from H. C. Trumbull, a very clear-thinking writer:

Conscience is not given to a man to instruct him in the right, but to prompt him to choose the right instead of the wrong when he is instructed as to what is right. It tells a man that he ought to do right, but does not tell him what is right. And if a man has made up his mind that a certain wrong course is the right one, the more he follows his conscience the more helpless he is as a wrongdoer. One is pretty far gone in an evil way when he serves the devil conscientiously.

rendition of Job 12:10-25:

In God's hand are the souls of all that live, the spirits of all humankind....

Wisdom and might are his; with him are firmness and understanding.

If he pulls down, there is no rebuilding; if he imprisons, there is no release.

If he holds up the waters, there is drought; if he lets them go, they turn the land upside down.

Strength and success belong to him; deceived and deceiver are his to use.

He makes counselors behave like idiots and drives judges mad.
He looses the bonds imposed by kings and removes the girdle of office from their waist.

He makes priests behave like idiots and overthrows men long in office.
The couple was looking for a place to live in the Twenty Nine Palms area in the middle of the Mojave Desert. They had found a house they liked, owned by an old timer in the desert area, and were almost ready to buy. Before making a final commitment, the wife looked up at the roof and asked the old-timer, "Are you sure the roof doesn't leak?"

The old-timer looked puzzled, scratched his chin, and asked, "Leak what?"

Tim Davis

Those who are trusted he strikes dumb; he takes away the judgment of old men.

He heaps scorn on princes and abates the arrogance of nobles.

He leads peoples astray and destroys them: he lays them low, and there they lie.

He takes away their wisdom from the rulers of the nations and leaves them wandering in a pathless wilderness.

They grope in the darkness without light and are left to wander like a drunkard.

The overruling power of God is the true strength of the church. As the weapon of faith-prayer it is tremendous in its possibilities.
I. All of us are moved by acts of valor, help and charity done by our fellows.

A. Tell the Dollar-Day Experience.
   1. I wish I'd done that.

II. May I tell you some Bible "Acts" and try to gain our lessons for today.

A. The gospel first preached—Acts 2.
   1. Disciples "learning ever" more of Jesus—will you restore kingdom.
   2. He must leave—end of period when Divine Nature could be limited in humanity.
   3. Yet Jesus ever here—end of world, always, 2 or 3 gathered.

4. Gracious Promises made and Jesus left.

5. They tarried—Luke, more than anyone else mentions, the ladies, 10 days.


7. One accord—H.S. didn't descend on disunited group. Wouldn't have worked as imp. to

   a. Atmosphere charged with holiest excitement
   b. All reacted—confound(6) bewilder(6) amazed(7-12) marvelled(7) mocked(13).

10. Peter spoke.
   a. Divine Power proves its effect.
   b. Jesus crucified via human.
   c. God knew they would.
   d. Death couldn't hold.
   e. Prophesy told of resurrection.


13. I wish I could have seen that—but history passed me by.


1. Paul in Phsygia, straddled trade routes.
2. Divided country with Gallo-Celtic tribes in wild north and civilized-sophisticated Antioch and Icenicum in South.

4. Forbidden to preach in Asia, traveled north through Mysia (silently without preaching), to an effort on Bithymia—forbidden, turned west to Troas.

a. Beth. = province of great rich cities.

b. Along great highways—no. when our judgement ok God allows, wrong "no".

c. He went SE to NW and couldn't preach.

d. Confused, perplexed, needed someone to tell him what all about—so did!

e. Don't know how stopped—Paul recognized it as Divine—no preachers today with visions—conciert of an enthusiast or false claim of inspiration.

5. At Troas (close to ancient Troy) a vision, night, call of man—how known—pronoun in Gk. implies might have known his name, how
6. Went to Sam. (an island in Archipelago & spent night), Neapolis (seaport of Phil.) then Philippi the 1st city —and now we know.
7. Like to have gone to Europe, hopeless in new city without knowing a face—but history passed me by.
1. 2 Acts—1 honest 1 dishonest.
2. Son of Exortation, know little, 1st mentioned of those outside circle who personally knew Jesus (1:21), most all good except (Gal. 2:13) Linus, Cyprus, sold land, brought money (single noun—shows completeness and entirety).
3. Not practice of early church to renounce all property else how could this be example. It was voluntary (5:4), not a charity that produced hoard of volunteer paupers, not legislated as sharing not enforced.
4. Here History did not pass me by. On the others I couldn't, here I can.
a. Clips on present sacrifices.

West End 9/28/60
It was "Dollar Day" in Pottstown, Pennsylvania. There were many advertisements in the newspaper revealing the bargains to be had that day.

The one from the Arrow Camera Shop specially interested us. It read:

"100 Confidence Surprise Packages will be sold to the first 100 customers today, for only 50 cents each. Every package positively guaranteed to be worth double your purchase price."

Arrow's Edge:

"If any package found not to be worth double your purchase price, we will refund 10 times your 50 cent cost."

We did not question the truthfulness of the ad, but we did wonder what the article was. Values differ with different persons. What kind of an article could satisfy each of the hundred customers that it was worth twice the price paid for it?

We found our way to the shop, and purchased one of the "Surprise Packages." Upon opening it, we found a sealed envelope. Typed on the outside of the envelope were these words: "We would like to thank you for your confidence in making this blind purchase and finding it was just as it was represented. This is the confidence that we solicit from all of our many good customers."

We opened the sealed envelope and, to our surprise found, A Silver Dollar!

We agreed wholeheartedly with the proprietor that a whole dollar is worth twice as much as a half dollar.

No one disagreed with him; but after the surprise packages were sold; and there were no more to be had, some folks did not believe that the shop had actually sold whole dollars for half dollars.

It seems that there are always un-believers about. Even when the true and living God says He will save those who believe in His Son, without money, without price, and without works, they will not believe Him.

The Apostle Paul asked this important question: "What if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?" (Romans 3:3) The answer is: "Far be the thought. God will be true even if every man is false.

God's Word still says, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (Romans 10:9, 10)

Why not "believe" and "confess," and be "saved"? Why be a doubter or an unbeliever? Have you no confidence in God?

ARE YOU AWARE? 14,800,000 will die unprepared in 1960.
1,200,000 will die without Christ this month.
280,000 will die without hope this week.
48,000 will die lost today.
1,289 will die lost this hour.
21 people have died out of Christ since you began reading this!

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Romans 12:1

Christian gladly

Walter E. McCutchuron has moved to Portage LaPrarie, Manatobia, Canada to help establish the church. He is the only member there, about 45 to 50 years old. He chose this spot with his insurance company because he wanted to establish the church there.

He has purchased a Gestetner duplicator, published a monthly bulletin, bid for and obtained an army barrack for $1250—paid for it by borrowing on his home—and is trying on his own to secure lots for the church building. He conducts Vacation Bible School, renting at his own expense facilities for the youngsters.
JESUS MAKES THE DIFFERENCE
Acts 4:34-42

I. Meet 4 folks - about one there will be a distinctive difference.
   A. Jesus made it.
   B. It's obvious they had been with Jesus - He made the difference. Acts 4:13

II. The Occasion.
   A. Early days of church.
   B. Same group that crucified Jesus.
   C. Some sermon on at Pentecost.
      1. Some "pricked."
      2. These wanted to "slay."
      3. It's the set of the sail & not the gale that determines the way we go.
   4. Apostles commanded again not to teach.
   V. 33 "When they heard that they were cut to the heart...

III. Meet Gamaliel.
   A. The Man.
      1. Old & honorable name in tribe of Manasseh.
      Nu. 1:10 "Of the children of Joseph: of Ephraim; Elis
      2. Taught Saul.
      Acts 22:3 "I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in
      3. Was he grandson of Hillel.
         a.) He emphasized mercy in interpreting laws.
         b.) Did he come by it naturally?
      4. Hailed as greatest teacher of his day.
      5. A Pharisee - our 1st mention of one in Acts.
         Sadducees needed them to put apostles to death.
7. "Had in reputation among all the people."
   a.) High character gave weight to his oratory.
   b.) Do we take advantage of every boost or do we enjoy cutting folks down to size.

B. His logic
   1. Note he got rid of apostles "put forth a little space."
   2. Called for Israel to take heed to themselves.
      a.) When convicted, pricked or cut, we either submit or else become harder.
      b.) Resurrection was flash point.
   3. He uses 2 illustrations and that brings us to Men #2 & #3.

IV. Meet Theudas
   A. Meet only here.
      1. Common name.
      2. Know nothing more about him.
      3. Josephus mentions another one.
         a.) Some say Luke wrong.
         b.) Josephus one off.
      c.) Luke would not mention, nor Gamaliel, something because could not free check on.
   4. Don't know where he lived.
   5. Boasted himself to be somebody.
   6. 400 followers.
   7. He was killed.
   8. Those who obeyed (believed him) were scattered & brought to nought.

B. Does this seem like followers of Jesus. Where are Theudites.
V. Meet Judas of Galilee.
A. Came in days of taxing - he said "they had a mean spirit if they could endure to pay tribute to the Romans & acknowledge mortal men for their lords after God had been their King." Josephus
Luke 13:1-2 "There were present at that season sc
B. Drew Much People.
C. Perished - those that obeyed dispersed.
D. He accomplished nothing.
   1. Was father of Zealots.
   2. Was father paying taxes being treason.
VI. Gamaliel Puts it Together.
A. Refrain.
B. Let them alone.
C. If of men, comes to naught.
D. If of God, you can't overthrow it.
E. Look at his thinking.
   1. Reasonable & easy way out.
   2. Supported what they'd been saying: Christianity not divine, therefore let it die.
   3. Futile to fight against God.
F. Are there flaws?
   1. Don't judge usage of something on basis of success or failure.
   2. Don't delay a decision that should immediately be made.
   3. Had Gamaliel really examined the evidence?
G. Can we use it?
   1. Will we really listen & learn?
   2. The empire of conscience is sacred to God. 
      (Thomas)
a.) It's your duty to settle matters of divinity – true or false - in your own mind.
b.) If it's the work of God, aren't we duty bound to follow it – not just analyze it.
3. Always danger in repression.
4. Always wise to incorporate humanity in your judgement.

VII. Meet the Apostles.
A. Called & Beat them.
   1. Beat = flay severely.
      a.) To skin as would an animal.
      b.) Scourge called the scorpion - thong c metal hooks.
      c.) It would bore skin to bone c first blow.
      d.) Skinned alive.
      e.) Paul 5X.
   2 Cor. 11:24 "Of the Jews five times received I forty 
f.) Jesus once.
   2. 1st X disciple shared physical suffering c our Lord
B. Commanded not to speak - let go.
C. Rejoicing.
   1. The ignomy they counted honor.
   2. Shame from word "great price" with an "a" in front of it to negate it like "atheist."
3. Grounds for rejoicing?
   a.) Their liberty? No.
   b.) Counted worthy to suffer.
   c.) McGarvey says their rejoicing more surprising to enemies than the miracles.
D. Suffering.
1. Why?
   b.) Sin & dereliction - alcohol & sex.
   c.) Part of human race - age. / "for mortality minor" (Scroggie)
   d.) Self sacrifice for others - soldier for country.
   e.) Kingdom of God. / "In this I am behind 16 (Scroggie)

2. Their supreme affection for Christ.

3. Remembered Jesus so suffered.

Acts 9:1 "And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and
terror against the Lord, was gone". (Scroggie)

Acts 9:15-16 "But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way, and
tell that man, I am Jesus, whom thou persecutest, and whose
testimony thou hast rejected at Jerusalem behind me."

Col. 1:24 "Who now rejoiced in my sufferings for you, as a
man rejoicing in tribulation."

Heb. 5:7 "Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered
an alter (Scroggie) without blood,"

Col. 2:1 "For I would that ye knew what great conflict
E. Ceased not to Teach & Preach Jesus Christ.

4. Set human authority at defiance.

5. Didn't stop. (They didn't misunderstand - borrow)

Phil. 1:29 "For unto you it is given in the behalf of C
"Beloved, think it not strange concerning Matt. 5:11 "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you,
Matt. 10:17 "But beware of men: for they will deliver "And ye shall be hated of all men for my
22 "And ye shall be hated of all men for my 28 "And fear not them which kill the body,"
39 "He that findeth his life shall lose it; and
6. There is no enterprise where there is no enthusiasm.
7. Power not in the act of preaching but the subject—Jesus!

F. If they died for the Lord, can we not live for Him?

Atlantic Christian Schools, Fellowship, Miami, 1-26-81
Green Town Church, Turbeville, S.C., 3-11-81
Another major heroin epidemic is threatening the nation and the government is little prepared to do anything about it.

"There seems to be almost no coming to grips with the situation," he said. "The number of people and the amount of money involved defies the imagination."

**ALCOHOL**

Alcohol-related problems adversely affect the family of one person in four, says pollster George Gallup, and that figure has more than doubled in the past five years.

**MARIJUANA**

There is so much money invested in marijuana importing and distribution that it has become the nation's No. 1 industry, topping such corporate giants as Exxon and General Motors, says an international drug expert.

Dr Peter G Bourne, formerly a top official in the Carter Administration and now an assistant secretary-general of the United Nations, also said another major heroin epidemic is threatening the nation and the government is little prepared to do anything about it.

"There seems to be almost no coming to grips with the situation," he said. "The number of people and the amount of money involved defies the imagination."
THE EARLY LESSONS OF CHURCH HISTORY
Acts 6:1-4

1. "And in those days."

A. Pentecost less than a decade away.
   1. Coffman lists 6 or 8 yrs. of church.
   2. Early days of anything precipitate a "shakedown cruise." James Kall spoke of these dilemmas.
      a.) Administrative order - who is supposed to do what? Does everybody do everything? Do we know everybody in the work c us?
      1.) 10 ways to kill progress.
      2.) Toast burning.
   b.) Mixed motivation.
      (1) Originally, we want to give generously of ourselves. We do not seek to serve ourselves.
      (2) Then transition sets in - Must take care of ourselves - how does preacher take care of his family?
   c.) Dilemma of delineation.
      (1) Redefine ourselves.
      (2) What makes us unique - so bland or so narrow we remove ourselves.
   d.) Dilemma of success.
      (1) Start small - no influence - make no dent.
      (2) Grow & bandwagon effect.
      (3) Success breeds problems.
      (4) Gallaudet College.

B. "The number of disciples multiplied."

1. V. 1 Multiplied.
   V. 7 Greatly multiplied.
2. Many 1st in this chapter - using "disciples."
II. Continuation of the Big M's.

A. Multiplied we've just seen.

B. Murmuring.

1. Dissension in the church - is this not a 1st?
   a.) Whispering.
   b.) Smoldering discontent.

2. Somehow we like to murmur.

Phil. 1:14 "Do all things w/o M. & disput.
1 Cor. 10:10 "Neither murmur ye...destroyed
   a.) Lust.
   b.) Idolaters.
   c.) Fornicators.
   d.) Tempted Christ.

3. We do a lot of it about material things - Money grumbles.

4. 4 things make us get along.
   a.) Law of proximity - Being together is the No. 1 attraction in getting to like ea. other.
   b.) Reciprocally - I like you, you like me.
   c.) Law of acceptance - must know people take me as I am. Carl Rogers, psychologist, "When I'm c you, I'm O.K."
   d.) Empathy principle - it's easy to feel contempt for someone else's pain. Ezek. "I sat there among them." What is it like to be me? Do we understand ea. other?

C. Cause - Widow neglect.
1. E. A. Elam, "We are either givers or receivers."
2. Many poor came into church.
   a.) Rich are self satisfied.
b.) Poor need & respond to gospel.  
c.) Must be conscious of their needs.  
d.) Lenin Card.  

3. Heightened by cultural difference.  
a.) Grecians - Hellenistic Jews - lived out of co., spoke GK.  
b.) Hebrews - home, Hebrew or Aramaic.  
   Preserved the ancient culture.  
c.) Wash Mercedes.  

D. Multitude.  
1. Last of Big M's - Multiply, Murmur, Multitude,  
2. Admittedly, a problem - What do?  
   a.) Promptly moved to quiet a rumor.  
   (Dachshund)  
   b.) Holy Spirit didn't hide problems of early church  
   c.) Moved to immediate settlement.  
   d.) Great wisdom in straightforward frank dealing  
   c] it.  
   e.) No face lost in saying it needs correction.  
   (Controversy)  

3. The twelve.  
   a.) Apostles.  
   b.) Evidently, Matthias is so counted.  

   a.) Supreme confidence in whole church.  
   Acts 15:12 "Then all the multitude kept silence, and  
   15:22 "Then pleased it the apostles and elders,  
   15:25 "It seemed good unto us, being assembled  
   b.) Not behind closed doors.
c.) Intellect of church not abused.
d.) Called whole church together and told the problem.

(1) Murmuring - We need to right it.
(2) Shared possessions, share problems.

"No man is an Island
None goes his way alone
Each man's grief is my grief
Each man's joy my own."

Sheet End 5-23-82
Lenin, in his writings, echoed the verdict of Marx:

"Religion teaches those who toil in poverty all their lives to be resigned and patient in this world, and consoles them with the hope of reward in heaven. As for those who live upon the labour of others, religion teaches them to be charitable in earthly life, thus providing a cheap justification for their whole exploiting existence and selling them at a reasonable price tickets to heavenly bliss. "Religion is the opium of the people." Religion is a kind of spiritual intoxicant, in which the slaves of capital drown their humanity and blunt their desires for some sort of decent human existence.


I tell you, the church is notoriously slow to move. If you do not believe that, you try changing something in the church, or try building a church that does not look like every other church.

Have you heard the jingle about the dachshund? The dachshund, which someone described as a half a dog high and a dog and a half long, has to maintain long lines of communication. Senator T. V. Smith often quoted a verse about that:

There was a dachshund once so long
He hadn't any notion
How long it took to notify
His tail of an emotion;
And so it happened while his eyes
Were filled of woe and sadness,
His little tail went wagging on
Because of previous gladness.
Controversy is no problem for many preachers. They simply avoid preaching on any theme which might raise a problem or a difference of opinion. These preachers become Reverend Mr. Chameleons, blending in with the cultural mores of the time and their congregations. For them, the Cross has been replaced by the weathervane, and their preaching is determined largely by the way the wind is blowing. They preach to their congregations' delight and dictates. Everything is played safe—the boat is not to be rocked. Their motto might be: "Come weal or come woe my status is quo." Or, to paraphrase Teddy Roosevelt: "Speak softly, and carry a big feather." These are the preachers who are afraid to meet an issue head
on or to upset their parishioners. They rather prefer to comfort the afflicted than to afflict the comfortable.

Proclaiming the Word by Ronald E. Sleeth, page 105.

The little six-year-old, who hadn't spoken a word since birth, suddenly piped up at the breakfast table: "Mother, this toast is burnt."

Astonished, the mother gasped: "Johnny! You talked! Why haven't you spoken up before?"

"Well," said the boy, "up until now, everything's been OK."

BOB ORBEN: "In response to numerous requests, the Republicans have come up with a definition of the 'truly needy.' It's anybody who washes his own Mercedes."
Early football teams did not use the huddle. They lined up and the quarterback barked signals. But opposing teams allowed small Gallaudet College of Washington, DC, a few extra seconds to put their heads together to decide on the next play. You see, Gallaudet was a college for the deaf and signal calling was out. In time other teams picked it up and the huddle became standard. — Brief Cases.

“I said I’d take this team to

I recently found a list entitled “10 Ways to Kill Progress.” The man who made the list noted that each of these ways makes good sense under the proper circumstances — which is why they are so damaging. As you read them, please consider how effective they would be in killing a valuable idea.

1. We tried that before.
2. It is too much of a change.
3. We are not large enough to handle it.
4. That is the same as saying that our current method is obsolete.
5. We have never done it like that before.
6. Why change it? It is still working alright.
7. You can’t teach an old dog new tricks.
8. If we fail, we will be the laughing stock of the entire town.
9. We have been doing alright without it.
10. Let’s have a committee look at it.

Now I wonder, have you ever said anything like this? To be completely honest, I have heard these “arguments” presented around here at times. As the fellow who wrote these observed, “The man who fails to allow for progress and control of his own future.” (Incidentally, these were not written by a preacher. The author of them is David L. Yunich, President of Macy’s in New York City.)

It is good to be home. I look forward to meeting with you for worship on this coming Lord’s Day. See you in church then.
The rush hour is when traffic is at a standstill.

Anyone who thinks we don’t have capital punishment in this country doesn’t know how the Internal Revenue Service works. — BOB TALBERT in Detroit Free Press.

Old actors never die — their parts just get smaller.

People who use drugs believe in flying now and paying later. — BOB PEARCY in Danville, Ind Gazette.

If you think practice makes
THEY SOLVED THE PROBLEM
Acts 6:1-4

I. People are problem prone.
   A. Lord even recorded 1st problem in the church.
   B. In fact several firsts.
      1. Laying on of hands.
      2. Violent opposition.
      3. Expanded church organization.
      4. Great no. of priest obedient.
         Coffman
   C. If today we hear of dissension in the church know it's not new—find a solution.
      (Lincoln Quote #1)

II. Which Shall It Be—Word or Table?
   A. Both vital & necessary.
   B. But I must assign priority for some.
   C. Table shows I cannot be indifferent to bodily food.
   D. Word 1st; Table 2nd.
      1. Calhoun card #2
      2. Wallace Hamilton #3

III. Is There A Solution?
   A. "Look"
      1. Lipscomb says "brethren" means they do the choosing; that sisters are not in it. (Feel he's wrong)
      2. Apostles give qualifications & church does selecting. (McGarvey)
      3. Did choice come from party that did the complaining? Put J. R. Overall on preacher Search Committee since he complained about Clyde Hale.
4. Apostles didn't dictate the choice, just described men to be in it.

B. 7
1. Gave no title to them.
2. Some called them deacons, from serve.

C. Qualifications
1. Honest report
   a) Delicate work needs men above criticism.
   b) Ruskin story #4.
2. Full of Holy Spirit
   a) Kennedy clip #5
   b) He tells of Jesus--see clip #6
3. Full of wisdom
   a) Will need it
   b) Nose story #7

D. Appointed
1. God expects the employment of every talent among us.
2. Forerunner of later deacons.
3. Never win world with payroll folk--need everybody.
   a) Bogue clip #8
4. Prayed
   a) Evidently equal to preaching in importance.
5. Layed hands (v-6)
   a) Adds solemnity.
   b) Grammar allows either church or 12 to lay on hands.
6. Results
   a) Word increased.
   b) Problem solved.
   c) 1st time term faith used to describe the whole of Christianity. (Luther #7)
   d) At heart it is a trust commitment. (Ash)
   e) Prejudice overcome & criticism quieted. A restored broken bone is stronger.
   f) Priest obeyed more than being religious--(No NT priest named--there is something to be obeyed in the faith).
   g) Meet Stephen (crown garland)--1st martyr's crowd.
"LET US HAVE FAITH THAT RIGHT MAKES MIGHT; AND IN THAT FAITH LET US TO THE END, DARE TO DO OUR DUTY AS WE UNDERSTAND IT."
— A. LINCOLN

In this same Epistle we have this language: "Be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord." The Holy Spirit again says, "We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." And the Holy Spirit says, "As we have therefore, opportunity, let us do good unto those who belong to our church." I see some of you smile, and shake your heads, as if you thought it didn't read like that, but do you not know some people who act as if it read so? Oh, they do not belong to our church, and therefore we have nothing to do with them. If you never do any good except to those who think just like you do in religion, or who belong to your church, you may be a very good sectarian, but you are a mighty poor Christian.

"Abilene Christian College Bible Lectures 1926-1927" — Page 49
"The Five Great Duties of a Christian Life" — By H.L. Calhoun

You have heard about the War of the Lilliputians, those little people of Jonathan Swift's satire. Thousands of those little people were killed in a war, the issue of which was whether a boiled egg should be opened at the big end or the little end. I cannot remember now whether the little-enders won over the big-enders, but I do recall that, as I read the story all my sympathy was with the little-enders because that is the party I have always belonged to. How many little matters has the church made central!

"Still the Trumpet Sounds" — By J. Wallace Hamilton — Page 22
A story is told of John Ruskin, the famous art critic and artist. One day a lady, who was a friend of his, showed him a handkerchief made of very precious material. A blot of indelible ink had fallen upon it, and the lady was lamenting to Ruskin that the very valuable handkerchief was ruined beyond repair.

Ruskin asked if he might have it. The lady said that of course he could have it, but she could not see why he should want the ruined piece of material.

Some days later Ruskin brought the handkerchief back, and on it, beginning from the blot, and making the blot the centre of the whole matter, Ruskin had drawn the most intricate and beautiful design.

Out of the unlikely and the unpleasant, beauty had come.

"Marching Orders" - By William Barclay - Page 63
When a Japanese Christian came to San Francisco for a visit, he attended a church service where Ralph Sockman spoke about the life of Jesus. Asked by a friend how he enjoyed the message, the guest replied, "Well, to hear him tell it, Jesus was an American, a Methodist, and an Armenian. But everyone knows that it is not true, for Jesus was really a Japanese, a Baptist, and a Calvinist.

While all men see Christ as a reflection of their own race and culture, Jesus was a Jew.

In Martin Luther's famous preface to his commentary on Romans, he defines faith as "a living, well-founded confidence in the grace of God, perfectly certain that it would die a thousand times rather than surrender its conviction. Such confidence and personal knowledge of divine grace makes its possessor joyful, bold, and full of warm affection toward God and all created things..." Elsewhere he defines faith as "a great art and doctrine, which no saint has learned and fathomed fully unless he has found himself in despair, in the anguish of death, or in extreme peril."

- LeRoy Dawson
"Up From Chaos, Genesis Today"
pg. 59

E GRADY BOGUE, Chancellor, LSU in Shreveport: "There are four pleasures to be enjoyed by men of nobility — the pleasures of learning, loving, creating, and serving. Our professional colleagues, and others looking to us for inspiration, have a right to see those pleasures operating in our lives. But especially do they have a right to see us enjoy the pleasure of being servants."
LESSONS FROM A DISTURBANCE

Acts 6:1-7

I. How fair is the Holy Spirit as He deals with those who obey and teach His truths.

A. It's called the first disturbance in the church.
B. It's called the first deacons though the word is never mentioned.
C. It's seen as a reaction to abnormal growth in the church.
D. It's a demonstration of how minor a matter may be and still cause heartache in the body of Christ.
E. It's a truthful demonstration of the tires of value of matters in the church.
F. It's a clear example of how trouble can be overcome and unity prevail in the church.
G. It's an anthology of how godly men can prevail and the cause be unsullied.


III. See these parts:

B. Tires of Achievements:
C. Solving the Problem - Acts 6:3-4.

IV. Examination of these points.
   1. "In those days"
      a. Vague indication of time.
      b. Sometime after flogging of apostles.
      c. Don't know exact time.
   2. Great growth - multiplied.
      a. Growing by leaps and bounds.
      b. Estimated three million in Jerusalem. \( \text{to } 50,000 \)
   3. Arose murmuring--See John 7:12.
      a. This is not the main point of the narrative.
      b. Great growth creates administrative problems.
      c. First disharmony in the church.
   4. Grecian against Hebrews.
      a. Note both are Jews.
      b. Grecian.
         1) Dispute as to who they were.
         2) More liberal as Hebrews conservative from Palestine and spoke old language.
3) They initiated the complaint.
4) Each group had own Bible.
   Greeks used Septuagint.
5) Division over linguistic differences.
6) Greek-speaking Jews Hellenists.
8) Native gongue Greek not Hebrew via where they lived.
9) Aramaic in Jerusalem majority--Greek-speaking minority.
10) Adopted Greek customs and styles.
11) Hebrew ones stayed with old ways.
12) One spoke Greek--others Aramaic--this the only difference. Thus language one of the barriers.
13) Other discriminations:
   a) Race
   b) Financial standings.
   c) Age and tradition.
   d) Women's role.
   e) Change.

c. Looking for word Deacon--no where found.
d. Do see Deacon—Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:8-12; Romans 16.

5. Note the neglect not deliberate.

6. They had come from far away places for Passover—50 days later Pentecost—did money run out?

7. Peril: loss of individual significance—no one cares about me.

8. A trifling matter was bringing tension to a head.

9. Imperfect tense connected with neglect and suggest it might have gone on for some time.

10. Satan failed to stop the work with frontal attack—now tree internal division.

11. Daily service means relief—here we get word for deacon: service.

12. Today we practice mono-ministry as preacher preaches three times, teaches class, does visitation, bulletins, head worship committees and benevolency.


B. Second major point: There are tires of service.

1. Apostles unable to do justice to financial needs of widows.
2. It became tables vs. Word.
3. It is right to stop teaching for apostles and wait on tables.
4. Tables means food distributed, sharing of money to buy food.
5. Preachers can get sidetracked.

2 Tim. 4:5 "Do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."

6. Either keeper of the aquarium or be fishers of men.
7. We see deacons wander around, wondering what they are supposed to do without assignments, elders do deacon's work, preachers do elders and nobody does much.
8. All Christians are ministers (servants) if one does it all--on way to die.
9. Does not mean apostles thought they were too good to wait tables, but they had something more important to do.
10. Necessary to state priorities.
11. Alternative was for apostles to leave the Word of God and serve tables or rather to continue in prayer and ministry of the Word.
12. Granted there is the dual task for the church--evangelist and help needy.
13. Christians can become church-goers and little more.
15. Remember apostles saw resurrection therefore invaluable.
16. Widows should not be neglected, but if the apostles had to leave teaching, edifying and preaching, this is at too high a price.

C Where is the word Deacon?
Surely these were not deacons

Heritage church - 2/29/04
FURTHER LESSONS FROM A SOLVED CONTROVERSY

Acts 6:1-7

I. We've been in a study of Acts 6 and we've seen two of five wonderful facts.
A. Holy Spirit courageously tells us the early church had some friction, but they kept it from igniting a fire.
B. We also saw there are tires of services—preaching and teaching by the apostles is of greater importance for them than waiting on tables.
C. Now we see: 1) how they solved the problem, 2) the cooperation of brethren in getting it quickly and immediately done, and finally 3) the recognition of these servants of God.

II. Just how did they solve the problem of not neglecting the widows in their daily ministrations?
A. Apostles called the whole church together and saw them take charge of the matter.

v-3 "Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business."
1. Seven men.
   a. Seven is a full Hebrew number.
   b. Never identifies them as deacons.
   c. Believed in the congregation there was competency and they would recognize it.
   d. Qualifications established and thought congregation capable of recognition of abilities.
   e. Congregation found them.
   f. Method of examination and choice not explained—but it was the congregation who called them.
   g. Men needed to know they have the confidence of the congregation.
   h. Choice left to men who met the qualifications.
   i. Apostles trusted congregation.

2. Qualifications.
   a. Honest report—not called deacon.
      1) Good repute.
         a) Elders over them?
         b) Well attested.
   b. Full of Holy Ghost.
      1) Do miracles or indwelling?
      2) Grace and power of spirit needed in delicate work.
3) Person who help needy both spiritual and wise.

c. Wisdom
2) Forerunners of them.
3) These almoners.
4) Intelligent
5) Tell story of man on crowded bus. Gave seat to lady and she fainted. When she woke up thanked him and he fainted.
6) Chrysostom. "The seven were neither presbyters or deacons."

3. Two divisions—prayer and Word; serve tables.
   a. Prayer a constant work of apostles.
   b. Can we neglect it?
   c. Prayer—public and private.

4. Seven men named.
   a. All Greek names
   b. One a proselyte.
   c. Moral and spiritual.

III. These men duly recognized and set apart.
   A. Set before apostles.
      1. Inspected.
      2. Examined.
3. Reputable to take over leadership.
4. Were not volunteers—but qualified.

B. Prayed
1. Though this did not last long as a unit—Stephen killed and persecution comes.
2. God's plan for this moment.

C. Laid hands on.

D. Word increased—disciples multiplied.
E. Priest obeyed the faith.

Heritage church - 3/7/04
I. The cause of Christ is worth our all and a man by the name of Stephen proves it.
   A. His name means a crown.
   B. In your memory he earns it and you name your sons for him.
   C. He makes grateful appearances in the early days of the church.
      1. He was a Hellenist, a Greek-speaking Jew.
      2. He was a man of faith and power.
      3. He presented unquestioned logic, eloquently.
      4. He was productive with deeds of healing, love and betterment.
      5. He knew his history.

II. See him in action.
   A. Acts 6:1  "There arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews...."
      1. Seven men appointed by apostles.
      2. They were of "good report, full of the Spirit and wisdom."
      3. They were asked to look into the matter.
      4. Material necessities were to be handled.
      5. Stephen was one of the seven.
V-5 "A man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit."

B. This plan proceeded success.
   1. "The word of God increased."
   2. "Number of disciples multiplied in Jerusalem exceedingly,"
   3. Do we point our efforts to the same end?
   4. Vital to it was Stephen "full of grace and power" wrought great wonders and signs among the people.
   5. With the exception of the apostles he is the first preacher after the ascension of Jesus whose work is mentioned. The 70 earlier did this.

Luke 10:9
10:17

6. After the selection he and Philip are the only ones mentioned again.

C. His preaching.
   1. Must contend earnestly for the faith (Jude 3).
   2. Got into dispute with the Libertines.
   3. They were not able to "withstand the wisdom and spirit by which he spake.
   4. In those days more than 400 synagogues in Jerusalem.
5. Libertines were those Jews once sold as slaves now free.
6. He presented the gospel in wisdom and power.

D. His speech so powerful they could not meet it.
1. Became angry.
2. Began the persecution.
3. Stirred up the people against him.
4. Had him arrested and brought before the council.
5. False witnesses hired to falsely testify.
6. High priest asked if these things were true.
7. Stephen accurately researched Jewish history, prophets and all, but when he came to facts Jesus was the fulfillment they exploded.

E. The reaction.
1. Cut to heart, gnashed on him with their teeth.
2. Pricked in their hearts.
3. Acted like savage beasts--different from Pentecost reaction.
4. Literally sawed asunder in their hearts--heart cut through with sharp sawteeth.
5. Like dogs gnashed on him.
6. Strange conduct from Supreme Court of nation.
7. Stephen's reaction the very opposite.
   a) Looked up steadfast heaven.
   b) Saw glory of God.
   c) Saw Jesus standing at God's right hand.

Matt. 26:24 "Hence forth ye shall see Son."
   d) Only time Jesus is so pictured.

8. Crowd:
   a) Cried out with loud voices.
   b) Stopped ears.
   c) Rushed with one accord.
   d) Did not wait for the council's decision.
   e) Cast him out of city and stoned him.

Lev. 24:14
   f) Laid aside outer garments so could freely throw stones.
   g) First mention of Saul - (where were you when you first heard of Jesus and his church?)

   a) Lord Jesus receive my spirit note it's to Jesus.
   b) Knelt and prayed.
   c) Lay not this sin to their charge.
   d) Contrast Stephen and his hearers--as they stone him he intercedes.
e) He fell asleep.
f) What a man who got a crown.

10. All of this from Elam's Notes
12/7/1930.
LESSONS FROM A KILLING
Acts 7:23-29

I. Our story is one of adventure and courage--yet why is it in the Bible?
A. I want to accurately relay the events.
B. Then I want us to reason as to why it is in the Scriptures.

II. Events Beyond Contradiction.
A. Moses is now "full forty"
  1. He feels with age, training, position, need he is now ready to lead his people--but he is not!
      a) Life in 3/40 year periods.
      b) They are: Pharoah's son, Midian, Wilderness.
  2. Word full to him meant there was a proper time for all things.
      a) At that time, try yourself.
      b) But you may not be on God's timetable.

B."It came into his heart."
  1. Literally it "came up into his heart."

1 Cor. 2:9 "But as it is written Eye"
  2. An idea laying dormant in the depth of his mind suddenly arise into a distinct plan and purpose.
3. From depth of soul it emerges.

4. But please note the "his" words: 2 in v-23; 1-24; 2-25.

C. To Visit His Brethren

1. We are learning what the word "visit" means.
   a) More than social.
   b) Help someone in need.
   c) Looking kindly on one to help.
   d) Intent is to relieve.
   e) Lu. 1:68--deep and tender sympathy for the miseries of mankind.

2. His heart yearned with love for God's chosen and wants to set them free.

3. This he had going for him.
   a) Rank
   b) 2nd only to Pharoah.
   c) Learned in all the wisdom of Egypt the most learned country. (I Kings 4:30)
   d) Experience in affairs of state.
   e) Mighty in word and deed.
   f) Prime of life.
   g) Fellow Jew.

4. Could not accurately know in the palace the sorrow of his people so he came to them.
D. Defended and Avenged Brethren
1. Saw one suffer wrong.
2. Defended and avenged him by smiting the Egyptian.
   a) Should he take the law into his own hands?
   b) Is rashness leadership?

Nu. 12:3
c) Buried the man.

Exo. 2:12
3. Supposed his brethren understood.
   a) "I am the deliverer" and this first step in emancipation.
   b) He felt he was ready but acted foolishly.
   c) Understood not that his break with Egypt was permanent.

E. Next Day!
1. Quick return.
2. We can precipitate a crisis.
   a) Volunteer
   b) Unexpected
   c) Example of "I'm with you"
4. Saw brethren striving.
   a) Sirs, Brethren, why do ye wrong?"
      (1) Tries to reconcile.
      (2) Grieved, tries to mediate, but his interference is unauthorized.
(3) Proud litigious spirits are impatient.
   b) Wrong for brethren to fight.

5. Thrust away—ruler, judge, kill me?
   a) Repudiated.
   b) Rebuffed.
   c) Ruler and Judge.

6. We see most authorities challenged.
   a) He's not to be self-appointed.
   b) Remember the "his."
   c) Did not accept his leadership.
   d) Who was wrong—people or Moses?
   e) Did they know how great a man Moses was? In the palace?

F. Moses Fled
1. No shelter among Israelites.
2. No shelter among Pharoah's house.

Exo. 2:15

G. Moses a Stranger
1. Needs to learn to put his trust in God.
2. 40 years at burning bush.
3. We must not allow a misunderstanding on the part of friend or foe to arrest our endeavor.
4. Better to be in exile for truth than a craven at home.
5. Moses did not succeed at first but he held a dream.

Ps. 72:60

6. 2 sons
   Gershom "an alien there"
   Eliezer "my God is my helper"

III. Lessons learned
   A. People may not understand your motive.
   B. God may have you on a different schedule.
   C. At his own time God will use you.

World Christian Broadcasting - 7/19/01
Senior Citizens, Auburn, KY - 7/20/01
RESISTING THE HOLY SPIRIT
Acts 7:51-60

1. Let's see what it is.
   A. Stephen has made a great speech.
   1. They are accused of following the same course of their fathers.
   2. He's ready to level accusation of prophet's mistreatment. The examples:
      a.) Joseph.
      b.) Moses.
      c.) Other prophets.
      d.) Now Jesus.
   B. Stiffnecked - like oxen that would not bow to yoke.
   C. Uncircumcised in heart & ears.
      1. Insulting term.
      2. Note its usage.
      Exo. 6:12 "And Moses spake before the Lord, saying,
      6:30 "And Moses said before the Lord, Behold,
      Lev. 26:41 "And that I also have walked contrary unto
      1 Sam. 17:26 "And David spake to the men that stood
      Jer. 6:10 "To whom shall I speak, and give warning,
      Ezek. 44:7-9 "In that ye have brought into my sanctu
      D. Resisted Holy Spirit.
      1. Failed words spoken.
      2. Fell against them.
      E. Law via angels.
      Gal. 3:19 "Wherefore serveth the law? It was a
      Heb. 2:2 "For if the word spoken by angels was stedf
      Ps. 68:17 "The chariots of God are twenty thousand,
Deut. 33:2-3 "And he said, The Lord came from Sinai.

1. Angels literally told Moses what God wanted.
2. Difficult phrase to translate.

II. Audience Example of Resistance.
A. Heard & Cut - lit. sawn asunder in hearts.
B. Gnashed on him c teeth.
1. 1st disciples to enter exchange c representatives of law of Moses.
2. Why is this audience so different from Pentecost?
   a.) Jews asked to make drastic change? Too hard for them.
   b.) Opposition had time to set up.
   c.) Different makeup - this the council.
   d.) Peter had miracle of tongues to accompany - not so here.
3. Persecution comes.

2 Tim. 2:12 "If we suffer, we shall also reign with him.
4. Cried c loud voice, stopped ears, ran upon him c one accord.
5. Crime - Blasphemy; stone; out of city.
Lev. 24:12-16 "And they put him in ward, that the m
Deut. 13:9-10 "But thou shalt surely kill him; thine h
Deut. 17:7 "The hands of the witnesses shall be first t
   a.) Disregarded Roman law, but kept Jewish.
   b.) Imagine 70 Rabbis running at 1 man - shades of Iran!
C. Stephen.
1. Prayed.
2. Forgive.
   a.) Love enemies.
3. Fell asleep — what's the significance — "slept c
fathers."
D. Jesus stood to see him home.
E. Meet Saul.
1. 1st X.
2. Never forgot it.
Acts 22:19-20 "And I said, Lord, they know that I im
1 Tim. 1:12-17 "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, w/
3 S's: Saul, Stephen, Scattering

Acts 8:1-4

I. I believe telling via subject an outline helps you to follow more easily.
   A. Know what's coming next.
   B. Know it's almost over if bored.
   C. President Bush: courage, compassion, character.
      1. Illiteration helps.
      2. Thus my 3 S's - Saul, Stephen, Scattering.

II. First we look at Saul, later Paul.
   A. Just introduced.

Acts 7:58: "The witnesses laid down their

   1. One is almost shocked at the casual way in which one so important is introduced - Coffman.
   2. He further said the church owes Paul to the prayers of Stephen.

   B. Next, "And Saul was consenting unto his death."
      1. Our second mention - death-literally destruction - word used by physicians.
      2. Consenting to Mical.
a. Rejoicing over his death.
b. Heartly approval.
c. Thoroughly sympathetic with the deed.
d. Took pleasure in it.

C. Third mentioned.

Acts 8:3 - "As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison."

1. Havoc.
   a. Ravished the church.
   b. Like a wild beast that tastes blood, not satisfied until more.
   c. Like a wild beast that tears a carcass.

2. Haling men and women.
   a. Approached with savage pleasure.
   b. Heartily joined in breaking up Christian families, causing their dispersion.
   c. No consideration of age, sex, or circumstances.
   d. Note he goes from house to house hunting them.
   e. Neither sex, age, refinement, influence offered protection.
3. Committed to prison.
   a. Obviously the hierarchy was on side of Saul, else he would not have ventured into private homes or had prisoners at his command.
   b. It was a deed he never would forget.

Acts 22:20 when the blood of thy martyrs, shed
   c. Bitter was his remorse and could not forgive himself.

I Cor. 15:9 for I am least, not most, persecuted
I Tim. 1:13 Blasphemer, persecutor, injurious,

4. Life summary.
   a. First passive, second consent, third active.
   b. Silent witness, then consent, active participation.
   c. These are the normal steps of evil: silent witness, consenting spectator, active participant.
   d. To stop evil gets harder each step (Interpreters)
   e. Weakness of our modern society—it's too easy.
III. Our second S is Stephen.

A. Devout man. Simeon
2. Jews at Pentecost (Acts 2:5)
3. Ananias (Acts 22:12) and no where else except here.
4. Used only four times.
5. Did it here apply to Christians or other class?

B. Carried Stephen to burial.
1. First martyr.
2. Stoned - prayed to Jesus.
4. Took place same day as death as corpse not to defile the land.
5. Talmud says no mourning for a criminal put to death by stoning.
6. Where buried unknown - criminals had unmarked grave
7. Not all men that die are buried--bone bleached by wind, rot in oceans, devoured by beasts.
8. Not all that are buried are lamented.
9. Not all that are lamented are lamented by the devout.
10. Struck by the disproportion of man's life and duration of his influence.

11. Everyone leaves a trail; modest or brilliant; conviction makes itself felt.

C. Great lamentation.
   a. Word defined.
      1) Wail, beat breast.
      2) From word to cut off or cut down like a tree.
      3) Applied to great agony as cut self and beat breast.
      4) Lamentations "over" implies standing or hanging over dead body.
   b. Why lament?
      1) Contrasts with worldling, infidel, backslider.
      2) Who moans us and why.
      3) Man of great ideals.
      4) Saw his sacrificial labors
      5) Heard his defense of the truth.
      6) Saw his sublime spirit.
      7) He was a loss to the cause.
   c. Is it right to weep?
      1) Jesus tears at Lazarus.
3. Jesus wept at Gethsemane (Hebrews 5:7).
4. Paul with elders (II Cor. 2:4, II Tim. 1:4).
5. Peter wept when he saw Jesus (Luke 22:16)
6. John over Heavens (Rev. 5:4).
8. Naomi over husband.

IV. Our final S - Scattering.
A. At that time.
   1. Not just special day, but at that period - many days.
   2. Do not interpret too strictly.
B. Great Persecution.
   2. This one "great."
   3. Winds of persecution often fan the torch of truth.
   5. Note adversaries did not put off their action - they moved immediately.
6. Persecution tries the sincerity of character. It asserts the dominance of faith and its comparative weakness. It gives faith a much stronger hold on the proper object.

7. Trouble, calamity, and difficulties made the first missionaries and it has made the best ever since.

8. Persecution accomplished much - 5 years passed before a Gentile baptism--15 more to settle Gentile question.


C. They were all scattered abroad (v-1) except apostles.

1. Stayed at post of duty even though dangerous.

2. Need to give comfort and hold cause together.

3. Had they fled others would accuse founders of cowardice and weakness.

4. Entailed risk but need to help Christians and under-cover evangelists.
D. Again Scattering (v-4).
1. Disciples dispersed.
2. Some places otherwise would not hear gospel.
4. Chief prince to Gentiles might never have occurred.
5. Faith deepened and heightened.
6. Religion real and hopeful - fire cannot extinguish.

E. Everywhere preaching the word.
1. Holy called on to suffer.
2. God overrules and results are the fervorence of gospel.
3. Scattered folk - truth the same.
4. Weapon used to meet sword is the Word.
5. We love truth more dearly when we suffer and fight for it.
6. Patronize Christianity and it becomes corrupt.
7. Preaching of Christ a thousand fold from voices that counteract one voice hushed.

8. Authority for all to preach.


10. They had no Bible, how did they preach the Word? Philip to Samaria and preached Christ - who is the Word.


Funeral, David Ferguson (Lamentation) 1/23/01

Granny White (Saul) 1/24/01
Graymere, Columbia, TN - 2/18/01

Walnut Street, Dickson, TN - 3/25/01
White House BC - 3/26/01

Clarksville Hwy., Central Pike, Joelton BC - 3/27/01

Harding Graduate School Chapel - 4/10/01

Wingate - 5/6/01

Walter Hill, Murfreesboro, TN - 7/29/01
Pond church, Dickson, TN - 9/30/01
Silver Point, TN - 6/9/02
1. Laid down garments - passive
2. Consent - Rejoice, appear, consent, sympathize
3. Havoc - House - Healing
   beast - blood - tear - appear - let authority
5. I Cor 15:9 - no degraded sex, age
   beast, not meet, persecuted

1 Tim 1:13 - blasphemy, persecution in words
   (are you what bad - then be baptized)
   Too easy for us?

Stephen

1. Devout
2. Buried - no one else except baptized
   Not all men - prayed to Jesus
   Some day - no mourning
3. Lamentation - wail, best breast, cut down
   (over) agony
4. Why lament? Who mourns us?
5. Right to weep? Jesus, Paul, Peter, John
   David Jeremiah
   Scattered

2. Didn't wait - moved quickly - no commitment
3. Persecution sifts us - Good
   5 yrs to Gentiles, baptism - others heard
4. Apostle stayed
5. Meets sword - Word - Jesus
STORY OF 4 MEN
Acts 8:1-13

I. Bible minces few words - suddenly & fairly it is at the heart of the matter.
   A. In 15 verses we meet 4 men!
   B. 3 are S men; 1 is a P man but he works among an S people!
   C. Somewhere in the shadows of these men we may be seen.

II. First there's Saul.
8:1 "And Saul was consenting unto
   A. Who was he?
      1. Jews needed a flaming leader.
      2. Comes in via back door; when he arrives, so does persecution.
      3. Cause of Christ condemned in wholesale manner - no longer are trials necessary.
   B. Facts of his life
      1. Born in Tarsus; father a Roman.
      2. Pharisee by birth & belief.
      3. Strict religious training.
      4. Tent maker. A Talmudic writer asks, "What is commanded of a father toward his son? To circumcise him, to teach him the law, & to teach him a trade."
5. Studied under Gamaliel.
6. Persecuted church.
8. Missionary, preacher, wrote 14 of 27 books.
9. 2nd century wrote, "He was a man little of stature, partly bald, with crooked legs, of vigorous physique, with eyes set close together & nose somewhat hooked."
10. "To him life was Christ, death was gain.

II. Then there was Stephen.

A. Facts about him.
1. Came at transitional years of the church now go to Gentiles.
2. Many persecuted - how would you like to be driven from home for the gospel's sake?
3. Name meant crown. He was 1st to wear martyr's.

Rev. 2:10
4. Jewish law forbad public mourning over death of a criminal. When they mourned Stephen they said he was innocent.
5. Stephen a powerful preacher, a deacon.

Why
(a) Full of faith (6:5)
(b) Full of power (6:8)
(c) Full of Scripture (7)
(d) Full of wisdom (6:3)
(e) Full of courage
(f) Full of love (7:60)

6. Man with an angel’s face.

7. He fell asleep that a great spiritual awakening might occur.

B. What comparable facts are there about us?

IV. Recall Simon?

A. Who was he?

1. A Samaritan?

2. Their history checkered
   (a) N. & S. divided into Israel & Judah 930 B.C.
   (b) Assyrians took Israel 722 B.C., left poor to till soil (2 Kings 17).
   (c) Pagan foreigners came & married Jews.
   (d) Judaian Jews returned from Babylon 540 B.C. but shunned Sam.
   (e) Sam. built own temple 400 B.C. (Jn. 4:20).

3. Meet Simon only here.

4. He had no blessing or improvement for the people - only himself - gave out that he was a great one.

5. Pride chief cause of mischief.

6. Truth let him see the difference.

7. He obeyed Mk. 16:16.

8. Early church had some failures too!
B. He later defected.
   1. Simony seeks to buy the gift with money
   2. Do we impress God?
V. Lastly Philip who went down to Samaria.
A. Tell me of him.
   1. Deacon, good report, Godly, wise.
   2. Evangelist.
   3. Preached = continued action, extended over a period of time.
      (a) Proclaimed = a King is proclaimed throughout his domain.
4. Theme - Jesus, glad tidings.
   (a) Kingdom
   (b) Name
   (c) Baptism
5. Joy came (Lu. 2:10)
   (a) Spirits cried out in agony, some in joy of deliverance.
   (b) Repeated successes in converts.
   (c) Joy in emancipation, & restoration to normalcy, pardon & preciousness of Christ.
B. To him they gave heed.
   1. Meant obeyed, not just mental assent or interest.
   2. Will you similarly?
   8:12 "But when they believed P. pr."
18:8 "Many of the Cor. hearing believed

West End, 6-15-69
Salina, Iowa, 7-15-69
Becamore: Chapel, 9-10-69

St. Elmo, Chattanooga, 8-27-69
Northside Church, St. Petersburg, 1-27-70
Kennesaw: Robins, Jr. Church, 2-11-70
Eastside Church, Sheffield, Ala., 5-5-70
Shady Grove Church, 4-27-71
Red Rolling Springs, 5-3-71
Lehman Cave Church, Bowling Green, Ky., 10-26-71
The first Christian martyr confronts the first persecutor. "And they stoned Stephen, and the witnesses (It was written in the law of Moses, The hands of the witnesses shall be first upon him to put him to death.) laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul." This is the earliest mention of St. Paul in the Bible—he was called Paul later, we are not told why. On this his first appearance he bears all the marks of a fanatic of the most repellent kind, one who could watch with no motion of pity a man being killed in a brutal and horrible way. He was young, too, yet already hardened into cruelty.

WITNESS TO THE TRUTH
BY Edith Hamilton, pg. 172
"The Hebrew and the Greek"
ONE MAN KNEW TWO PLANS OF SALVATION
Acts 8:13-24

1. It's a highly interesting chapter in early church history because:
   A. It brings together toe to toe two Simons.
   B. It's 1st incident of one baptized for remission of sins going back into it.
   C. It's one man who dependent on his current condition that knew two plans of salvation.
   D. It underscores God's fairness & honesty.

1. Not all church history is pleasant.
2. Here: apostles in prison, Stephen stoned, Sanhedrin prohibits preaching, thus law is broken.
3. Some folk are false from the start.
4. Some find Christianity too strict, and turn.

II. The Samaritan Story.
   A. Phillip goes Preaching.

V. 5 "Then P. went down to the city
1. One of the 7 that we hear about again.
2. Never "felt" Samaria to be "down."
3. Preached Christ. It involves:
   a.) Kingdom of God (V. 12).
      (1) 1st time in Acts.
      (2) How can you speak of the King w/o the Kingdom?
   b.) Name of Jesus Christ.
      (1) Commercial usage that signifies transfer of property.
      (2) Believers were property of the Lord.
4. People's part.
   a.) Heard - V. 6.
2.1 b.) Saw – critically to examine – credentials – V. 6
 c.) Gave heed – V. 6.
 d.) Believed Phillip preaching.
 e.) Baptized (V. 12).
 f.) Great joy in the city – V. 8.

5. Special convert in Simon.
 a.) Magus = Magician.
 b.) Appears in later writings of J. Martyr,
    Iraneus, Eusebius with all sorts of theories.
 c.) He'd like that originally as the sorcerer gave
    out that he was a great one – self made & lover
    his Creator.
 d.) He did what the Samaritans did.

V. 13 "Simon himself believed also & when
   (1) Duplicates V. 12 Acts.

6. Was he sincere?
 a.) Philip wouldn't know but Luke did & gives no
    hint to the contrary.

B. Apostles Acted.
 1. Heard they'd received Word.
 2. Sent Peter & John; see:
    a.) No pope.
    b.) New territory.
       Any city of San. enter not.

Matt. 10:5-6 (lost sheep of Israel).
Acts 1:8 Samaria.
 c.) Strange John would go – wanted to call down
    fire – time changes us – gospel does!

Lu. 9:54 Fire – come – consume them.
a.) Word & HS not the same because they had it.
b.) Spirit in varying measure. Tho doesn't say
    wanted miracles, that's what happened.
c.) Gifts not connected c pardon.
d.) Fallen shows special measure.
4. Laid hands (apostles) & prayed.
a.) Everybody sees something:
   (1) Catholics - Bishop superiority.
   (2) Anglican - validity of ordination.
   (3) Liturgical - confirmation.
   (4) Holiness - 2nd work of Grace.
   (5) Charismatic - tongues - tho not here.
b.) Apostles only conferred special measure & it
    was necessary at Pentecost, Samaria, & Caesarea.
c.) Cornelius.
C. Simon Stumbles.
1. Simon saw - offered money.
a.) Sorcerers sought by purchase to increase their
    tricks.
b.) All old mental habits are not completely
    eradicated in conversion.
c.) Avarice & applause do strange things to us.
d.) Latent passions lie buried "deep in the human
    heart."
e.) Covetousness hard to out.
1 Cor. 6:10 "Thieves, cov., drunk, rev., extor.
1 Tim. 3:3 "Not covetous."
f.) Nature of our faith soon tested.
2. He simply lapsed into old way.
D. Peter Prescribes.
1. Money perish.
   a.) Money & religious authority a hard combination
   b.) Lots money won't buy.
   c.) Not a job - not here because we are hired.
   d.) Simon will perish c it
      Note!
   e.) Better a poor church if it's a true church.
   f.) Covetous opposes mental improvement.
   g.) It's condemned by moral consciousness.
   h.) Not perishing because not really saved but was
      sinning!

2. Gift of God.
   a.) Not Peter's to give - of God!
   b.) Originally, Simon did not know special power
      of HS, thus could not have planned to make
      merchandise of it.

3. Heart's not right.
   a.) Phillip could have been deceived by pretended
      faith, but not Luke by his inspired writings.
   b.) In baptism should have buried sorcery.
   c.) Sad to lose a convert.
   d.) Danger in lack of discipline.
   e.) Danger in simony.
   f.) Heart not straight.

Ps. 78:37 "For thy heart is not right with him, neither

E. 2nd Plan.
   1. Repent & pray.
      a.) Necessary to cure sin.
      b.) 2,500 passage say the unfaithful are lost -
         come back!
c.) Peter didn't say what he did on Pentecost - two cases.
Acts 2:38 "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be
Acts 8:22 "Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, an
  d.) Peter uses Keys again.
  e.) Note: this thy wickedness - one special sin.

2. Sin's a bitter thing.
4. Simon said - you pray.
   a.) Did he ignore?
   b.) Perhaps - too far gone?
   c.) Would God hear sinner?
John 9:31 "Now we know that God heareth not sinners;
   Isa. 59:2 "But your iniquities have separated between
       you & your God & your sins have hid his
       face from you that he will not hear."

F. Observe:
1. Sam. believed - baptized - saved.
Mk. 16:16 "He that believeth and is baptized shall be
Acts 2:38 "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be
2. Simon did same.
4. Simon fell - do you leave at about your return.

      6-6-82
      Fairview Church, Shelbyville, TN 6-16-82
      F.B.I. Church 7-27-82
      Hillman Ave. Church, Dallas 9-13-82
EVER: PREACHING JESUS
Acts 8:26-39

I. It's exciting to be with a church forever preaching the same theme: Jesus.

John 7:17 "If you will take me, I will tell you the secrets of man." I Pet. 1:1 "Blessed is he who reads and he who understands the meaning of the text." Mark 10:45 "Blessed is he who knows the meaning of the text." Rom. 10:17 "The Word is near you, even in your mouth and in your heart, to believe and acknowledge Jesus Christ." 

A. Story of first black man converted-Africa.
B. Move from gospel meeting to individual you are important; great city to lonely road that's uninhabited (desert).
C. It's the evangelical mood of the church.
   V-26 "Arise, go!"
   V-27 "Arose, went." - Blessing!
D. Let's see the story.

II. The angel calls Philip Jerusalem to Gaza.
A. Believe in angels (Heb. 1:14).
   1. Leave Samaria-Gaza-individual.
   2. Story starts with WORD--spoke.
   3. Divine command, leave Samaria which was so productive--God's oversight.
   4. Other angel story.

Acts 5:17
Acts 9:11
Acts 10:20
5. Go south—word for noon—go all time! Hot or cold.
6. Philip the preacher—deacon.
   a) Southern most city of Philistine—five of them.
   b) With a "treasure" he found a "treasure" play on words.

B. Arose—went—man of Ethiopia.
   1. Foreigner—black?
   2. Eunuch
      a) Dry tree
      b) Disbarred by Jewish law.
      c) Could reproduce Christians when he got home and told his story.
      d) Emaciated
   3. Great Authority
      a) Trusted man
      b) Handled money
   4. Under Candace, Queen of Ethiopia
      a) Ethiopian king was venerated as child of Sun.
      b) Sacred man, work done by Queen, Candace title.
   5. Charge of all her treasure.
      a) Great influence—Secretary of Treasury today.
      b) Potentate
   6. Come to Jerusalem to worship.
      a) Needed more than money, prestige and power.
b) None of this could save him—nor can it fully satisfy.
c) Religious but not enough—need Jesus.
d) Wonder why apostles didn't teach him as church for 34 years was strong in Jerusalem.

7. Sitting—reading Isaiah—no greater place to read.
   a) Inquiring mind.
   b) Didn't think he knew every—thing.

C. Spirit (angel, preacher, candidate).
   Go join.
   1. Not church, but chariot.
   2. Invite yourself in boldly.
   3. Ran hither—no time to lose.
   4. Heard him reading—thus aloud.
   5. Good way to learn—lets others learn also.
   6. Philip asked if he understood.
      Implies Philip had something to offer.

D. Eunuch responds.
   1. How can I?
      a) Need teachers in every area.
      b) Be prepared to pick it up where he was reading.
      c) What questions have been asked you lately?
2. Had an open mind.
3. Had an inquiring mind—hunger in heart.
4. Humble attitude.
5. Blessed if he learned more.
6. Teachable.

E. Word Responded
Verse 32-33 --Read
1. See notes on cards.
2. Isaiah 53:13
3. Has to be about Jesus. Jews today call it prophesy of nation since they rejected Jesus.

F. Of whom speaks this man.
V-35 "Then Philip opened his mouth and began at the same scripture and preached unto him Jesus."

1. Virgin born, prophesy fulfilled, baptized, tempted, taught, miracles, crucified, buried, arose, ascended, King, mediator, intercessor, returning, judge!
2. Jesus our salvation took our place.

John 1:11-12
John 3:14-15

3. Nothing else to preach for salvation.
4. Didn't force a conversion but provided an opportunity (Ferguson).
III. The Conversion

A. Came to a certain water and asked why hindered?
   1. How did he know about water baptism?
   2. When Jesus is preached one declares this necessity.
   3. Told what to do to come into Jesus.

B. If you believe.
   1. Demands an answer — Matt. 16:13–16.
   2. Trust essential.
   3. George DeHoff had a mute respond. Why come? She pointed in Bible "be baptized." He pointed to "I believe Jesus" and asked her answer. She pointed to this Scripture.

C. Action
   1. Chariot stopped—not sprinkled as they moved.
   2. "Went down both into the water."
   3. Both again, Philip and eunuch.
   4. And he baptized him.
   5. They were come up out of the water.
D. Rejoicing—Spirit (don't know how) caught Philip, seen no more, was found in Azotus—20 miles north. Preached in all the cities, imperfect tense—kept going, kept preaching and I want to til the end.

E. Eunuch rejoice—mad or glad?

Old Union C/C  -  3/15/09
Castalian Springs, TN
[As St. Augustine truly said: 'The New Testament lies hid in the Old'; but the light of the Holy Spirit is needed to enable us to see and apprehend it (1 Cor. ii, 9-11).

Except some one shall guide me.] This very verb is used of the special work of the Holy Spirit, whose peculiar province it is to guide us into all the truth (John xvi. 13). In doing so, He usually makes use of human instruments. We are struck by the humility and docile spirit of this African dignitary. God is always ready to lead the meek-hearted (Ps. xxv. 9).

--Thomas Walker
Acts of the Apostles
pg. 228
In His humiliation His judgment was taken away] This may be interpreted in a twofold sense.
   a) 'In His state of humiliation, the righteous judgment which was His due was taken away'; i.e. He was unustly treated.
   b) 'When He humbled Himself (Phil. ii.8), His condemnation was taken away and cancelled'; i.e. He was exalted because of His self-humiliation.

The Hebrew original emphasizes the severity of the suffering by, or from, which He was taken away.

--Thomas Walker
Acts of the Apostles pg.229
I. I don't know of anything more wonderful than being made free from sin.
   A. On my part as a sinner there must be the obedience of faith.
   B. To lead me to this there are many forces that join my faith.
   C. Nothing tells it better than the story of Philip & the Eunuch.

II. Philip's Revival.
   A. Facts about it.
      Acts 8:5 "P. went down to the city of S.
      8:6 "And the people c one accord - hearing &
      8:8 "And there was great joy
      8:12 "And when they believe P. p.
      B. In the midst he was called away.

III. Forces unknown to the Sinner.
   A. The angel's call.
      V. 26 "And the angel of the Lord spoke
      1. He speaks to the preacher.
      2. The preacher believed he was an instrument to be used.
      3. Promptly, w/o qt., he arose & went. (V, 27)
      4. He was sent to:
         (a) Toward the South.
            (1) Went 50 miles.
            (2) Gaza S.W. of Jer. - 50 mi. apart.
         (b) To an undisclosed spot on the road.
            (1) Opportunities are in most unusual places.
(2) They flee - so you better run.
(c) It was desert.
(1) Means uninhabited.
(2) Not dry necessarily.
5. Observe we hear no more about the angel &
Eunuch knew nothing of him.
6. Yet the meshing of arrivals was timed.
(a) Man of Ethiopia left Jer.
(b) Was he Jew or proselyte?
(c) Eunuch could not enter Jewish court of
   temple - could go into Gentile side.
   Deut. 23:1
   Isa. 56:1-8
(d) Movements of these men in God's providence
timed to meet ea. other, but the sinner did
   not know that.
(e) Man = great authority, treasurer under
   Candace, worshipper.
B. After Angel, Providence, now the Spirit's call.
   V. 29 "Then the Spirit said unto P.
   1. Its word is to the Preacher - HS didn't tell E.
      to be baptized, but told the preacher to tell
      him.
    2. Specific - this chariot.
    3. McGarvey, "To assume Spirit taught sinner
directly is to do beyond curtain of revelation.'
C. Next comes the Preacher as a Force.
   V. 30 "And P. ran thither to him.
   1. There must be a man to teach - unless he acts
      Angel, Providence, Spirit all fail.
2. Treasure in earthen vessels (2 Cor. 4).
3. P. preached to 1000's, to his daughters & won his home, to one.
4. God loves whoever tells his story to one or all of the lonely crowd. For whoever shall call

D. 5th Force was Word.
1. P. heard him read Isa. 53.
   (a) It was Isa. 53:7-8.
   (b) It's about Jesus.
   (c) Jesus is Suffering Servant.
   (d) He had no fair trial.
   (e) Jesus was like a man, the last of his generation.
   (f) P. was familiar with text - what if hadn't been?
2. He asked if he understood.
   (a) Was it too abrupt?
   (b) E. saw a chance to learn.
3. In word there is power.
   V. 35 "Then P. opened his mouth & began
   (a) Preacher reaches thru spoken word.
4. He preached Jesus.
   (a) I'll be content c that but what's involved in preaching Jesus?
      (1) Eunuch eyes are to be opened that thru the Scriptures he'd see Jesus.
      (2) He knows nothing of the man.
   (b) Whenever I preach Jesus to the sinner, I must tell him of baptism.
      (1) Mk. starts & ends c it.
      Mk. 1:1-5
Mk. 16:15-16
(2) E. couldn't have learned of baptism in any other way other than P. preaching Jesus.
(3) We preach him as Christ - yes, a man lived by name of Jesus but he is more - he's the Christ!

IV. Faith of the Sinner.
A. Eunuch requested baptism.
   1. Not unexpected.
   2. Phil. preached in Sam. - men bapt.
      Peter preached Pentecost - men bapt.
      Phil. preached Eunuch - saw water.
   3. He didn't know angel, Providence, Spirit but heard word in preacher - faith by hearing!

B. Made confession.
   1. Not in old MMS.
   2. But is elsewhere.
      Matt. 16:16-18
      1 Tim. 6:13
      Rom. 10:8-9
      Heb. 1:13--
      Heb. 12:2
      Heb. 1:6
      Phil. 2:9
      3. Do you make it or does fear, lust, pride avoid
      Jn. 9:22
      4. Church sustained by obligation of same truth.
         W/o this conf., no church. Live it!

C. What Was Apostolic Act of Baptism.
   V. 38 "And he commanded the ch.
1. It goes down into.
2. You come up out of.
3. We see them use rivers, much water, selected waters as they came to, both admin. & candidate go down into, act performed while they were in it.
4. All this from rational men & with an infallible witness - must be done for a reason!
5. Jesus "born" - draw a body out of water.
6. Describes his suffering.
   Matt. 20:22 *baptism = the baptism*
7. Other passages.
   Rom. 6:4
   Col. 2:12 *baptized him in baptism*
8. Sprinkling won't do - didn't go in just to sprinkle.
9. They immersed, else actions are foolish.

D. Departure.
1. Spirit took Philip - not told how.
2. Eunuch rejoiced. No wonder.
   Acts 2:38
   Acts 3:19
3. Suppose a friend asked E. what happened - what would he have said?
I. There is no argument that in yesterday at public assemblies we saw more baptisms than we do today.

A. Gospel meetings are fewer and so are responses in them.

B. We now have camps and here our young folk are baptized.

C. We now have full-time preachers with the churches and that means a regular response to the gospel—not all at one time.

D. And it could be that we do not emphasize essentials as they used to.

E. Let me, via Elam's Notes 5/10/1925, give an example of the way it was done years ago.

II. This Is Preaching Jesus

Ps. 119:130 "The opening of thy word giveth light; it giveth understanding to the simple."

A. Our story starts in Samaria.

1. Middle section of Palestine.
2. City of Samaria the capitol.
4. Road from Jerusalem direct to Gaza—50 miles, S.W. of Jerusalem.
5. Desert not barren waste but uninhabited.
John 6:10
Matt. 14:15-19

B. Remember Acts is a book of conversions.

C. Various agencies are employed.
   1. The Lord
   2. The Angel
   3. The Spirit
   4. The preacher, Philip
   5. The sinner

D. The Setting
   1. Philip is in Samaria
   2. The sinner is 50-60 miles away traveling 1,200 miles to his home.
   3. Candace was queen. DYNASTIC NAME
   4. The eunuch her treasurer, "has great authority" and was "over all her treasure." Block? What kind of eunuch?
   5. He has been to Jerusalem to worship.
      a) Under law of Moses.
      b) Was emasculated thus not permitted to enter Jewish court, "the assembly of Jehovah" (Deut. 23:1).
      c) As a Gentile or stranger was allowed to worship.

Isa. 56:1-8

E. The Lord's Way of Converting the Man
   1. God wanted this done and sat in motion the operating agencies.
2. The sinner knew nothing about all of this.

3. First God used an angel.
   a) He appeared to the preacher.
   b) Angel sent preacher to sinner.
   c) "He arose and went," v-26-27.
   d) This was the angel's part and he left.
   e) Not necessary eunuch know this.

4. God put via providence the sinner and the preacher together somewhere between Jerusalem and Gaza this happened.

5. The next agent was the Holy Spirit.
   a) To whom did he come?
      1) Directly and miraculously to heart of sinner?
      If he did not here, where there was such a desperate need would he directly to any sinner?
      2) Or does the sinner just study the Scriptures?
      3) What if there is no one to teach them?
   b) God sent the Spirit to the preacher "go near, and join thyself to this chariot."
1) Philip already possessed some miraculous gift of the Spirit.
2) Spirit spoke to Philip—he did not just "impress" him that he ought to do it.
3) Angel and Spirit spoke to eunuch otherwise the chariot might have passed without Philip seriously considering it.
4) Spirit influenced the eunuch through words of Philip.

6. Now comes the preacher.
   a) He ran, heard the reading.
   b) Saw eunuch did not grasp what he was reading.
   c) Who was the man? Earthly ruler? Political power?
   d) Asked "do you understand?"
   e) Hard for Jews to see Jesus.
   Matt. 16:21-23

f) How could Messiah be rejected?

John 5:46-47
   g) They didn't believe Moses and the prophets.
   h) Eunuch did not understand either.
   i) Will we ask when we do not understand?
Isa. 53:7-8

a) Tells of the Messiah.
b) As unresting as a sheep.
c) Mild and uncomplaining.

John 1:29 Jesus "the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world!"
d) Humiliated, mistreated.
e) Denied a fair trial.

Isa. 53:8

f) Eunuch knew nothing that would fit the Scripture.

F. Preach Jesus

1. Philip seized the opportunity:
"Opened his mouth and began."

2. Showed Jesus was the answer.

Luke 24:14 ..all things "which are written"

3. Faith necessary, repent, baptism

4. Came to a certain water.
   a) Why would they stop for baptism unless he had preached it?

Mark 16:15-16

Acts 2:36-38

b) All who preach Jesus must preach his commands.

5. Confession left out in some MMS.

6. Yet Iraneus cites it AD 178, Cyprian 248, Jerome 388, Augustine 400.
6. Faith is essential—confess Jesus. The best way to see it. This is "the easy and direct way"—Lipscomb.

Matt. 16:16
1 Tim. 6:13-14
Rom. 10:9-10

8. Eunuch then baptized:
   a) Go to the water.
   b) Go down into.
   c) Necessary to baptism.
   d) Baptize is what was done after they went down into the water.
   e) He was dipped, immersed, buried.

9. They came up out of the water.

10. "Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip" and eunuch saw him no more—found at Azotus.

11. Lose sounds of eunuch except happy sounds of rejoicing.

13. How would he tell the story of his conversion.
HOW MAY I SHARE THE BIBLE WITH OTHERS?
Acts 8:26-40

1. I know better way to ans. this question than to tell you about a man who successfully shared.

II. Tell the story of Phillip & Eunuch.

A. Both men involved in distances.
1. Phillip went a long way to preach to one man.
2. Eunuch went 1500 miles to worship.
3. That says something:
   a.) One person is of vast importance.
   b.) Spiritual matters should take 1st call on our life
      (1) Eunuch came 1500 miles.
      (2) Had plenty of duties in Ethiopia.
      (3) Could have seen many wonders in Egypt but Jerusalem where he needed to be.
4. Also shows: we can be very devout & still be wrong!

5. God has a way Providentially entering into lives
   a.) Phillip was obedient w/o question.
   b.) Found the desert road.
   c.) Accepted the assignment even if not spelled out in detail of meeting place.
   d.) God’s providence meshed the schedules.

6. Thus 1st requirements of me is implicit obedience
   how could I break bread to another unless I’m eating it?

B. 2ndly, one man is vastly important.
   1. From multitudes to man.
   2. Radiate sense of worth.

C. Following obedience, & esteem of your fellows
must be an eagerness.
1. When the chariot came Phillip ran!
2. This manifests an urgent concern.
3. Time is of great consequence.
4. Miss him now & eunuch will be in Egypt.
   a.) Gaza two miles from sea.
   b.) Alex. the Great sacked it 4th century BC after 2 mo. siege.
5. Phillip didn't know much about the mood of the man but Eunuch could see an eagerness - not "you don't want to study c me today, do you?"

D. 4thly, create a concern - do you understand what you read?
1. How can I vs. I don't & that's two of us.
2. Immediately the panting preacher was accepted.
3. Use your initiative - he made contact via question.

E. 5th - you must be knowledgeable.

V. 35 "Then P. opened his mouth & began
1. Wonder the mood of the eunuch?
2. Did they let him "in" at Jerusalem?
Deut. 23:1 - prohibited him due to condition
3. Was he looking for something better?
   a.) Prophets often personified God.
   b.) I did story of Caleb and a little girl came and asked - "Are you really 85 - you just look about 65!" - and I was 60.
4. Phillip went in the open door & knew what to say.
   Preached Jesus.
5. Taught & baptized him.
7. Faith demanded as a condition of baptism - direct way to do it is confess.

F. There needs to be the "do it again" spirit - not sit down & quit.
1. Eunuch on his way rejoicing.
2. Earlier Joy in Sam.

Acts 8:8 "And there was great joy in that city.
3. Fueled by this you press on to more achievements.

V. 40 "But P. was found at Azotus
   a.) Azotus = Ashdod.
   b.) Caught away - extraordinary separation.

III. What are the ways?
   A. Know one person is important, therefore, spiritual matters are 1st, trusting God's providence.
   B. Team c God as He providentially directs.
   C. Manifest eagerness.
   D. Create a concern.
   E. Be knowledgeable.
   F. Continue c the next assignment.
I. Some things to accomplish are very involved and intricate.

II. Salvation is not, though illustrative maybe.

III. Let's go to Acts 9 and prove the point.

A. In the story many people are involved.
   1. Philip is one of them.
      a) One of the seven called deacons by some.
      b) Involved in feeding the Grecian widow.
      c) Great associates—like Stephen.
      d) Great charity—feed the widows.
      e) Persecution comes and men get scattered and go preaching.
      f) Samaria his landing place.
      g) Samaria in the middle of Palestine between Judea and Galilee.
         h) Capital city of same name.
      i) Here Jesus visited with the woman at the well.
   2. Eunuch from Ethiopia.
      a) Going home from Jerusalem some 50-60 miles away.
      b) Home 1,200 miles away.
c) Candace his queen.
d) He was her treasurer and had "great authority" and "over all her treasures."

e) Been to Jerusalem to worship under law of Moses--this only he knew.
f) Emasculated, they not permitted to enter Jewish court.

Deut. 23:1
g) Gentile who could worship God.

Isa. 56:1-8

3. An angel.
a) Spoke to Philip and sent him to see the eunuch some 50-60 miles away.
b) Did not speak to man who needed converting.

a) One who gives salvation.
b) Miles no problem.
c) Holy Spirit in every conversion.
d) He teaches people what to do.
e) Spoke to Philip--not in any miraculous way to eunuch.
f) No miracle necessary.
g) Always operates same way.

B. Action in conversion.

1. Called a busy man from one work that was fruitful to another.
2. Holy Spirit told preacher where to go specifically.
3. From Samaria 43 miles north of Jerusalem.
4. To road to Gath.
5. All in the providence of God.
6. Road goes southwest from Jerusalem.
7. Road goes through valley of Elah (of David)—brook and five stones—dry in summer.
8. Then a larger stream to cross.
9. Go join chariot.

C. Further action.
1. Eunuch reading Scripture.
2. Needed a teacher as stuck with meaning of Scripture.
3. Spirit gave word to convert.

D. Obedience
1. Philip went and joined chariot, not the church.
2. Heard man read aloud.
3. Question proposed and answered.
4. Explained, rejected Messiah.

Matt. 16:21-23
Isa. 53:7-8
John 1:29
5. Jesus fits the scene.
6. Eunuch wanted to know the truth.

Luke 24:44
7. Came to water and confession.
8. Must preach Jesus and baptism in conversion.

Mark 16:16
Acts 2:36-38
(In MMS of A.D.178)
9. Both into water and the one who wanted to be baptized was!
10. Baptize is what they did after both got into water.

Rom. 6:3-4
Col. 2:12

11. Rejoicing followed and prompt obediences grants this.

Strange are the intersecting lines of God's sure providence. Rare fruit the very desert yields.
To our obedience. (Carman)
THE CONVERSION OF AN HONEST TYRANT

Acts 9:1-19

I. The East has produced many tyrants, but none as powerful as the one we study today.

A. He creates great interest because wherever he was in history he was honest, convicted, powerful in what he was doing.

B. Also delightedly from his "2nd life" more comes great benefits to us today.

C. As he did a mission alteration he also did a name change: 1st Saul then Paul.

II. Let's grasp something about the man. First known as Saul.

A. Biographically:
   1. Born of a Jewish father.
   2. Tarsus of Celicia, about the same time Christ was born.
   3. Free born--Roman citizen.
   4. Trained as a tent maker.
   5. Well educated as brains and brawn went together.
      (Lincoln Card #1)
   6. Knew Greek literature.
   7. Sent to Jerusalem to be trained.
B. Religiously:
1. Pharisee
2. Conscious always clear.
   (Lincoln said, "I want in all
cases to do right, and most
particularly so in all cases with
women").
3. Pharisee leader

C. Terrorist Activities
Acts 9:1-2  "And Saul, yet breathing out
threatenings..." φιάσκον
1. First Biblical mention was stoning
   Stephen.

Acts 7:58
2. Very honest in his convictions.
3. Thought Jesus was an imposter
   as were apostles and early
   Christians.
4. Needed to put these deceivers
to death.
5. Their teachings were subversive
   and must be stopped.
6. Armed with letters to go to
   Damascus and bring them bound
to Jerusalem.
7. No respecter of persons--men
   and women.
8. He could whip but not put to
death his victims lawfully though
he did Stephen.
9. Looked for folk in the way.
Acts 22:4
John 14:6 "Jesus is the way, truth and the life."
Heb. 10:20 "By a new and living way..."

III. To him in many ways there came a light.
Acts 9:3-9
A. Heaven's light.
Acts 26:13 "Above the brightness of the sun."

1. Jesus is the sun of righteousness.
Rev. 1:12-18
Acts 9:17
Acts 9:27
Acts 26:16
I Cor. 15:8

2. He fell to the earth.
3. Lord plainly spoke to him.
4. He understood, others didn't.
Acts 22:9

5. Lincoln said, "I don't think much of a man who is not wiser today than he was yesterday."

B. Jesus identifies himself.
1. He feels our blows.
Matt. 25:34-40
1. Made a tremendous charge against Saul.

2. Do we persecute the Son of God?

C. Saul asks for voice identification.

Acts 22:8

1. Saul saw at once his error.
2. He asked what he must do.

Acts 22:16

4. But note Jesus sent him to a man for his answer.

2 Cor. 5:18-20

5. Always sent to a preacher.
6. Saul saw nothing, blind, led by hand, 3 days without sight, food, water, praying.

Acts 22:14-16
Rom. 6:4
Rom. 10:17

IV. Now Paul not Saul

Acts 26:19 "I was not disobedient."

A. Now to be an apostle.

I Tim. 1:12-14
B. All good conscience and poem.

Melber C/C, Melber, KY - 7/1/07
I never went to school more than six months in my life, but I remember how, when a mere child, I used to get irritated when anybody talked to me in a way I could not understand... I can remember going to my little bedroom, after hearing the neighbors talk of an evening with my father, ... trying to make out what was the exact meaning of some of their, to me, dark sayings.

--Louise Bachelder
Abraham Lincoln - Wisdom and Wit

I never behold them [the heavens filled with stars] that I do not feel I am looking in the face of God. I can see how it might be possible for a man to look down upon the earth and be an atheist, but I cannot conceive how he could look up into the heavens and say there is no God.

--Louise Bachelder
Abraham Lincoln - Wisdom

Chief of sinners though I be, 
Jesus shed his blood for me;
Died that I might live on high,
Died that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine,
I am his and he is mine;
Chief of sinners though I be,
Christ is all in all to me.”

—Selected.
WASHING OF A CHOSEN VESSEL

Acts 9:1-16

I. It's a story with many a twist. It simply shows the reader how vitally interesting is the Word of God.
   A. You begin with the story of a tyrant—as it seems so easy to develop one in the east.
   B. It has governmental officials that permit torture.
   C. It gives account of a scared preacher.
   D. It finally results in the washing of a "chosen vessel."
   E. It's the repeated story of the conversion of the Apostle Paul.
      1. If I follow the same steps he walked in obeying the Lord, why would I not be what he was religiously?
      2. Let's see these dramatic events.

II. It begins by introducing the terrorist.
    Acts 9:1 "But Saul:
    1. Breathing out threatenings and slaughter show his acts.
    Acts 26:9-11 "I verily thought with myself that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth."
    a) Self description.
b) Hated Jesus.

2. Against the disciples of the Lord.

Acts 22:3-4
   a) Continued self-description.
   b) Backed by the government--contrast with freedom we give Muslims and restitution they give us over them.

Acts 22:5
   c) Religious backing extended.

Acts 26:10

III. Story changed with terrorist's journey.
   A. Tell the interrupted Damascus journey.
      1. Suddenly there shown round about him.
         a) Light above the brightness of sun."
         b) Even noonday sun.
      2. In it, he saw the Lord eventually.

I Cor. 9:1
I Cor. 15:8
   a) He knew it was a heavenly being.
   b) But he did not know who it was.
   3. He heard clearly a voice but with others it was indistinct.
4. Voice spoke to him, "Saul, Saul

WHY?

a) Name of Jesus he hated.
b) Transferred this to Christians.
c) He'd remove from the earth
   Christians even as Iran would
   Israel.
d) If you persecute Christians you
   persecute Christ.
e) Why all face the judgment of
   Why.

5. Naturally he asked, "Who art
   thou?"

6. Jesus identifies himself.
   a) Saw but needed more.
   b) Needed to hear as faith comes
      by hearing, know to whom he
      spoke.

7. Once knowing who spoke he
   properly asked without hesitation,
   "What shall I do, Lord?"
   a) Thought he was doing right
      persecuting the church in a
      current action.
   b) Big folks supported him in this-
      but it was still wrong.
   c) Said he was chief of sinners--
      from a respected Pharisee to
      sinner?
   d) His religious life was wrong.
e) What does this do to his future? What are we currently doing?
f) Is it possible that religious leaders could be wrong?

8. Oddly Jesus did not tell him the answer, but "Rise and go into the city."
   a) Obviously there are things to do.
   b) Not yet saved—even talking to Jesus, the Savior!
   c) Men with him speechless, heard voice but beheld no man.
   d) They did not understand.
   e) God spoke to God one time and people thought it thundered.

John 12:28-29

f) They heard, but they didn't hear!
g) If the key word "listen"—do I absorb what's said to me or do I practice a teenage dodge?

B. Saul goes to the city.
   1. He'd been struck down.
   2. Arises, blind as light blinded.

Acts 22:11 "Could not see for the glory of that light..."

C. Someone led him.
   1. That's what we must do today.
2. Note the contrast with the start of that journey
3. What happened to the letters?
4. Would a man in Damascus whom he wanted to imprison tell him?
5. Can both the physical and spiritual blindness be removed?
6. He was only one blinded so light must have truly focused on him.
7. He'll have a three-day wait--and thus in darkness, time to think.
8. Two undeniable: Jesus is alive and persecute him.

IV. Ananias sent, the frightened preacher.
   A. He was commissioned.
   Acts 9:11 "Arise and go into the street which is called Straight."
      1. Inquire at Judas' house.
      2. Ask for praying man.
      3. Lay hands on it.
      4. Receive sight--thus great details.
      5. Judas, the given name restored.
   B. But Ananias afraid to go! "God is gracious."
      1. Jonah didn't want to go.
      2. Preachers are not fearless--family to provide for.
      3. Opposition strong.
   C. Overcomes his fears and goes.
   Acts 9:17-19
Acts 26:16-18

1. Land of conversion same everywhere.
THE DAY OF THE BIG QUESTION
Acts 9:17-19

I. It isn't every day you propose the Big Question - it came for Saul on the outskirts of a city. May I tell you the story.

II. Events in Paul's conversion.

A. As he journeyed
   1. Keep in mind no conversion is going to have greater impact than Saul's. 3X
   2. So important Holy Spirit told it especially besides other places.
      Acts 9
      Acts 22:5-16
      Acts 26:12-18
      Gal. 1:15-16
      1 Tim. 1:12-13 Dissembler, Persecutor, Injurer

3. Christ converts folk of all social levels.
4. Always same method.

5. Damascus his destiny - only to see the Heavenly Jerusalem. WHY is it Paul
   (Only NT usage of Damascus)

B. Light - Voice
   1. Flashing round about him like flashening.
   2. Fell to the earth:
      a) 4 appearances of Jesus:
         Transfiguration, Stephen (Acts 7)
         Paul (Acts 9) John (Patmos)

Only Acts 9 uses saints
b) Double call – Saul, Saul.
   (1) Martha, Martha  
   (2) Jerusalem  
   (3) Simon  

c) 1st revelation of Jesus outside Palestine. 
   1 Cor. 15:8 "Last of all he was seen of me also"

d) He saw Jesus! Why, who, what

C. The Big W's

1. Why persecutest thou me?
   a) Reasonable of Heaven to expect us to have an answer for our deeds.
   b) What reasons motivate you?
   c) Do you understand yourself?
   d) Saul is an enemy to Jesus but Jesus is not an enemy to Saul.

2. Persecute
   a) Christ is still on the earth in the person of his spiritual body.
   b) What you do to the church is done to Christ.

3. Pricks
   a) Oxen kicked against instrument that pained them.
   b) What if Jesus is right after all.

   a) Saul aware he has a person to deal with.
   b) Lord – not here for divinity.
5. I am Jesus.
   a) Couldn't comprehend vision till he knew who spoke to him.
   b) I am Jesus reverses all purposes of his life (McGarvey).
   c) Not an irresistible grace.
6. 3rd "W" from a trembling, astonished man - What.
   a) Knows his knowledge is dim.
   b) He's in complete submission - obey whatever the instructions are.
   c) Necessary for me to act.

D. Earthen Vessel for Chosen Vessel.
1. Arise, go into city.
   a) By commands God tests our faith.
   b) After Jesus' resurrection he does not speak pardon to man as he earlier did.
   c) Jesus would not tell him what to do.
   d) Continue on journey proposed but a different manner of arrival.
   e) Jesus does not in person instruct.
   f) Uses ministry of man.

2 Cor. 4:7 "We have this treasure in earthen vessels"

2. Must
   a) Christianity demands an about face.
   b) We no longer give orders, we take them.
   c) Blessings come to the obedient.
   d) "Must" is not unessential, optional, or elective - but mandatory.

"Sent to a Man for his Answer"
E. Reaction

1. Companions stood speechless.
   a) No reference to posture.
   b) Stood firm, in fear, in awe, i.e.
2. Heard but saw not.
   a) Unless you hear words you are not converted, only confused.
   b) Same mix today - some hear & see, others do not.
   c) They saw no man - but Paul did & lived like he'd seen Jesus.
3. Leader is now led, the proud is humbled.
4. 3 days
   a) 3rd day Jesus arose.
   b) 3rd day Paul will be baptized.
   c) Longest NT interval between confession and baptism - W. B. West.
   d) Hungry, thirsty, blind we come to God for strength.

III. Enter Ananias

A. Ananias

1. Name ruined by another.
2. "Judas" also here.
4. God persuades him to serve.

B. He prayeth.

1. Nothing from world satisfies.
2. Persecutor now a petitioner.
3. Praying man commanded to be baptized - praying did not save him.
4. Do you fear a man who prays?
C. Hands laid on - didn't save.
D. Knew his reputation - Christians know what's going on.
   1. Saints 1st X used in Acts.
      Separated from wicked world.
   2. Good term today.
E. Chosen Vessel.
   1. Work to be done.
   2. Vessels of:
      a) Mercy
      Rom. 9:23 "That he might make known the riches of"
      b) Earthen
      2 Cor. 4:7 "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels'
      c) Sanctified
      2 Tim. 2:21 "If a man therefore purge himself from these
F. Gentiles, Kings, Children of Israel.
   1. Apostle to Gentiles thus will be converted outside own borders.
   2. Note order of above.
G. Suffer Great Things.
   1. Show = point out.
   2. "In the face".
IV. The 2 Meet.
   A. Ananias' visit. Didn't say "keep praying"
      1. Laid hands. Told him what he had to do
      2. Brother Saul
         a) Walker - means he's already a Christian
            (but A. hasn't told him anything yet!)
         b) Hands & Brother both show warmth -
            don't know what else - Ash.
6. 
c) Both Jews - therefore Brother - Overton.
d) Miss him in Christ, hit him in Adam - Keeble.

3. Jesus sent me - appeared to you.
a) Conquered by revelation of Christ.
b) Essential to apostleship.
c) Rec. sight.
d) Fill with Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:38
Acts 22:16

e) After baptism Spirit comes.
f) Scales - medical term.

4. Was Baptized. Would all preachers
a) A layman baptizes another. say he bapt?
b) Commentaries never mention but HS does.
c) This he lacked
   (1) Rev. on road didn't save.
   (2) Misguided conscience did not.

Acts. 23:1
2 Tim. 1:3

   (3) Feeling right didn't.
   (4) Faith alone didn't.
   (5) Prayer & penitence didn't.
   (6) Confession didn't.
   (7) Laying on of hands didn't.

5. Baptism did.
a) Be told what to do - must - since
   baptized this implied.

   Culminating act

   Both Saul Ann.

   That Bapt essential
b) If saved when light hit - Paul didn't know it.

c) If saved - when scales fell Ananias didn't know it.

d) Rather call on name of the Lord.

Acts 22:16

e) Above the 1 command given - already believed & repented.

West End - 1/19/86
40th & Hazel Church, Pine Bluff, AR - 2/26/86
South Green St. Church, Glasgow, KY - 3/25/86
So. Main Church, Weatherford, TX - 4/29/86

Church St. Church, Lewisburg, TN - 5/5/86
Central Church, Tuscaloosa, AL - 5/20/86
Green Ridge, Greenbrier, TN - 11/3/86

West Sparta Church, Sparta, TN - 3/24/87
Melber church, Melber, KY - 7/01/07
THE DAMASCUS BASKET
Acts 9:23-25

I. We rightfully may be intensely interested in Damascus.
   A. Paul's conversion. 9:3-19
   B. Paul's preaching. 22:20-21, 23-25
   C. Paul's escape.

II. Look at his conversion.
   A. Tell the story.
   B. Facts to see.
      1. Christ didn't tell man what to do
         a.) Use of "must." Acts 22:10
         b.) Use of "earthen vessels."
      2. Ananias
         a.) Appears only here - nothing more known of him
         b.) Jew.
         c.) Disciple.
         d.) Knowledgeable.
         e.) Devout. 22:17
         f.) Affectionate.
         g.) Faithful.
         h.) He had nothing to say beyond what Jesus told him to say - uses his very words!
      3. Baptized. 22:16
         a.) All prejudice fell c scales, so to speak.
         b.) Always present in story of conversion.
         a.) If Paul didn't see a resurrected Lord, then why change sides in middle of the war? - Miller
         b.) Didn't change for power, place, prominence, he already had it. family, education.
c.) Crazy? Read his letters & see if he was.
d.) 1 conclusion - Jesus is real.
e.) Paul saw The Righteousness (Jesus) he'd been striving for all his life.
f.) Why hesitate - be baptized.
g.) Paul showed great moral courage.
h.) "God created us w/o our consent but He can't save us w/o our giving it."
i.) Thorough change in Paul.

III. Paul certain days in Damascus with the disciples.
A. Certain days, V 9
   1. Acts does not tell the full chronology.
   2. He did go to Arabia.
   3. We'll find he tells of it in Cor. - neither account complete w/o other.
   4. HS guided both.
Gal. 1:15-24 (Read) 17
   6. We'll say more on the "many days" later.
B. Preached Christ - straightway - synagogue - Son.
   1. 3's c this sermon!
      a.) Synagogue.
      b.) Straightway.
      c.) Son of God.
   2. Immediately in synagogue made confession of his faith.
   3. Christ - Son of God.
      a.) Only time in Acts except two.
Acts 8:37 "And Philip said, If thou believest with all
Acts 13:33 "God hath fulfilled the same unto us their
b.) Is he Messiah?
Ps. 2:7 "I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said
Ps. 89:26 "He shall cry unto me, Thou art my father,
Matt. 16:16 "And Simon Peter answered and said, The
  c.) Contemporaries that he was,
Mk. 14:61 "But he held his peace, and answered not.
Matt. 26:63 "But Jesus held his peace. And the high
Lu. 22:67 "Art thou the Christ? tell us. And he said
Lu. 22:70 "Then said they all, Art thou then the Son
  d.) Can't have Jesus as Savior unless also Lord.
  e.) If Paul's statement is true, Chr. is divine.
C. Reaction to preaching.
  1. Amazed.
  2. Question: Is not this he?
    a.) Paul's 1st obstacle was his own past.
    b.) Value of Ecc. 12:1. Remember me. Thy C. in The
    c.) Can he change like this?
D. Preaching continued.
  1. Increased.
    a.) Holds D.D. degree - Dr. of the Desert. -
        Stedman.
    b.) He grew.
  2. Strength - now his own but power of the spirit.
  3. Confounded.
    a.) No deceiver.
    b.) He renounced place, power, honor & went to
        persecuted sect.
  4. Proving.
    a.) Proved Jesus Son of God.
    b.) Lit. putting together - conclusion irrefutable.
c.) Shep. give security.
d.) Found Jesus everywhere in O.T.
e.) His faith discussible - not some mystic belief.

IV. Results of It All.
A. After many days.
   1. Was this the Arabia trip?
   2. Or was it "certain days" earlier?
   3. Had reflection time - needed it.
   4. Strengthened by it.
   5. 3 yrs. in O.T. = many days.

I Kings 2:38-39 "And Shimei said unto the king, The
6. Long enuf to take care of Arabia.

Gal. 1:15-24 (Read again).
7. Arabia N/W of Damascus.
8. Luke doesn't record Arabia but leaves room for
    it—Vaughan.

B. Jews took council to kill.
   1. Both amazement & now antagonism.
   2. Pleasure & pain enter our life.
   3. Conflict between Jews & the church.
   4. History repeats itself.
      a.) He's now the hunted.
      b.) Proclaimer becomes the pursued - persecuted.
   5. Couldn't meet him in controversy so take his
       life.
   6. Not by judicial but by assassination.
   7. Hired agents are never wanting.
   8. Violence is the argument of bigotry.
   9. 1st X Paul opposed by own brethren.

C. Laying Awaif Known.
1. Chr. are not dummies.
2. Knew of plot some way.
3. Must learn certain things.
   a.) Not apostle to Jews.
   b.) Not self appointed.
   c.) Humiliating could not reach his own folk.
D. Watched gates day & nite.
   1. Aretas cooperated.
      a.) An Arab.
      b.) Daughter was Herod's wife whom he forsook for Herodius.
      c.) Reigned over Nabataean Kingdom 9 BC - 40 AD.
      d.) Whatever Paul did in Arabia annoyed him.
      e.) Ethnarch is a representative of a ruler.
2. "His" disciples - V. 25. (RV)
   a.) Preaching had been fruitful.
   b.) Stayed c brethren.
   c.) See power of personal influence.
E. Over the Wall in Basket.
   1. Some houses, kiosk, projected over city wall like a bay window.
   2 Cor. 9:33
   2 Cor. 11:30-33 "If I must needs glory, I will glory.
   2. Why was this so great?
      a.) Only incident liked c his conversion that he tells.
      b.) God didn't need his abilities to take Israel.
      c.) He needs our availability.
Phl. 3:7 "But what things were gain to me, those I
d.) Needs me - not my ancestry.
e.) When we depend on self God can't use us.

a.) Humiliation to so leave.

2 Cor. 6:31-33 "

Josh. 2:15 "Then she let them down by a cord through

1 Sam. 19:12 "So Michal let David down through a wi

b.) Large basket - made for bales of wool.
c.) God used natural means of escape.
d.) Moham. walled it up & say it ceases when

Christ enter this gate.

Millville Church, U.S., Franklin, TN, 8-4-83
Columbia Ave. Church, Glasgow, KY, 8-8-83
Old Hickory Church, 9-11-83

Central Church, Sheffield, Ala., 10-30-83

Central Church, Nephi 11-16-83
SIX THINGS ABOUT THE CHURCH OF CHRIST
Acts 9:31
I. It's rather amazing -- tho I never tried it -- how much can be said in few words.
A. To a surrender ultimatum -- Nuts.
B. To a Colidge bet to say three words -- "You lose."
C. To the Holy Spirit in one verse about the church.
II. Acts 9:31 gives features about Christ's Church.
A. 1st let's study the word church.
   1. Means the called out.
   2. McGarvey said it should always be "congregation".
   3. Most translate it singular in this verse.
      (a) All of the saved Acts 2.
      (b) In a region.
      (c) In a community.
B. Now begin the features about it.
   1. It had rest.
      a.) Not always -- she's known stormy times.
      b.) Paul gone (This the transition from Saul back to Peter) & the church had rest.
      c.) Some folks always keep it in an uproar.
      d.) Tranquility should be a time of progress.
      e.) Bro. came to me at Jackson and said not only do you not adopt into a waring family, you also always lose some that are already there!
      f.) Peace is a welcome commodity.
I Cor. 14:33 "For God is not the author of confusion,
2. It had growth.
   (a) Spread thru out Judea, Galilee & Samaria.
   (b) A mission zeal had been fulfilled.
3. It was edified.
   (a) This means to build up.
   (b) What would strengthen your faith today?
   (c) Do you feel stronger than you were a year ago - why? 

4. Walked in fear of the Lord:
   (a) That church claimed a connection with Divinity -
   said it was of God.
   (b) We always need a sense of awe, respect, proper attitude.
   (c) To walk is to be alive, active.

Matt. 5:13 "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt
2 Cor. 5:19 "To wit, that God was in Christ, reconcil
Rev. 2:1 "Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write
(d) It must thereby impress the outsider with its walk.

5. Comfort of the Holy Ghost. (See Chap. Spirit
   (a) It's sustained by influences that are divine - the
   exhortation of the Holy Spirit.
   (b) His Word instructs us now.
   (c) There is consolation in truth. Mary Kate Stroup
   said, "Don't say it might - say it all will work
   out by the strength of God."
   (d) Church today must listen to doctrine communicated
      by the Holy Spirit.
   (e) Let Him indwell every member.

6. It multiplied.
   (a) The church needs to be stately in size.
   (b) Just as sure as it grows inwardly, it needs to
      grow outwardly.
   (c) To multiply shows a rapid increase.
The late F. Townley Lord wrote of his mother, "She knew nothing of the discussions of the scholars about the Saviour, as a historic figure, but everything of Him as a daily presence." This is precisely the meaning of the word *paraclete*, the Greek word for the Spirit, "the presence." Its literal meaning is the one called along side, the accompanist, the comrade.

When the Soviets launched the first space satellite in 1957, they dubbed it *Sputnik*, which is Russian for "comrade or "fellow-traveller." It circumnavigated the globe in so few minutes, the world was astounded. But the interesting thing about the little ball was its loyalty. It moved around the earth which never left its 67,000-miles-per-hour stride.
It deserved its name "fellow-traveller." It beeped its little signal constantly and refused to be silent. Throughout the days and nights it kept the world aware of its steadfastness.

In a similar way the Holy Spirit continues affirming His "occupation" of our lives. Through His Spirit Christ has kept His word that He will never leave us or forsake us.

THAT ELUSIVE THING CALLED JOY
Calvin Miller

p. 76
WE NEED MORE AENEASES
Acts 9:32-34

I. Various things stimulate us to faith & duty.
   A. Perhaps you've seen one with great task, yet ever faithful - Dr. Cayce is.
   B. Maybe you've seen people under trial that are loyal - Florence Swinney.
   C. Or if could be their obedience stirs us - like Bob Johnson.

II. In NT time there were various things - Aeneas was one. May I tell you the Acts 9:32-34 story.
   A. Peter passed thru all quarters. See Acts 9:32-34 story.
      1. He's opened gate at Pentecost to Jews.
      2. He's on way to Caesarea to see Gentiles come in.
      3. Peter traveled much - he put the work of Christ above own welfare.
      4. Just think earlier what you've seen Peter do in the church.

Acts 8:14 "when Apostles heard...sent P.

B. Note he went to all quarters.
1. Means the church was spreading.
2. If you go where it isn't, what will you do about it?

C. Saints at Lydda. Acts 9:13 1st usage
1. Saints same as Christians, sanctified, holy.
2. Saints there before Peter got there — none of us do it all nor are we indispensable.
3. Saints = sanctified = one who is different.

D. There he met Aeneas.
   a.) Luke's word.
   b.) Don't know he was a disciple, yet found among saints.
2. Eight year invalid of palsy.
   a.) Long continuance of painful disease made the victim a well known one.
3. Peter said, "Jesus Christ maketh thee whole."
   a.) Asked nothing about his convictions.
   b.) Christianity wants men.
   c.) Christianity wants to do them good.
   d.) Faith not necessary to his healing.
   e.) Made whole — truly cured.
   f.) Peter spoke to Aeneas as the Jesus was in the room.  Such a pooled of love & grace, poor
   g.) Make thy bed — shows full & instant cure.
   h.) "He arose immediately." Jr. validates The Miracle

E. Lydda & Sharon saw & turned. 
1. Lydda town.
2. Sharon a plain. was C. K. Kulman says 9th heax
   Isa. 35:1-2 8 in Philadelphia, printed C.K.2.12.0
Act 11:21 "A great no beforehand" Turned to the word

3. Turned,
   a.) Folks ripe for the taking - a big response.
   b.) Decisive & universal results.
   a.) Something impressed them. Acts 9:16. What is the name, name?
   b.) What caused it?
   c.) What would cause it today? Why was it name?
   d.) What makes it favorable for the gospel? "Christ first

   1) Miracles? God raised from the dead.
   2) Prominent men?
   3) Go with Dr. & Bible - would that impress?

III. 5 words - 4 verses - Shortest Miracle
   A. 5 words end & evil at helplessness
      Glad tidings in a nutshell.
      1. Jesus - our kinsman, one who knows us
      2. Christ - Anointed, Graceful
      3. Maketh: continuous tense to describe
      to have sought gift, perpetuity.
      A. Thee - Son of God who loveth me Gal 4:20
      Separates you from all others.
      5. Whole - complete, perfect; bad symbol of
      weakness - Peter the chain for healing

Sheikh End: 10-31-78
Tunatobia, Miss 5-7-78
Preston Road Church, Dallas 5-21-78 & 23rd St. Church, Columbia, Tenn 6-4-78
DO WE CONSISTENTLY REMEMBER THE POOR?

Acts 9:32-42

I. I've no doubt that on special days we, the church, remember the poor, naked and hungry.
   A. Have not all of you shared Thanksgiving and Christmas special remembrance?
   B. But do the poor have May and August needs? What part of our budget goes to poor, orphaned, widows, elderly?
   C. So I want a lesson delivered about benevolent work.
   D. Roy Lanier, year ago, did some excellent coordination of Scripture that positively brought us the mind of God on his feelings for the poor.

II. Let's study God's love of the poor and ask is it also ours?

Mark 14:7 "For ye have the poor with you always."
Acts 6 "The early church example of care."
Ps. 14:6 "Jehovah is the friend of the poor."
Prov. 22:23 "For the Lord will plead their cause."
Prov. 14:20-21 "Do we hate poor, befriend rich, pity?"

Prov. 29:7 "The righteous take knowledge of the cause."

Prov. 29:14 "The king that faithfully judgeth the poor."

Prov. 31:20 "She stretcheth out her hand to the poor."

Prov. 31:27 "She looketh well to the ways of her household."

III. Let's see from Acts 9 this put into practice.

A. But first the healing of Aeneas.
   1. Peter visits Lydda.
      a) Church there and strong.
      b) Peter goes to encourage saints and convert lost.
      c) Lydda in Med. maritime plain, plain of Sharon, fertile, 9 miles from Joppa, highway from Joppa to Jerusalem.
      d) Sharon - plain or city?

I Chron. 27:29

   e) Sharon= the plain.

Isa. 35:2
Isa. 33:9
Isa. 65:10
Sol. 2:1
B. Palsy healed.
   1. Eight years bedfast.
   2. Jesus Christ—keep name of Jesus
      with title because Jews expected
      Christ, Messiah, but need to know
      he has come and his name is Jesus.
   3. Healed immediately by Jesus.
   4. Lydda and Sharon saw it and
      turned to the Lord.
   5. Purpose of miracles.

Mark 16:20
Heb. 2:2-4

IV. On to Joppa, seacoast town.
   A. Joppa (beauty).
      1. Rough harbor not always used.
      2. Jonah conveniently found ship
         here.
      3. Here Hiram, King of Tyre, sent
         cedars.
   B. Here meet Dorcas.
      1. Real name Tabitha.
      2. Tabitha Aramaic= gazelle
      3. Dorcas in Greek—beautiful one
      4. Did what she could
      5. Full of good works and almsdeeds
      6. Made garments—like Betty Mathis—
         took my check to make clothes for
         Granny White drive.
7. Died from unknown illness.
8. Washed her, laid in upper chamber.
9. Two men sent to entreat and hurry Peter's coming.
10. Showed him garments.
11. All put out of room—why?
12. Peter kneeled, prayed.
13. She opened her eyes at command as Peter turned to body, command to dead. Arose, sat up, took his hand, raised up, saints and widows called, presented her alive.

C. Her resurrection became known and many believed on the Lord.

D. Does not his resurrection do the same thing for us?
   1. Not told what experiences are that of those who died and raised up.
   2. But told of results in conversion.
   3. Are you ready to come?
WHICH EVENTS WOULD YOU PICK?

Acts 9:32-43

1. Since the world could not contain the books if all that Jesus did had been recorded, it stands to reason some keen selection was made.

John 20:30-31 "And many other signs truly did Jesus in."
John 21:25 "And there are also many other things which Jesus did."

II. Similarly, Peter made a journey.

A. "Peter passed throughout all quarters
   1. He went everywhere.
   2. He saw village & city.
   3. Pick 2 incidents.
      b.) Both incidents were deeds of healing & compassion.
      c.) Should this be a pattern of today's church?

B. We want to see the incidents chosen.

C. 1st Aeneas.
   1. Tell the story.
   2. No hint previously he had faith.
   3. He did obey when instructed.
   4. We don't know whether he was Christian, or Jew, or Gentile - so evidently we are to do good to all men.
   5. No one sent for Peter to conduct a healing service.
   6. When he saw the need, he acted.
   7. His deed produced great results.

D. Dorcas.
   1. Lydda 12 miles from Joppa.
   2. Port city of Joppa.
      a.) Jonah went there.
b.) Church there but we don’t know how it got started.
c.) Ernie Stewart to go there this August.
3. Dorcas was there.
a.) "Little gazelle."
b.) Full of good works & almsdeeds.
   (1) Was it for poor widows.
   (2) Was it counter to that class that "devour widows houses."
   (3) Was she so kind they wondered what they would do w/o her?
   (4) Balch asks did she do her alms thru the Benevolent Committee of the church?
   (5) Have we lost the joy of personal & individual contact, a la Joe Huber style.
   (6) Ideal committee is composed of 3 - 2 are absent due to illness.
   (7) Vision of Sir Launfaul.
       "Not what we give but what we share
        For the gift w/o the giver is bare
        Who gives himself with his alms feeds 3 Himself, his hungering neighbor, & me."
4. Dorcas died.
a.) Jews usually quickly buried their dead after washing - sometimes w/i the hour.
b.) Sent for Peter.
   (1) No hint as to why.
   (2) Bible silent.
       ((a)) Heal her?
       ((b)) Dignified funeral?
((c)) Vague hope he could do something?
c.) Women wept & rehearsed her good deeds.
   1.) Death time to remember & recall the good.
   2.) We omit the bad.
   d.) Dorcas an inspiration.
      1.) Women are forever doing good deeds - I was
          sent flowers during Norman meeting.
      2.) Dorcas an inspiration in seeing women serve as
          the opportunity is presented.
      3.) "All that we do for God must needs be done for
          others."
      4.) We are here to help others w/o stopping to
          wonder what the others are here for.
      5.) More husbands would stay tied to apron strings
          if more women stayed home & wore aprons.

5. Results were forthcoming.
Acts 9:35 "And all that dwelt at Lydda and Saron saw
Jn. 11:45 "Then many of the Jews which came to Mar
Acts 9:42 "And it was known throughout all Joppa; an
   a.) Not all believed & were baptized.
   b.) To gather fruit it demanded a long stay in Joppa
   c.) Stayed c one unclean & prejudice was broken
      down.
A CERTAIN FEMALE DISCIPLE
Acts 9:36-43

I. I live in a world of immoderation.
   A. We seem to despise the Middle of the Road.
   B. Woman's Lib or Woman's Bondage.
   C. I want to tell you neither represents the Bible view.

II. May I recount the familiar story of Dorcas.
   A. The event took place at Joppa.
      1. 38 miles N.W. of Jerusalem.
      2. Peter was at Lydda – 12 miles away from Joppa.
   B. Meet Dorcas (gazelle, fawn, roe).
      1. Tabitha – only here meet her.
      2. By interpretation = by translation.
      3. Noted for good works, yet died. Tit 2:10 good works
      4. Death came in the midst of a busy life seemingly.
   5. Only time in N.T. we have a certain female disciple (The Emphasized
      N.T. Rothersham)
   6. Ladies work at WEBE.
   7. Only ladies sent scholarships.
   8. Christ honors women.
   9. Yet this woman had only 1 thing to commend her –
      her good works!!
   10. Aim at 1 thing – usefulness to others.

C. Call for Peter.
   1. Why?
      (a) Comfort (?)
      (b) Do a miracle (?)
   2. Two men sent.
(a) Don't delay - (buried same day usually).
(b) Needed at once. Moral "not original"
(c) 2 sent to avoid fraud, failure, danger.
(d) We still tell preachers what to do.
(e) Several "2 men" in Acts.

D. Tenderly cared for dead.
1. Lifeless body & preacher an oft repeated scene.
   (a) Upper chamber.
   (b) Many things happen in upper chamber.
   (c) Dorcas 1st Chr. to die of natural causes.
2. Memorial.
   (a) Widows wept.
      (1) Labors of life pour effects into other hearts.
      (2) In death we remember.
   (b) Showed coats & garments.
      (1) She's inspired countless women to good deeds.
      (2) 1st that was for others.
      (3) We are to pity those less fortunate than ourselves.

E. The Dead Raised.
1. Peter Kneeled - after putting all out.
2. Peter prayed. Turned away from problem - get his strength from Him and then turned triumphantly in faith to the problem.
   (a) Obviously certain of this prayer & results.
   (b) Energies ever flow from Christ.
3. Peter commanded - "Tabitha, arise."
   (a) To raise dead apostle's greatest miracle.
   (b) Need divine agency & human effort to arise.
4. She opened her eyes & sat up.
   (a) Not a word spoken - no tapes of glory sold!
   (b) Looked at each other.
   (c) One of 8 resurrections in Bible.
1. Elijah - Widow's son Zarephath.
2. Elisha - Shunammite's son.
3. Elisha - dead man at groves.
4. Jesus - Jairus' daughter.
5. Jesus - Son of Nain widow.
7. Paul - Eutychus.
8. God - Jesus (only Jesus died voluntarily of group).
5. Took her by the hand.
6. Called Saints for presentation.

III. The Harvest Came.
A. All knew throughout Joppa.
   1. Wherever Christ is told power is found to overcome.
B. Many believed.
C. Peter stayed many days c Simon the tanner.
   1. Needed time to reap the harvest.
   2. Shows tanners can be saved - not defiled because they handle dead.

West End 8-14-77

Preston Rd., Church, Dallas 5-23-78
West 74th Columbia 6-6-78
Medina, Ind. Children's Home 9-28-78
Heveska, Okla. 10-9-78
North Central Ladies Bible Class, Indianapolis
Garland Road Church, Plainview, Tex. Ladies Bible Class 10-78
Gessey, Okla. Church Ladies Bible Class 3-15-78
Edmond, Okla. Ladies Class 4-10-79
Austin Ave. Church, Brownsville, Tex. 2-27-80
South Main Church, Henderson, Tex. 3-18-80
Antioch Church, Nashville, TN - 6/8/86
Bible School, Green Ridge Ch., Greenbrier, TN - 11/2/86
I. God establishes an Order.
   A. Man must preach the gospel.
   B. Truthful hearers must obey.
   C. Salvation comes with obedient compliance.
   D. Story seen in Cornelius.
      1. There may be many visions.
      2. There can be the miraculous outpouring of the spirit.
      3. There can be mixed races present.
      4. There can be a difference of previous law, i.e. clean and unclean food.
      5. Yet one truth remains—a man must be baptized to please God, and he learns this via of preaching.
      6. On 5/31/1925 Elam's Note Lesson shows this.

II. The Man Who Was Baptized
   A. Apostles tell the requirements.

Matt. 16:19
John 20:23
2 Cor. 5:17–21

1. We see the value of human agency.
2. That agency must tell the truth.

B. A wonderful man's conversion.
   1. He feared God.
   2. He was visited by an angel.
3. His prayers prior to his baptism were heard.

Prov. 28:9

4. Yet an angel did not tell him what to do to be saved.
5. He needed to send for Peter.

C. The Nature of the Man
1. Worshipped God
2. Devout
3. Feared God
4. Taught his family to fear God
5. Influence felt by his soldiers
6. Gave much alms to poor
7. Prayed to God always, using Jewish hours.
8. Just man
9. Good report among all the nations of the Jews.

Acts 11:14

11. Justice and morality will not save.
12. But the blood of Jesus will.

Rom. 3:25-26
Heb. 5:9

13. Let's see how it works.

D. Angel came to Cornelius.
1. He feared him.
2. He was consoled.

Prov. 28:9
3. Needed to hear words that the angel did not deliver.
4. Send for Peter.
5. Angel departed.

E. Peter prepared.
1. Peter, housetop, noon prayers.
2. Hungry
3. Heavens opened, 4-cornered sheet, three times let down
4. "Rise, kill, Eat."
5. Reluctant

Lev. 11
Deut. 14:3-21

Rom. 14:14
1 Cor. 10:25-33
7. Exceptions

Acts 15:20
15:29
8. Cornelius messengers came calling.
10. Went to Cornelius

F. Meeting of the two.
1. God not partial. He received Gentiles, not Peter.
2. Essential: fear God, work righteousness
3. All have sinned
Acts 13:46

5. Christ exalted

Isa. 53:11
Jer. 31:34
Joel 2:32

6. Promises
   a) Remission of sins through Jesus
   b) Promised to believers
   c) Made to Jews and Gentiles

Gal. 5:6

7. Command to be baptized. v.18

Matt. 28:19
Acts 2:38
Acts 19:5
Gal. 3:26-27

8. Gentiles told to do the same
   Jesus did - Acts. 2
   a) Believe in Jesus
   b) Faith comes by hearing.

Acts 15:7
   c) Repent

Acts 11:15
   d) Be baptized.

G. Notwithstanding:
   1. Visions may come
   2. Holy Spirit baptism may come

Acts 11:15

3. Two times in baptismal measure
4. Gifts may appear
5. Baptism of spirit not to convert.
Acts 8:14-17
19:1-7
10:47

6. Yet nothing removed the necessity of baptism.
7. No one objected to Cornelius' baptism
8. Apostles with Jesus three years before they were baptized.

H. First mention of household baptisms—infants?
1. Feared God - 10:2
2. Kinsmen and near friends - 10:24
3. Heard the word - 10:44

I. All this chapter and Acts 11 important
Call the Beginning - 11:15-17

J. Power of obedience—had Peter not gone he would "have withstood God."

K. The truth ever overcomes perceived opinions. Conviction is great but like conscience it must be safely guarded as it guides.

L. They avoided producing a faction.

III. Are you ready for unity and water baptism?
A 217 WORD SERMON ON JESUS
Acts 10:34-43

I. Circumstances most unusual as Cornelius presented
   Peter with an unusual opportunity.
   Acts 10:5-6 "Send...for...Peter...he shall tell thee"
   Acts 10:22 "To hear words of thee"
   Acts 10:33 "Now therefore are we all here present"
   Acts 11:14 "Peter shall tell thee words whereby"

II. Note who needs saving - Cornelius!
   Acts 10:2 Devout man
   Faced God
   Gave much alms
   Prayed to God always
   A. Wouldn't Protestantism accept him as is?
   B. Wonder what he lacked? Surely Peter's sermon will show it & you can compare your situation accordingly. He lacked The Lord!

III. Peter's 217 word sermon has some Powerful Points.
   A. God is not a respecter of Persons.
      1. Lit. "he is not an accepter of faces."
         1 Pet. 1:17 "W/o respect of persons judgesth according to a true heart..."
      2. Color of face or national origin not important to God, but rather the character of man.
      3. Super national character of Chr. seen.
   B. Universal Openness of God.
      V. 35 "But in every nation he that feareth..."
      1. God is supreme - not fear climate, superstition, fate, occult, but God sits in control.
      2. Note every nation - not every religion. Some would so weaken it any & all saved in any way so long as they feel they are.
3. Must fear God.
4. Must do what is right.
C. The Word the Essential Guide.
   V. 36-37 "The word which God sent
1. It claims Heavenly origin & inspiration.
2. I'm not to guess what's right - God will declare it in His Word.
3. Major message is Jesus!
4. Preach Peace by Him, for after that in the end.
   I Cor. 1:20-22 "Where is the wise? where is the scribe?
D. God's Servant & Our Lord Was Christ.
1. Jesus is Lord of all. Gentiles would get this better than Lord & Anointed.
   V. 38 "How God anointed Jesus of Naz. -
2. "With the Holy Ghost" - remember it was w/o measure.
3. "With power" - even wind & waves obeyed his voice.
4. Who went about doing good.
   (a) Emphasis on deeds not words.
   (b) We must do good.
   Heb. 13:16 "But to do good and to communicate
5. Healed all oppressed of Devil.
   (a) Oppressed as used here only a few other times in Bible in relation to Devil - but that's what he does to one!
   (b) All Jesus' work opposed by Devil.
   Lu. 10:18 "And he said unto them, I beheld Sat.
   (c) Consoled that God was with Jesus - thus Devil can't overthrow.
E. "And we are witnesses" (V. 39)
1. Witness has qualifications.
2. These chosen earlier.
3. These saw & heard.
4. These were apostles.
5. Witness testifies of an event seen at which he was present.
6. One who beholds a transaction.
7. Martyr comes from witness.
8. Demands courage – they lost both person & property in being faithful to Jesus.
9. These chosen least likely to be deceived since they’d been w Jesus all the way. See V. 40.
10. Christian evidences are important.
11. We are sent to "bear witness unto the truth."
F. Whom they Slew & Hanged on a Tree (V. 39).
1. Goodness is often hated.
2. Necessary for one to die for you.
3. This verse not in chronological order.
4. Tree is cross – same word
   1 Pet. 2:24 "Who his own self bare our sins in his
G. Resurrection Powerful.
   V. 40 "Him God raised up the 3rd day
1. Appeared openly.
2. Appeared unto His own.
3. No question as to authenticity.
H. Command us to Preach unto the People
   V. 42 "and he commanded us to preach unto the p
1. No ritualistic display can exceed preaching.
2. People must be reached.
3. Go & tell things seen & heard.
   Lu. 7:22 "Then Jesus answering said unto them, C
   4. All judgment given to Jesus to judge quick & dead
   John 5:21-22 "For as the Father raiseth up the dead

1. Salvation Thru Jesus. For the judgment again.

1. Whosoever believeth.
   (a) Whosoever is of unlimited import.
   (b) Faith is essential.

2. Jesus came to give remission of sins.
   Mk. 2:10 "But that ye may know that the Son of man
   Isa. 53:11 "He shall see of the travail of his soul,

3. This his main work.

4. "But baptism not mentioned so no need to be."
   Ck. this:
   (a) V. 43 "That thru his name whosoever believeth in
   (b) V. 48 "And he commanded them to be baptized

(c) Matt. 28:19 "Go ye therefore, and teach all nation

IV. Will you on his terms come to this Jesus today?
   Heb. 12:23-73
I. Admittedly this is a much discussed passage because:
A. Are Gentiles as welcome to the gospel as are Jews?
B. What's the value of the word?
C. The works of the Holy Ghost as seen in fell, tongues, magnification of God.
D. Did He come to those not yet baptized? Is this the pattern?
E. Is baptism optional or is it commanded for compliance?
F. Where does race fit in with fellowship?
G. Let's see if we can unravel this as we study these verses.

Acts 10:44 "While Peter yet spake . . .

II. The Preaching Peter
A. He's non-stop, so to get in the big message he had to be interrupted.
B. White -- It was the same at Pentecost. Most interrupted man of the New Testament.
1. We are destined to see the Pentecost of the Gentile world.
2. Peter was at the Acts 2:1.
3. The "interrupted" could in all fairness be or "at the beginning."
4. Note the words--so essential to salvation -- it was what Cornelius asked for and what he got.

III. The Heavenly Interruption

v.44 "The Holy Ghost fell on all them . .

A. The Falling Divinity
1. We see the third party in salvation so far as Heaven is concerned.
2. Note he comes "before baptism" showing that the administration of the Gentiles was in no danger due to the agency or will.
3. Spirit came as Peter began to speak thus disconnected it from message of salvation.

Acts 10:44
4. Peter had yet to tell him words whereby he should be saved.

Acts 11:14
5. His purpose was to convince others that Peter's message was true.
6. How come? Perhaps some audible or visible form.

B. Fell
1. Fell on those neither baptized nor circumcised.
2. Beasley-Murray calls it "exceptional situation" for spirit to come on unbelieving.
3. Coming is to convince, not save from sin.
4. Here it replaces circumcision, made unnecessary preliminaries.

C. Heard the Word
1. Like Pentecost in many ways—here different—He came on apostles—Acts 2.
   He came on hearers—Acts 10.
2. Show individualism—not the experience of your parents—but yours.
3. Holy Spirit goes to those who hear.
5. Words under the Holy Spirit are holy words.
D. The Astonished
1. Circumcision were (Prejudice is the ink with which all history is written - Mark Twain).
2. If both Jew and Gentile receive same gift then one is as fully accepted as the other.
3. Heard (Gentile) them speak in foreign tongues and languages even as apostles at Pentecost.
4. This (tongues) the reason they believed the Holy Ghost came.
5. No hint tongues were ecstatic.
6. Came unsought, unexpected.
7. They magnified God.

IV. Place of Water Baptism
A. Peter's question - can any forbid water?
1. They asked - can an outward sign be refused?
2. Yet this situation never to be repeated.
3. God turns foes to friends.
4. Partition wall to fall.
B. Baptism Commanded

1. Did reception of Spirit save them? No Holy Spirit came before baptism to show that the administration of the Gentiles was in no degree due to agency or will of Peter, but of God.

2. Baptism not done away with rather its commanded.

3. Impossible for an apostle to associate Spirits coming with anything other than baptism thus he so commanded (Coffman).

4. This is Peter's only command.

5. Baptism is by the authority of Jesus.

6. Campbell - "The authority by which any acts is performed must never be confounded with the necessity or intention of it."

7. Only case where Spirit came before baptism.

8. Will only happen again when situation is duplicated which is impossible. (Ash)

9. God can act as He wants to, man is still to obey
10. Faith is not mentioned, but see these Scriptures.

Acts 11:17
Acts 15:7-9

C. Prayed and Tarried
1. Those who have some acquaintance with Christ convey more. (Henry)
2. To stay in Gentile homes shows they fully accepted them.
3. Needed no instructions.

Nashville Road - 02/09/00
Jentile nations.

46. For—They draw the conclusion from the effect. Various.

47. Water—[Gr. τὸ ὕδωρ, the water. The article should be observed; can any forbid the water to those which have received Spirit? Alf.] He says water for baptism by Tapeinosis [a figure which less is expressed than is implied]. When the greater thing has been given, the less is added by the giver, and is not despised by the receiver. He does not say. They now have the Spirit; they can do without the water. They are not circumcised, that is, they are baptized. Therefore baptism stands on a much higher footing; comp. ch. xv. 8, 9, which shows they were not to be circumcised and yet Peter thought they should be baptized. Forbid—Christ.

Any man—Either I or any of the brethren.

48. He commanded—He did not baptize with his own hands; he was present to whom this could be properly delegated. Comp. 1 Cor. i. 17. Of the Lord—Christ Jesus. Certain Golden days.
I. There are some Scriptures that are so personally meaningful.
   A. Married
      1. To be told your wife is like a vine.
      2. That she is a treasure.
   B. Searching—he that wills to know the doctrine to him it shall be known.
   C. A Gentile—I can be grafted in although I was not first.

Rom. 1:16

II. Our text proves that same thing—I am welcome to claim the grace of God—let's study Acts 11.

III. Peter tells it in defense of his actions.
   A. Power of the Word.
   B. Value of its explicit guidance—if God says it, it is so.

IV. Events of Acts 11
   A. Peter is at Joppa.
      1. He was in house of Simon, tanner by seaside.
      2. Joppa on Mediterranean.
         a) Jonah knew it?
         b) 30 miles south of Caesarea.
c) Roman capitol of Judea was Caesarea, Cornelius and the Italian Band.

B. Peter is on housetop praying.
   1. Vessel descends.
   2. He's earlier preaching.

V.4 - expounded the matter unto them.
   3. Great things happen when we pray.
   3. Hungry, desired to eat, trance.

Acts 10:9-10

5. Sheet, let down by four corners.
6. Contained all manner of beasts, creeping things, birds.
7. Told to rise, kill, eat--right to use animals for food--no vegetarians.
8. Peter refused--not to eat common.

Lev. 11
Deut. 14

10. What God has cleansed -- not common.
   a) God has a right to change.
   b) Instruments in Old Testament--none in New.
   c) 7th day to 1st day.

11. Three times sheet appears with the three messengers with him.
5. Three times impressive
6. Sheet drawn up to heaven

III. Application

A. Three men at the door, sent from Caesarea for me (V-11).

V-12 "Spirit bade me go with them, no distinction."

B. Six brethren went with him.
1. Peter’s perplexity of Chapter 10 overcome.
2. Now understood
3. Angel told Cornelius to send.

Acts 10:5-6

C. They obey the Holy Spirit
1. Peter told the men "I'm the one you seek" (Acts 10:21).
2. So God uses us! as he goes "nothing doubting."
3. Treat Gentiles as one.
4. Yet good to have six witnesses!

IV. He meets Cornelius

A. Spoke to him words whereby thou shalt be saved.
1. Saved by preaching
2. He and Cornelius on same page
3. Obedience essential

Heb. 5:8-9
B. Spirit fell on them.
1. This did not save Cornelius.
2. He must believe—without faith no salvation.
3. Words as on us at the beginning.
4. Spirit showed their right to obey was OK.

C. Baptized (Chapter 10)
Acts 10:47-48
Acts 2:38

V. Gospel is for all men.
Isa. 2:2 "And all nations shall flow unto it."
Matt. 28
A VERY PERSONAL MISSIONARY JOURNEY
Acts 11:19-21
I. With some things I feel a close connection.
A. "TN Waltz" - play "Old KY Home" - Ruby Myers
B. D. Boone - great, g.g. granddad - Lost - no confused 3 days.
C. Missionary journey - had it not been I might be a Moslem, humanist, pagan.
   1. One that came to Gentiles.
   2. One done by non-famous people - no McGarvans or Gatewoods.
II. Set the Stage
   A. McGarvey
      1. Flash back to Acts 8:4.
      2. Lots going on:
         a) Phillip in Samaria.
         b) Saul in Damascus & Arabia.
         c) Peter in Judea.
         d) Now actions of other brethren.
   B. 8 years after 1st Persecution.
      1. Scattered ones not apostles - just regular members.
      2. Thomas calls it the triumphant march of Christianity.
      3. The show of evil overrun for good.
      4. Running to the back of the train won't keep you from going where it's going.
      5. What do we send out from local church?
         a) End of truck off ground - grease it. #1
C. Persecution
1. Can any relate to this?
2. It can be sweet perfume.
3. Invincible Christian courage seen - not callous indifference or timidity.
4. Fled from persecution; not from the work & faith.
5. Never hurts for dried up apples to fall off. #2

III. The Spread of the Travellers (went about)

A. Phenice
1. On coast
2. 120 miles long - 10 miles wide
3. Lebanon area today
4. Tell the story everywhere

B. Cyprus
1. Island
2. 140 miles long; 5 to 50 miles wide.
3. In sight

C. Antioch
1. 3rd largest city: Rome, Alexandria
2. Honors Antiochus, one of Alexander the Great's generals.
3. 108 miles north of Phoenician border.
4. Ignatius & Chripostom's home.
5. 500,000 to 800,000 size.
6. Founded 300 BC.
7. Very immoral.
   a) Chariot races.
   b) Temple of Daphne - 5 miles out.
   c) Sex priestess
   d) Naked in the water.
8. "Gate of the East"
9. Here Christianity is 1st to meet the Roman world.
10. Gospel follows trade routes.
11. Scene of Great Events.
11:19-26  27-30
12:25
13:1 - 14:28

D. Preaching Word to Jews Only
1. Loved the subject.
2. Audience narrow.
3. But God makes all things move to a glorious end.
4. Deep seated idea salvation is only for a few.

IV. Action of the Unnamed Soldiers
A. "Some men" - Trueblood Card #3
1. Never know - nameless
2. Simon of Cyrene who bore cross?
3. Legitimacy of lay preaching - no clergy.
4. Go 1st to Gentiles.
5. Which tire was flat - #4.
6. Intellectualism - #5.

B. Grecians
1. Hellenist or Gentiles - latter.
2. Peter earlier opened door to Gentiles - Cornelius.
3. Universality of gospel suited to all minds.
4. When 1st to Gentiles? Acts 8, 10 or 11? (Stedman)
5. Faced persecution, exclusivism, can we bypass synagogue & circumcision? (Sweeting)
6. Everybody needs same message - Lord Jesus!

V. What Happened?
A. "Hand of the Lord was with Them"
   1. Power of the Lord worked with them.
   2. He sustains.
   3. We can expect His hand to bless honest efforts.
   4. Instrument is human; power divine. (Arnot)

1 Cor. 3:9 "We are laborers together with God"

B. Great Number
   1. Great success
   2. God's overruling persecution & prejudice and church is growing.
   3. Register Board of God.

2:41 "Then they that gladly received his word"
4:4 "Many of them which heard the word believed"
5:14 "The bel. were the more added-mult.m/w"
6:7 "The world of God increased, no. of d.mult. g.
6:7 "A great co. of the priests were obedient"
11:24 "Much people were added unto the Lord"
21:20 "1000's of Jews there are which believe"

C. Believed & Turned
   1. Faith - individual experience
   2. Embraces all acts of obedience
   3. Turned
      a) Additional act of believing.
      b) Follows repentance

Acts 3:19 "Repent ye therefore & be converted"
c) Refers to baptism. (McGarvey)
d) Change of life – not social or
ceremonial qualification.
e) Life connected with Christ – not
natural privileges (Walker).
f) Believe – root
  Turn – Fruit  (Arnot)

Harding Graduate School (Chapel) – 4/2/87
Hauling clay for a fill, the driver backed his truck too far over the dump grade. The weight of the load being dumped lifted the front end of the truck several feet off the ground. "Now what are you going to do?" asked a bystander. The driver eased out of the cab and said: "Think I'll grease it — I'll never get a better chance."

—Sunshine Mag.

Getting Mad And Quitting The Church?

An old Negro said to his audience: "Some folks think they hurt the church when they get mad and quit, but they are wrong about that. It never hurts the tree for the dried-up apples to fall off!"

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"A compromise is often a deal in which two people get what neither of them wanted."

No longer can it be blandly assumed that ordinary businessmen and housewives are free from ministerial responsibilities. No longer is it standard practice for the clergy to do all of the preaching, all of the public praying, all of the scripture reading, all of the visiting of seekers.

Consequently we are seeing more and more, as the theme of the century develops, that the church must, among other things, be a center of the education of those willing to be ministers in common life. Thus, Christians should gather for inspiration and training and then scatter for ministry.

CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN TRENDS—Pinson and Fant. P. 19-20
A righteous man hateth lying, but a wicked man is loathsome, and cometh to shame. Proverbs 13:5

The story is told of four high school boys who could not resist the temptation to skip classes. Each had been smitten with a bad case of spring fever. The next morning they showed up at school and reported to the teacher that their car had had a flat tire. Much to their relief, she smiled and said, “Well, you missed a quiz yesterday, so take your seats and get out a pencil and paper.” Still smiling, she waited as they settled down and got ready for her questions. Then she said, “First question—which tire was flat?”

Intellectualism alone has never produced renewal. 47% of Hitler’s S. S. troops had post-graduate degrees. Those who presided over the infamy of Dachau, Auschwitz, Buchenwald and other camps of horror were highly-trained men, academically. They enjoyed the music of Bach, Beethoven and Wagner.

On the other hand, renewal has consistently stimulated intellectual development. Of the nine colonial colleges, the six established between 1740 and 1769—Pennsylvania, Princeton, Columbia, Rutgers, Brown and Dartmouth—had some relationship, either directly or indirectly, to the Great Awakening.

Princeton was the outgrowth of the evangelism of the Tennents. George Whitefield was more than casually responsible for the University of Pennsylvania and Dartmouth. Charles G. Finney was a prime mover in the growth of Oberlin in Ohio. As James Burns says in “Revivals—their Laws and Leaders”, “The immediate
consequence of the reformation, therefore was to immensely quicken the intellectual side of man's nature."

"New Hope for Planet Earth" – By John Haggai – Page 82
SEE THE CHURCH GROW!

Acts: 11:19-30

I. Anyone who loves the church delights in its growth.
   A. Great work done in Nigeria.
   B. India is seeing this.
   C. Every county in Arkansas has a congregation.
   D. Lots of efforts, medical and otherwise, in Honduras.

II. This lesson is about the early church and its growth as we look at Acts 11:11-30.
   A. Timing
      1. About A.D. 34 or 35
      2. Goes to A.D. 43-44 as we cover these early years.
   B. Places
      1. Jerusalem to starting place.
      2. Phoenicia, Antioch, Tarsus
      3. Antioch at this time was 300 years old and was the third city in importance in the Roman empire.
      4. On Orontes River—300 miles from Jerusalem, 14 miles from the sea.
      5. It became important in church history.
   C. But the question arose: to whom shall we preach the gospel?
      1. It had been to Jews only.
      2. Great commission to whole world.
3. Prejudice however arose.
4. Further, opportunities were offered in Jerusalem that consumed them.
   (See V-11 of lesson).
5. Yet in spite of prejudice other than Jews became to hear the gospel. (See V-20)
   a) Stephen's stoning resulted in church being scattered.
   b) It took them north and west—not east.
   c) At Phoenicia only to Jews
   d) The northward move

Acts 21:3-7

   e) Remember Peter's reluctance to any but Jews.
   f) Folk in Antioch area lived with a mixed society and knew Gentiles.

6. What does it mean "unto the Greeks?"
   a) The hand of the Lord was with them.
   b) KJV to Grecians vs. to Greeks.
   c) Seems Greek, not just Jews who spoke Greed a better word.
   d) Note they preached Jesus!
   e) "Believed turned"
Isa. 55:7 "Let the wicked forsake his way."

D. All the while this evangelizing was going on the apostles kept a close eye.

1. Barnabas sent to Antioch
   a) Exhorter - Acts 4:36-37
   b) Generous
   c) Open-minded
   d) Saw salvation of others and was glad.
   e) Necessary to cleanse to the Lord.

2. What purpose in life drives us?
3. How zealous are we?

Rom. 12:9 "Abhor that which is evil."
I. Cor. 15:48 "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast."

III. The name we wear.
   A. Warren Buffet's mother called a Campbellite in "Snowball."
   B. Barnabas report.

Acts 9:26-30
Acts 13:1

1. Antioch a favored spot.
2. Thus a radiating center.
3. "City set on a hill" for the church vs. obscure place.
4. Who radiates influence?

C. Called Christians
1. Did enemies confer the name?
2. G.C. Brewer debated under no other thus Baptists vs. Christians.
3. Disciples
4. Does Bible say it was enemies? No.
5. Christ means converted.
6. To call a man Christian is to acknowledge name of Christian.
7. Enemies would not do this--they evidently divine origin.

D. Coming of the prophets - V-27.
1. Means one who speaks for another.
2. Tells the way of God.
3. Famine coming--four of them during Claudius reign.
5. Voluntary relief sent, according to ability and open heart.
6. How collected not told.

I Cor. 16:1-2 "Now concerning the collection"
7. Barnabas and Saul selected to carry it.
8. Elders receive it.
   a) Overseers
   b) Do have something to do with finances.
   c) Can appoint others to help.
E. Lessons learned.
1. Persecution will not stop a convicted church.
2. At no time is evangelism unimportant.
3. At no time is church without problems.
4. Results come from combined effort.
5. We must ever be attuned to cry of needy.
WHY THE AX ON THAT TREE?
Acts 12:1-2

I. We can go crazy grying to logically assign order to matters. Clip on muddlin' thru #0.
   A. I heard over Richmond FM classical station the 10 year artist at Sealback waiting to be discovered--34 yrs. old.
      1. Why does the lightening strike some and others never heard of?
      2. Is it breaks, luck, providence, accident?
         a) Ave. American earns 2X an Englishman, 3X Russian & 1/2 what he thinks he should.
      3. Is it fair? Shall I quit because I can't put the pencil to it?
         a) Rock--Turn me over #1.
         b) Postal service could be worse. Up to 1847 guy who rec. letter paid postage.

B. Let's examine one perplexing case of the N.T.--James' death - Acts 12.

II. Briefly who is this James?
   A. Some bio material.
      1. The case.
         Matt. 4:21 - Brothers J & J ship with Z Mending nets -- called
         Matt. 10:2 Catalogue of apostles
      2. The honing
         a) Lu. 9:54 Rec. not-command fire.
             (1) Father's asses story #2
             (2) Forgot $5.00 - #3
         b) Mk. 10:35--Sit on rt. & left hand
         c) Mk. 13:3 "Ask privately - when
3. Exclusive experiences
   a) Jarius' daughter's restoration.
      Mk. 5:37 "Suffered no man to follow him"
      Lu. 8:51 Same account
      b) Transfiguration
      Matt. 17:1 -- 6 days vs 8
      c) Gethsemane

Mk. 14:33

4. Other prestigious privileges.
   a) Resurrection appearance.
      I Cor. 15:7 "Seen of James--apostle or bro."
      b) Post ascension Upper Room.

Acts 1:13
   c) Pentacost

Acts 2:4

III. Then comes our Acts Puzzle
Acts 12:1-2 "Now about that time H."
   A. Herod--A.D. 44
      2. Favorite of Imperial family.
      3. Well known in Rome for prodigality and extravagence; in Judea for law.
      4. Sought favor of all who might in some way help him. (Kitto)

B. Killed James!
   1. Why?
      a) No reason given.
      b) Nor are we told how--beheaded?
      c) Because he was one of Christ's favorites? Did Herod know this?
      d) Why James & not John or Peter?
   2. Stedman says it formed a parenthesis in which all the apostles lived.
a) Brothers died 50 years apart.
b) Never mentioned in gospels except with John.
c) John also suffered.

Rev. 1:9
3. Did Herod think James most important of all & Peter next?
4. Ellicott points out he died a victim of government & not Sanhedrin else stoned.

C. Things to Note
1. We are not always told why.
2. 7 GK words, eleven English tell death of 1st martyred apostle.
3. None appointed to succeed him.
4. 1½ verses for James' death.
   1½ chapters Cornelius' conversion.
   3 chapters Paul's conversion.
5. Brevity of death history amazing.
   (Ash)
Muddling Through

Comment at a marketing meeting: "It takes a lot of hard work by a lot of dedicated people to make the inevitable happen."
—Joseph Kaselow in New York Herald Tribune

Movie producer, overheard: "I am living beyond my means, but fortunately I can afford it."
—Margaret Whiting, quoted by Earl Wilson, Publishers-Hall Syndicate

While we were looking over some items in a department store, the sales clerk said helpfully, "If you see something that isn't there, we probably have more in the back."
—Contributed by David A. Cowdrick, Jr.

A man joined a group at a bus stop and asked, "Has the next bus gone yet?"
—Contributed by W. Moffat

Overheard in front of a restaurant: "If they weren't so crowded here all the time, this place would do a lot more business."
—Bob Talbert in Detroit Free Press

"I realize it takes all kinds of people to make a world," remarked the young lady, "and I am very glad I am not one of them."
—The Far East

One fellow to another: "Oh, yes, I have insomnia. But it's really nothing to lose sleep over."
—Earl Wilson, Publishers-Hall Syndicate
My husband and I arrived at my sister-in-law's for dinner one sunny afternoon. We were just about to knock when we noticed a large rock on the porch. On it were big red letters saying: PLEASE TURN ME OVER. I looked at my husband and laughed. "I know I shouldn't," I said, "but I can't resist." So I turned the rock over. The message on the other side read: THANKS. THAT FEELS MUCH BETTER. —Contributed by Dixie Lee Knoll

As we said good-by to my son at camp, I reminded him to write home. A mother standing nearby heard my plea and said, "Listen, the surest way to get a boy to write home from camp is to send a letter saying: 'Here's five dollars. Spend it on candy, ice cream, horseback riding—whatever you want.'"

"And that makes him write?"

"Of course," she said. "You forget to enclose the five dollars!"

—Merla Zellerbach in San Francisco Chronicle
THREE SLEEPS OF SIMON

Acts 12:6

I Think of Christ's patience with me.
A. Spent lots of time with Apostles only
B. From the dozen selected three
C. Of the 3 Peter most prominent.
   1. 3 times he was off guard, asleep.
   2. On each of the 3 occasions there was something he did not know!
D. Peter is one of the best loved men of the Bible.
   1. He was a common man - by trade a fish man.
      (a) No real education.
   2. Man of weaknesses - Jona - dove - like, going to be a rock.
   3. Man of great extremes - draw sword at arrest, run from girl linguist.
      (a) First to confess and first to deny Christ.
      (b) First in tomb, first to suggest go to Galilee and return to old way.
E. We seek to see him asleep.

II. The Sleep of Partial Knowledge Luke 9:32
A. Story of Transfiguration
   1. Tell What happened.
   2. Tell of drowsiness
      (a) Did they miss the exodus talk?
         Moses & Elig. & God said He was taken right away Luke 9:31
   3. He proposed but didn't know what he said! Luke 9:33
4. Remember Tr. just after C.P. confession
5. Mt. Hermon 14 miles from C.P. so high you could see it from Dead sea 9400' high.
7. Moses & Elijah there - their two richest experiences on Mt. top
   Exo 3:18 - Got law
   Exo 34:29 - Face shone.
   1 King 19:9-12 Still small voice.
8. These two turn peaks Israel history
9. Whole story is one of glory Barclay says this keynote.
10. Three times says Beloved, Look!

III. Sleep of Careless Life
A. Story of the Garden - Jerusalem, city on a hill had none in it.
1. Peter earlier warned of his weakness:
   Mark 14:30
2. Knew it couldn't happen to him.
   Mark 14:29-31
3. Now Jesus needs real support and he sleeps.
4. What a disappointment - can't you watch one hour?
5. No wonder "wist not what to answer him" Mark 14:40
6. Recall in Jesus' last days several un-named friends blessed him: borrowed colt, upper room, access to Garden.
7. See the agony of Jesus—Who at 33 wants to die on a cross?
8. Jesus learned here to accept what perhaps is not fully understood.
9. Note the loneliness of Jesus.
(a) His chosen 3 slept.
(b) Some battles you have to fight alone "other help & comfort flee
10. Note trust of Jesus
(a) Abba word of a little child to his Daddy—Jesus used intimate term.
11. See courage of Jesus—rise from prayer to face challenge of world.

IV. The Sleep of a Protected Child Acts 12:6
A. Story of his imprisonment.
1. Sleeping in danger?
2. Calm in distress?
3. Once again didn't know all (See Acts 12:9)
4. We see no Government can destroy the Church of Christ.
5. Erdman? says God shows in this story he answers prayers even of those of imperfect faith.
WHAT ONE EVIL MAN DID TO THE CHURCH!
Acts 12:1-17

I. By the very title itself, what do you see?
   A. All negative?
   B. Do you see Nero, Hitler, Stalin, Moa Tesung?
   C. You see any good?
      1. Nebuchadnezzar?
      2. Tojo?
      3. Mussolini?
      4. Herod?

II. Good & Evil always in conflict.
   A. Battle joined in Genesis.
      Gen. 3:16 "I will put enmity between thee
   B. God only permits it so far.
      1. Couldn't kill Job.
      2. As to the sea.
      Job 38:11 "Hitherto shalt thou come but no
   C. We want to see now what one evil man did to the church.

III. Herod brot the church to:
   A. Peril
      1. James murdered - 1st of 12.
         (a) Bro. of John.
         (b) Close to Jesus.
         (c) Not told his activities in the church other than listed c apostles.
      2. Vexed certain men.
         (a) Church always had leaders.
(b) Some mean much.

3. Herod
   (a) Agrippa I, grandson of Herod the Great
   (b) Cultivated good will of Jews.
   (c) Sought to please them.

4. Seized Peter.
   (a) No trial during 7 days of Passover.
   (b) Duplicity of killing Peter but scrupulously keeping the Passover.
   (c) Peter kept in prison. But (v. 5)
       (1) Important But - God has joined the battle.
   (d) Persecution due to Herod's desire for popularity.

B. Prayer
   1. United
      v. 5 "The church"
      v. 12 "Where many were gathered to.

2. Unceasing
   (a) Needed to - Peter guarded by 16 soldiers - 4 ea. for 3 hrs.
   (b) Chained by both hands - 2 to watch - secure as they could make it!
   (c) ASV has "earnestly" from Gr. "to stretch out". - Trying to do their utmost.

3. Direction - unto God.
   (a) You knew to whom & why prayed.
   (b) This was 5 persecution recorded by Luke - time to pray.
C. Peace
1. 2 times Peter slept other than here & all peculiar.
   (a) Transfiguration Lu. 9:32
   (b) Gethsemane Mk. 14:37
2. Peter knew he was:
   (a) Pardoned
   (b) Conscience clear
   (c) Trusted God

D. Power
1. God never overpowered.
2. Angel overcame walls, chains, men, soldiers, gate.
3. It was easy & its extent was complete.
4. It was about AD44.

E. Perception
1. Peter 1st thot a vision.
   v. 11 "Now I know
   (a) Implies former hope & trust.
2. Gradually came to church.
   (a) Went to Mark's mother's house.
      (1) 1st mention of him.
      (2) Kin to Barnabas
   (b) Peter knocked
      (1) Rhoda came - recognized voice - opened not for gladness!
      (2) Peter's out there!
         (a) Mad
         (b) Angel
         (c) Saw & astonished!
(3) Do we expect a complete ans. to prayer?
Ps. 5:3 "Look up" when pray expectantly.

3. Go tell James
(a) Jesus 1/2 bro. now a pillar.
(b) Didn't believe in lifetime.
   John 7:5
(c) Cross changes men's lives.

Will end 8-3-69
I. We often find ourselves and certainly the church in a tense situation.
   A. In this chapter we find evil's on the throne and the church is on its knees.
   B. Shall we give up?
   C. Who is greater, Herod or Heaven—let's see Agrippa I, one of six Herods.

II. Here is the situation.
   A. Herod, and there is a bunch of them; this one is Agrippa.
      1. He has just killed James, John's brother.
      2. His mother had asked for a favorite seat, he got the sword.
      3. Herod saw it pleased the Jews.
         a) We often bow to the popular.
         b) Wants to continue to "vex" = afflict, impose hardship, injure.
         c) We ponder why let James die and Peter live.
   B. New seizes Peter
      1. It's his third imprisonment.
      2. "Apprehended."
         a) Did he resist?
         b) Hard to find?

John 21:18 "When thou was young--hand lead..."
3. Two tough words:
   a) Quaternions - squads, platoons, military guard.
      1) 16 soldiers
      2) 4 parties of 4
      3) Peter got out before, H.
      4) 2 chained to him
      5) Keeper at the door
      6) Secure as possible.
   b) Easter - ready passover.

C. Classic: Herod's prison vs. church's prayer.
   1. Walls vs. bended spirits.
   2. Give to those that need vs. those that ask.
   3. Had church been neglectful of James so now prays.
   4. God delights to hear Harding's chapels for Kirk and Cathcart.
   5. West End prayer for peace via soldiers.
   6. What odds would you have granted prayer's victory?
   7. Pray--without ceasing--to God--for him.
   8. Note "BUT" --crisis word.
   10. Ear nest = stretch out.
   11. Him--to have strength or to be delivered.
12. Same word for way Jesus prayed in Gethsemane.
13. Timely--next day or A.M. planned to kill him.
15. Do we believe more about man's power or God's?

Eph. 6:18 "Praying always with all prayer."

1. Peter was sleeping--could you?
2. "Guardian" - some say.
3. Light shining--from angel? Wings?
4. Smote Peter on side--light didn't wake him.
5. Raised him up.
6. Spoke, instructed gird, sandals, cast garment about him, follow me.
   Matt. 17:10 (Tyler & Smith story).
7. God's always right with timing.
8. Chains fell off.
9. Led through two wards then iron gate.
10. Opened automatically--like at 1936 World's Fair.
11. One street angel leaves.
12. Some versions down seven steps.
13. Release from manacles.

Ps. 126:1-3 "The Lord hath done great things for us."
E. Peter on his own.
1. Recognized hand of God.
2. Lord sent angel.
3. Herod's no match for God.
4. No trance--it's real!
5. Angel did for Peter what he could not do for himself.
7. Do we have phone chain?
8. Parents can only go so far with a child.

Ps. 34:7 "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them..."

Ps. 34:18 "The eye of the Lord is upon them that fear..."

Ps. 38:10 "Love the Lord, hate evil. He preserves the soul."

F. When the church got the answer.
1. Peter came to Mary's house.
2. Church there praying.
   a) Would we stop long enough to go?
   b) Would the church take the time?
   c) Do we feel we can make a difference?
3. Rhoda cautiously opens.
   a) But not complete admission.
   b) Very glad.
4. Church said you are crazy.
5. She constantly affirmed.
6. No - it's his angel.
7. Poor Peter keeps knocking.
8. Opened and saw--astonished.
9. Peter raises hand, gave God credit.
10. Go tell James and brethren.
11. He departed -- R.C. says to Rome.
12. Do you suppose Peter had anticipated this greeting as he came to the house?
13. Times we are so absorbed in prayer we can't see answer when it comes.
14. Church not ready for the answer--wanted to keep praying.
15. Does there find recorded any joy or thanks?

Neely's Bend C/C -- 10/28/07
Wingate LBC 11/7/07
Concord Road LBC 11/13/07
V-1 Vex, afflict, laid hands, to induce harm, belonged to the church.
GSP - Knox
Cruel attack, persecute

Went further, next step.

V-3 Passover festival.

V-4 Apprehended

V-5 Peter kept, closely guarded.

V-8 Earnestly offered striking, smote touching, tapped.

Stood up - chains dropped.
Continued to follow.
Passed first guard then second.
All at once, straitway
Rescued one

As the truth broke
Mad, raving, crazy, but of mind.
Kept knocking, declaring, insisted.
Astonished, amazed.
Signed, for silence, waved, quiet.
James
I. Would you imagine this scene?
   A. An elder is imprisoned.
   B. The preacher is executed.
   C. Tomorrow they plan to punish women, too.
   D. If this were happening here - what would you do?

II. Is this remote?
   A. Churchill said we have peace by mutual terror.
   B. Commissars are 10 mi from us. World is armed.
   C. Only threat of military service.

III. If persecution came what would you do?

IV. Refrases & strengthens to view what they did.
   A. Peter imprisoned by Herod.
   1. Peter: was kept in prison but prayer was.
   2. They went to Mary's house - why there?
   3. Had they before? Was she a sinner?
   4. They prayed without ceasing.

V. Would you go? Would your house be selected?

VI. May I tell the story of the event?
   A. Time: (best of March - 1st April)
   1. Days of unleavened bread - Passover.
3. What kind of religion that can murder—so long as not on holy day!!!
4. But doesn’t Bible say Easter!?
   a) Absurd translation. Wycliff says Passover, Coverdale & Tindal—Easter.
   b) Council of Nice fixed Easter dates—Mar 22 earliest & April 25th latest

B. Prison.
1. Herod to bring him forth next day.
2. Had 4 quartermen of soldiers—16. 4 to see 3 hr. guard. Did you ever have 16 folk watch you?
3. Chained to 2 soldiers c 2 chains.
   a) Bound between them? His rt. hand to Their left?
   b) He’d escaped before not chance again (?)
4. Peter slept on last nite—would you?
   a) What chance would prayer have—“let’s be practical” when God intervenes, human precaution useless.
   b) Note church not underlining, med; but praying!
   c) In inner cell—doors locked.

C. The Escape.
1. Angel & light came—smote—Arise quickly—raised him—chains fell off.
2. Struck sufficiently to raise as G. Tyler—D. Smith
   a) Woke up Peter & David.
2. Herswely put on scandal to cost. "No hurry but design to elude justice." (Clark)

3. Angel led am knowing Peter who that it a vision? by 15th word, gate to city opened own accord: automatically gate plated c iron... for greater security thru 1st. & angel left him.

4. Modernist says Peter deluded. Mod. should throw off mask of infidelity & honestly avow self enemy of revelation Peter say Angel; Mod. by nature, have spoke by HS Mod. doesn't.


1. Went to Mary's house.

2. Meet John who stays c us 30 yrs.

3. Church (no many) were together praying.

4. Today neither together nor praying.

5. Yet praying church seldom disappointed.


7. Ask who!?) knew Peter's voice.

b) Happy, forgot to open door, ran to tell.

4. Prayers react.is. 15:10 their angels always.

5. "The angel...enempath

8. Thou art mad - It is his angel. Astonished

5. This we've restored - don't believe what we are praying - shocked if granted
5. When seen had to quiet them c hand.
6. Declared "how the Lord had brought."
7. Peter said tell James. Who’s pope?
   10) That he left - teith.
   where he went - opinion - later Caesarea.
   (To treat faith as opinion is liberalism; to opinion as faith is leaping)
   2. Today, if we His people, same God - is there
      not still power in prayer?

Westend 4/8/62

Fairview 6/20/62
June 8/28/62

locust Grove 7/11/62

S. Nephath 9/12/62
Hinston N.C. 2/20/63

Abilene 10/29/62

Okhology-Mayfair 3/6/63

Johnson Kn 3/13/63

Pecosit P.Air. Tex 8/11/63
WHY DID JESUS LOVE JOHN AND WHAT HAPPENED TO DEMAS? Acts 12:23

I. Two men are contrasted—John Jesus loved, Demas loved the present world.

II. Here are some reasons John was loved by Jesus;
   1. Loved Laz.
   2. 10th hr. c John Bapt.
   3. Saw Him as Savior.
   4. Appreciated his zeal.
      (a) Miracle in name.
      (b) Fire in village.
      (c) Sit at rt. hand.
      (d) Breast at Supper.
      (a) Gethsemane.
      (b) Cross.
   6. Tender heart.

III. Demas is a different story;
     Philemon 23-24 Fellow laborer
     Col. 4:14 w/o mention (Hi company)
     II Tim. 4:10

IV. Why do you suppose Demas deserted? Here are some possible reasons;
   1. He feared Nero and saw the arena with the lions.
   2. He was tempted to do worldly things.
   3. He thought he was too young or too intelligent or too well born to be a Christian.
   4. He feared the loss of goods.
   5. He got involved in something else that was innocent in itself.
6. He began to doubt about the validity of the church.
7. He found the way of the world easy.
8. He found sin delightful.
9. He was overwhelmed by the pressures of day to day living.
10. Maybe he was in the wrong bracket - he should have been a follower rather than a leader.
11. He could have received too much praise early in his Christian walk.
12. Little in reserve to call on in time of need.
WORMS AND WORD—BOTH GROW
Acts 12:18-24

1. It was a miraculous release for Peter.
   A. Tell the story.
      1. Now released what would Peter do as he stood in
dark narrow streets of Jerusalem.
      2. Houses usually surrounded by fences.
      3. Gates in fence - open in day - locked at nite.
      4. In gate was 1 door - large enuf for 1 person.
      5. Did Rhoda know the voice of Peter from preaching
and praying?
      6. To answered prayer the disciples said, "You're
crazy."
      7. Louder knock & cry convinced them.
      8. Didn't tell where he was going.
      9. Truthfully disciples could say to inquiring
soldiers, "I don't know."
     10. James a recognized leader.
     Gal. 1:17-18 "Neither went I up to Jerusalem to the
     11. Tribute to Peter - he'd fall but he'd get up & go
again. Make a mistake, then try to do better.
     12. No evidence Peter hid in Rome.
     13. God's ushering Peter off the stage so Paul can
enter.
   B. "There was no small stir among the soldiers" —
      (V. 18).
      1. If no prisoner to stand before Herod, then the
guards stand in his place.
      3. "Put to death" literally is "to be led off".
4. Guards lost lives because Peter escaped.
5. Did Herod think they'd helped plot escape, thus kill guards?

II. Herod's last Show.
   A. When down from Judea to Caesarea.
      1. Did deflated ego lead Herod to a more successful area?
      2. Not told why he went.
   B. Displeased with Tyre & Sidon.
      1. Phoenician cities dependent on Herod for food.
      2. Not told why he was angry.
      3. He held trump card.
      1 Kings 5:9 "My servants shall bring them down from L
      4. Displease = hostile state of mind.
   C. Thru Blastus sued for peace.
      1. Bribe?
      2. How'd they get to him?
   D. Upon a Set Day (V. 21).
      1. Herod arrayed in Royal apparel.
         a.) Josephus description - see card.
         b.) All they saw was outward splendor.
         c.) Foolish people value men by outward appearance.
      2. Sat upon his throne.
      3. Made an oration unto them.
      4. People reacted.
         (a) Gave a shout.
         (b) It is the voice of a god & not a man (V. 22).
         (c) We deify mortals.
      5. Herod accepted it.
a.) Did not rebuke them.

b.) Paul wouldn't accept Cornelius praise (Acts 10)

c.) So easy to be filled c pride.

2 Cor. 5:5 "Now he that hath wrought us for the self-

Deut. 8:7 "For the Lord thy God bringeth thee into a

8:11-14 "Beware that thou forget not the Lord

8:18 "But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God

8:19 "And it shall be, if thou do at all forget

d.) Herod does not claim the honor but acquiesces

in judgment.

Ezek. 11:5 "And the Spirit of the Lord fell upon me,

Prov. 27:1 "Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou

Prov. 29:5 "A man that flattereth his neighbour spread

6. Immediately Smitten.

(a) Angel.

(b) Gave not God the glory.

(1) Don't withhold praise due God.

(2) God will not give His glory to another.

7. Eaten of worms.

(a) Rupture of hydatid cyst.

(b) Haughty brot low in hour of triumph.

(c) Our chickens come home to roost.

II Sam. 1:19 "How are the mighty fallen."

III. But the Word of God Grew & Mult. (V. 24).

A. Progress in spite of persecution.

B. Nothing stops word.

1. How do you resist evil?

2. Can you endure w/o retaliating?

3. Do you stand fast by the living word - need not try to uproot what's dying - worms & word both grew.
Here we are indebted to Josephus for a parallel account of what followed. At Caesarea, says Josephus, Agrippa "exhibited shows in honour of Caesar, inaugurating this as a festival for the emperor's welfare. And there came together to it a large number of the provincial officials and others of distinguished position. On the second day of the shows Agrippa put on a robe made of silver throughout, of altogether wonderful weaving, and entered the theatre at break of day. Then the silver shone and glittered wonderfully as the sun's first rays fell on it, and its resplendence inspired a sort of fear and trembling in those who gazed on it. Immediately his flatterers called out from various directions, using language which boded him no good, for they addressed him as a god, and invoked him with the cry, 'Be gracious unto us! Hitherto we have reverenced thee as a man, but
henceforth we acknowledge thee to be of more than mortal nature.' He did not rebuke them, nor did he repudiate their flattery. But soon afterwards he looked up and saw an owl sitting on a rope above his head, and immediately recognized it as a messenger of evil as it had on a former occasion been a messenger of good; and a pang of grief pierced his heart. At the same time he was seized by a severe pain in his belly, which began with a most violent attack... He was carried quickly into the palace ...and when he had suffered continuously for five days from pain in his belly, he died, in the fifty-fourth year of his age and the seventh of his reign" (Antiquitie xix 8.2)

F.F.Bruce commentary on Acts P.254-255
HOW DID THE HOLY SPIRIT SPEAK TO PAUL?
Acts 13:1-3

I. That Antioch Church is a demanding one; because
A. It rivaled Jerusalem.
B. It had a great missionary spirit.
C. It had 5 teachers & the lowest on their staff was Paul.
D. It had the HS speak to it. Surely all these things demand our noticing the Antioch Church of Christ.

II. Shall we look at the Acts 13 features.
A. They had certain prophets & teachers.
   1.) Two categories.
      Eph. 2:20 "Are built on the fd. of the apostles & prop
      2. Dummelow said prophecy distinguished an apostle
      3. Took form of inspired exhortation.
      4. Sometimes predicted future.
      5. Boles said 1st 3 prophets & last 2 teachers via
         placement of a GK participle 18 yrs. after
         ascension.
   B. These teachers were identified.
      1. Barnabas - (of 5, 3 are only names).
      2. Simeon.
         a.) Bore cross? (MK 15:21)
         b.) Niger = black, his color?
      3. Lucius.
         a.) From Cyrene.
         b.) In Africa along Med. coast.
      4. Manaen.
         a.) Close to Herod, either
            (1) Mother was wet nurse.
            (2) Reared as foster bro.
(3) Reared as playmate (we called blacks "Aunt").

b.) Means Comforter.

5. Saul.

a.) Rose from last to 1st.

b.) Think of this collection of men - so diverse.

C. God called working men to greater duties.

1. Ministered to the Lord.

a.) Mission work natural outcome of events - you keep preaching & things happen!

b.) Not planned on paper but in soil of events it grew.

c.) Had the right men c it.

d.) We aren't told what their ministry was - its nature.

e.) Need qualified men - already busy.

f.) This chapter called in Churchill words "the hinge of history."

2. Fasted.

a.) Fasting cleared line for communication.

b.) We thus give God our attention completely.

D. Holy Ghost spoke to them.

V. 2 "The Holy Ghost said, separate me

1. How?

(a) Coffman "useless to inquire."

(b) Was it by another prophet?

(c) Was He audible Himself?

(d) "Insistent unanimity" - a deep conviction shared by all.

(e) He spoke to busy men who knew what they were doing - hard to steer a still car.
Acts 15:28 "For it seemed good to the HS

2. How does God lead today?
   a.) Hole up in cave, isolate, & wait for God to speak?
   b.) Private, personal calling?
   c.) Call comes when we are busy - exercising our gift.

E. Church's Response.
   1. Fasted.
      a.) Not diet.
      b.) But concern!
      c.) Means we set aside normal duties to concentrate to find out what God wants done.
   2. Prayed.
      a.) God won't let church die.
      b.) Nor will He let it run automatically.
      c.) Need to believe God calls us to our tasks.
   3. Laid on hands.
      a.) Expressed fellowship.
      b.) Expressed dignity & seriousness.
      c.) Imparted no gifts - already an apostle!
      d.) Formal setting.
   4. Sent.
      a.) Whole Church did it.
      b.) Had right men, God's direction, fellowship of church behind it = success
      Need teams - no one man has all talent.
      Did HS prescribe route or did they prayerfully follow best judgment?
Barnabas would naturally want to go to his home country 1st.
Selected - separated - sent.
Sent the best to the field.
Sent by whole church & to whole church made a report.

End 12-19-76
John Calvin declined to write on the book of Revelation. He has a priceless though naive comment in his lecture on Daniel 7:25: "Interpreters differ widely about these words, and I will not bring forward all their opinions, otherwise it would be necessary to refute them. I should have no little trouble in refuting all their views, but I will follow my own custom of shortly expressing the genuine sense of the Prophet, and thus all difficulty will be removed."

BEHELD HE COMETH (H.C. Lectures - 1974)
Clifton L. Ganus
pp. 209-210

Understanding
The Missions Committee also stressed that we must tap more of the wonderfully rich human resources needs to encourage members involved in local missions. Let's face it, missionary at home is usually more demanding! Maybe your members' help is needed in a nearby associational or state ministry; maybe your church needs to start a new ministry. Maybe members need to serve in individual ways without financial support but certainly with moral support from church. Any Baptist ministering to another person should able to do so in the name of his Lord and his church.

In addition to thousands of volunteers, we must hundreds more full-time missionaries. Seminary enrolments are at a record high, but if we want to reach the world this recent upswing must continue. Again, the Missions Challenge Committee urges a renewal of emphases such as Life Commitment Sunday. They urge Baptist schools and churches to set at least one specific time a year for "calling out the called."

To attempt the ultimate goal of Christian missions, we will need the informed backing of all Baptists, the personal labor of tens of thousands, and naturally money. It will take more money than we have ever imagined raising!

As stated earlier, mission giving has made a most encouraging upturn after a very worrisome levelling-off for several years. This upturn, as well as a steady climb in church income, came during a recession! But, lest we get a "financial big head," just look at what's needed for the years just ahead. Inflation has squeezed denominational budgets as much as family budgets. Dollar devaluation and the rising cost-of-living in many nations has put a double squeeze on foreign mission funds.

The adjacent "coins" show the growth of SBC Cooperative Program funds from 1968 through 1974-75. The amount increased substantially, but the purchasing power changed very little.

Consider that to simply maintain our present level of work with a 4 percent inflation rate (the lowest rate hoped for by economists) will require total Cooperative Program gifts from the churches of $330 million by the end of the century as compared to $126 million given last year.

But we are not talking about simply maintaining things, but making a bold mission advance. The Foreign Mission Board, whose present budget is over $50 million, projects that it will take $268 million to support the 5000 missionaries they hope to have by the century's end.

This amount, which allows for 4 percent inflation, would come through both the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, Through the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, the Home

(Continued on page 28)
Mission Board now receives about $25 million; they will need $110 million for the 3600 career missionaries and 6500 short-term missionaries they anticipate. (This is counting on increases in state convention budgets, too, since so many home missionaries are jointly employed by the Board and state conventions.)

This year's record-high SBC Cooperative Program budget is $55 million. By 2000, we need to aim for $500 to $700 million. Is this possible? An annual 10 percent increase in gifts, which we have exceeded the past couple of years, would get us there easily. So it depends on whether we continue the upward aim we have begun or return to our previous snail-like climb.

One major factor in determining our advance will be the way churches divide their income between local needs and missions. Despite a continual rise in church income, the average portion going to the Cooperative Program has dropped from 10.04 percent in 1967 to 8.86 percent in 1975. That doesn't sound so bad, but it meant $70,750,000 less for state and Southern Baptist work! Perhaps the recent gain in Cooperative Program gifts indicates a change in this troubling trend—at least let's hope so. In 1927, Baptist church gave 11.02 percent of their income to the Cooperative Program, and we have never equaled that percentage again. Surely the time has come to surpass it.

In fact, the original dream for the Cooperative Program was that churches would strive toward a 50/50 division of their funds, and that the state conventions would do likewise.

The adopted report of the Missions Challenge Committee rekindles that dream, calling for the same goals. A handful of churches across the nation do give 50 percent to missions. The Georgia and Florida state conventions give close to 50 percent to the Southern Baptist Convention. But most of us have a long way to go!

Can We Do It?

More to the point, are we willing to try? Only the Lord can determine whether we actually reach, in this century, the ultimate goal that he set for Christians—to go and make disciples of all nations. Certainly we are not alone in the task. Growing Baptist conventions around the world and fellow evangelical Christians share the goal. What is asked of us as Southern Baptists is a strong effort to do the most we can.

Our potential is far greater than our present effort. But we cannot tap that potential without a change of life-style. This is especially true in regard to money. Missions has been living on the leftovers. Most Southern Baptist families work to obtain the highest standard-of-living they can and give to the church only what little they can spare.

Our per capita giving is the lowest of all major denominations, and only a fourth of Seventh Day Adventists. Our churches need to help members develop full Christian stewardship, which essentially means letting Christ control our earning and spending as well as our giving.

Churches—too—need to consider their stewardship. Just like a family, a congregation can get caught up in providing the "nice things" for itself and give only the leftovers to missions. As your church income grows, could you not give at least half the increase to the Cooperative Program? Cecil Ray of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina believes that "with serious effort we could double the Cooperative Program in the next six or seven years; with a sacrificial effort we could quadruple it."

Our associations, conventions, agencies, and institutions must also examine their life-styles to escape the trap of materialism. In short, Baptists must now set their priorities on those things that will most contribute to the growth of the kingdom of God.

Many Southern Baptists sense that God is arousing us for something truly extraordinary. Now is the time to prepare to attempt the ultimate goal—proclaiming the gospel to every person by the year 2000!
SUDDENLY THERE IT IS!
Acts 13:1-3

I. The book is half over.
The church is ready for its greatest leap. The initiation of a program that directly touches us as Western folk—not Eastern. The main personnel involved is to be named.

Its distinctive leadership is to be heralded. Suddenly there it is—for the 1st time in Acts—Teachers! (See Reference Card)

A. It's a new day and a new emphasis—guess what group is named—prophets and teachers!
   1. From Jewish to Gentile emphasis.
   3. From Peter who dominated the first 12 chapters to appear briefly through 13 to 28 and after 15 not even mentioned to Paul.
   4. Now to special leadership—prophets and teachers, as leadership is changed.
      a) Prophets inspired to forthtell the pure message of truth—nothing else.
      b) Teachers for first time in Acts to prominent role to give instructions unto practical duties of Christian life as they are grounded in O.T. and the new teachings of Jesus.
c) Who can deny the importance of prophets and teachers closely aligned in their duties of communication?

B. Since my salvation is directly related to this shift in the work of the church--I know teachers are important.

1. In the gospels Jesus is called Teacher; 60X Rabbi; 30+X Master--so you are in a noble line.
2. Teaching is to learn twice.
3. The teacher is like the candle which lights others while consuming itself (Ruffini).
4. A great teacher is measured by the number of students who have surpassed him.
5. Clip on corks & Pearl Buck.
6. The teacher couldn't give us a test today. She misplaced her glasses in my coat pocket.

II. Teachers Represent a Variety of Personalities.

A. Luke lists 5 names.

1. Barnabas--Son of Encouragement.
   a) Catalogue of names usually most important first and least last--Barnabas & Saul.
   b) No miraculous gifts imparted to them because only apostles had power to pass them on.
   c) Saul an apostle-superior.
   d) Of the two no distinctive title given them as to the other three.
2. Simeon the Niger.
   a) Niger = Black--no race discrimination--equal.
   b) Latin - black or dark complexed.
   c) Know nothing of the 3 others than here--as we fade into obscurity and our work champions.
   d) Perhaps a Jew yet Niger a Roman name as he moved in Roman circles.

3. Lucius of Cyrene.
   a) Northern Africa.
   b) All we know.

4. Manaen
   a) Comforter meaning.
   b) Brought up with Herod the tetrarch.
   c) Aristocratic--courtly connection.
   d) Foster brother (?) really a childhood companion.
   e) Snatched from Jaws of Hell if stayed with Antipas instead of servant of Jesus.

5. Saul
   a) Rabbi
   b) Well educated.
   c) Destined to be the leader.

B. All had the support of Holy Spirit.
1. Worldwide personality to enter a worldwide work of evangelism.
2. Support of church essential.
3. Width of personality seen.
4. Poised to take great step.
C. Ministered to the Lord and Fasted.
   1. Worship leadership or else means supply want of the brethren.
   3. Used 3X here; Rom. 15:27; Heb. 10:11.
   4. Fasted
      a) Intensely earnest.
      b) Abstain from food for spiritual purposes.
      c) Cooperative team.

D. Holy Spirit--Separate me, Barnabas and Saul for work wherein I called them.
   1. Fasted
   2. Prayed
   3. Laid on hands
   4. Sent them away with full cooperation of all.

Smithville, TN - 4/7/02
Hilldale, Clarksville, TN (Teachers) - 4/13/02
Charlie Britnell was making a talk to a group of teachers once and gave the following interesting quote: "He who dares to speak without preparation should disappear without hesitation."

- Jack Wilhelm
Smile, Seriously!

Only the brave should teach, only the men and women whose integrity cannot be shaken, whose minds are enlightened enough to understand the high calling of the teacher, and whose hearts are unshakably loyal to the young. It takes courage to be a teacher, and it takes unalterable love for the child. — Pearl Buck, PTA Magazine.

I like the answer a teacher gave when asked the subjects she taught. She answered that she did not teach subjects — she taught children!

Teachers with this spirit are our greatest servants. They mold the nation by molding the plastic clay of youth. They do more than fill minds, they free minds. They do more than teach facts, they inspire growth. They do more than teach boys and girls to make a living, they stimulate them to build great lives. They teach them how to think. They teach them to seek, to find, to expand their horizons. They teach them to discover the world and they teach them to live in it as world citizens...

Unknown, unsung, the teacher does the noblest work on earth. She discovers the tiny seeds of genius, and cultivates them so that they may blossom in all their glory...
— Good Reading.
Acts 2:41, Jesus said, 

2,42 Peter, en teaching, 

8:12enth, the gospel spread. 

8:35 They gave help prebended. 

8:40 helped prebended. 

5:34 Cornelius received. 

5:28 continued preached. 

5:25 to speak: "What should speak. 

4:18 not to speak in the 

4:31 Good news spread. 

4:27 speak words of God."
You Might Be in Education If...

1. You believe the staff room should be equipped with a Valium salt lick.
2. You find humor in other people's stupidity.
3. You want to slap the next person who says, "Must be nice to work from 8 to 3 and have your summers free!"
4. You believe chocolate is a food group.
5. You can tell it's a full moon without ever looking outside.
6. You believe "shallow gene pool" should have its own box on the report card.
7. You believe that unspeakable evil will befall you if anyone says, "boy, the kids sure are mellow today."
8. When out in public you feel the urge to talk to strange children and correct their behavior.
9. You have no time for a life from August to June.
10. Marking all A's on report cards would make your life SO much simpler.
11. When you mention "vegetables" you're not talking about a food group.
12. You think people should be required to get a government permit before being allowed to reproduce.
13. You wonder how some parents ever MANAGED to reproduce.
14. You laugh uncontrollably when people refer to the staff room as the "lounge."
15. You believe in aerial spraying of Prozac.
16. You encourage an obnoxious parent to check into charter schools or home schooling.
17. You believe no on should be permitted to reproduce without having taught in an elementary setting for at least 5 years.
18. You've ever had your profession slammed by someone who would never DREAM of doing your job.
19. You can't have children because there's no name you could give a child that wouldn't bring on high blood pressure the moment you heard it uttered.
20. You think caffeine should be available to staff in IV form.
21. You know you're in for a MAJOR project when a parent says, "I have a great idea I'd like to discuss. I think it would be such fun!"
22. You smile weakly, but want to choke a person when they say, "Oh, you must have such FUN everyday. It must be like playtime for you."
23. Your personal life comes to a screeching halt at report card time.
24. Meeting a child's parents instantly answers the question, "Why is this kid like this?"

-Signed Tim Henderson, Wexitonville

-Anonymous
FIVE MEN ON AN ISLAND
Acts 13:4-12

I. The Bible is a mirror & as I see others I see myself.
   A. I shall tell the story of 5 men on an Island - with
      which of the 5 do I feel the greater pull.
   B. If I saw myself wrong, would I do anything about
      it?

II. Our study is Acts 13:4-12.
   A. "So they" - This introduces us to 3 men of the 5.
      1. Barnabas.
         a.) Native of Cyprus - do we carry the gospel 1st
            to our own? Generous
         c.) Good - Acts 11:24 "a good man & full of the H
            d.) Son of Consolation & also contention.
      2. Paul.
         a.) Called Saul ( wonderful to little) (Hebrew,
            Saul, Paul, GK.)
         b.) Pharisee, free born, strict, tent maker,
            educated.
         c.) New creature in Christ.
         d.) Missionary.
         e.)"Preached the word of God" (v. 5) going 1st
            to synagogues.
         f.) In this story name changed to Paul in fuller
            usage - already his name "also" called.
      V. 5 "And they had also John to their minister.
      Acts 12:25 "And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jer
a.) He helped them.
b.) What do you suppose his duties were?
c.) Does it matter? 
d.) Had a good home, good friends, good work.

4. Holy Spirit sent them from Seleucia to Cyprus.
   a.) Wish we knew more of the HS sending. In earlier v. said Church sent them.
   b.) Cyprus.
      (1) Roman province famous for copper mines & ship bldg.
      (2) Happy Isle another name - things so pleasant & resources so varied all for happiness was w/i its bounds.
      (3) Makaria means Happy Isle.
      (4) Could sail to it in 1 day.
   c.) Went east to west from Salamis to Paphos.
      (1) Paphos had Venus, goddess of love worship.
      (2) It was the by-word for immorality.
      (3) Salamis was eastern gov. seat.
      (4) Not told how they responded at Salamis to Paul's preaching or what it did to his spirits.
      (5) 100 miles S. to P. - east to west.

B. At Paphos we meet 2 more men.
   1. Bar Jesus - Elymas.
      a.) Sorcerer - superstition sign of decadent civilization.
      b.) False prophet.
      c.) Jew.
      'd.) Withstood company of preachers - wanted to preserve his hold on the gov.
e.) Sought to turn the deputy from the faith.
f.) Elymos = skillful one.
g.) Sorcerer would naturally oppose gospel because he'd know his days are numbered.
h.) When a man opposes truth, he's in bad shape.

V. 10 "O full of all subtlety & all mischief
((1)) 2 kinds of blindness.
((2)) Did this give him time to think?
((3)) Called Son of Devil.
((4)) 1st missionary opposition to gospel.
(i) 2 Jews preaching opposite things – Son of Salvation vs. Son of Devil.
(j) Don't know what system of opposition he used.
(k) Mist used only here – like dimming of eyes.
(l) Only for a season – God is merciful.

2. We also meet Sergius Paulus.
   a.) Prudent.
       (1) Men of intelligence listen & inquire.
   b.) Desired to hear word of God.
   c.) Observant – saw what was done.
   d.) Believed – Astonished.

   Coffman says a synecdoche, see:

   Acts 16:34 "And when he had brought them into his house. Which of the 5 men am I?"

Shady Grove Church, Duck River 10-19-77
2 West End 10-23-77

Broadway Church, Lubbock, Tex. 10-30-77
40th & Hard Church, Pine Bluff, Ark. 11-13-77

Central Church, Valdosta, Ga. 3-15-78
THAT WHICH NEVER CHANGES
Acts 13:6-13

I. With the title you would expect me to preach on:
   A. Jesus—same yesterday, today, forever.
   B. Word—It stands written—not one jot to pass away.
   C. Ordinary events—need & harvest.

II. But this is not my theme—nor are the changes I’ve seen.
   A. Airplane to meeting.
   B. Air conditioned buildings.
   C. Multi-thousand contributions.
   D. VBS, Camps
   E. Size of Christian education.
   F. Fax—Internet (rather than read obituary for introduction)
   G. 1 hour service—never 11—even peak of the week ones.
   H. Tapes & video.
   I. Not to get in worship styles, doctrinal changes as we adjust to multi-marriage—Dothan paper "Better the 2nd time around" for their whole society section.

III. Rather the constant acquaintance of changeless confrontations—we study Acts 13.
   A. Cover Cypress from one end to the other.
      1. Barnabas (his home), Paul, Mark.
      2. "Preached the word of God"—v.5 from Salamis to Paphos—the capitol.
      3. You cover the territory as the word is taught—changeless.
B. At Paphos--new experience.

1. Met Elymas (Semitic word sorcerer)
   a) Certain sorcerer.
   b) False prophet.
   c) A Jew.
   d) Named Bar-Jesus.
   e) With the proconsul, Sergius Paulus.
   f) He personifies opposition to truth--this too is changeless--we meet it today.

   a) Intelligent (so are many who are lost).
   b) Proconsul--high position.
   c) Sought to hear the word.
   d) This too is changeless.

3. Elmas withstands & seeks to turn Proconsul away. (This too is a changeless procedure)
   a) OT banned sorcerer.
   b) That of no mind to Gentile Paulus.
   c) We are not told why he opposed--only conjecture allowed--why with him in 1st place?

4. Learn to deal with opposition
   a) Homosexuals
   b) Date setters
   c) Pluralist
   d) Modernist
   e) New Luthers--W. B. West's word.
5. Saul (asked) now Paul (little).
   a) Filled with Holy Spirit.
   b) Looked intently—oh, the Looks of
      the Bible.
   c) Full of deceit, all fraud, son of
      Devil, enemy of righteousness,
      perverter of straight ways of the
      Lord.
   d) Hand of the Lord upon you, blind
      for a season, sought hand help
      (same thing that happened to Paul
      at his conversion).

6. Proconsul believed—what?
   a) Saw what was done.
   b) Astonished at the teaching of the
      Lord.
   c) This is changeless—win some,
      lose some.

C. Mark departs at Perga.
   1. Why? Maybe:
      a) Homesick
      b) Travel hard
      c) Paul replaces uncle Barnabas.
      d) Shattered by opposition.
   2. Great part—he came back later.
   3. Not unusual to see faith weaken and
      folk turn back.

VI. Changelessly we see:
   A. Opposition to the word--Elymas.
   B. Obedience to the word--Paulus.
   C. Omission of duty to word--Mark.

Preachers' luncheon--Enterprise, AL--3/4/97
1. Times & occasions give rise to unusual speeches.
   A. Acts 13 is Paul's 1st recorded sermon.
   B. Events led to it.
      1. Loose from Paphos to Perga.
         a.) Evangelized Barnabas' home island - now go to
            Paul's country.
         b.) 150 miles by sea.
         c.) Perga not a sea coast town, so maps may show
            another for landing.
         d.) No record of anything happening at Perga -
            merely "passed thru."
         e.) Wonder why?
   2. "Paul and his company."
      a.) Been Barnabas & Saul.
      b.) Paul & B.
      c.) Now Paul & co. - had he taken over?
      d.) No complaint from Barnabas.
         "It takes more grace than I can tell to play the
         2nd fiddle well."
      e.) Can we take 2nd place w/o complaint?
   3. "John departed."
      a.) Paul that of it as desertion.
      Acts 15:38 "But Paul thought not good to take him with
      b.) Uncle Barnabas didn't.
      c.) Why leave?
         (1) Resented Paul taking over leadership from uncle
         (2) Fear?
         (3) Jealousy?
         (4) Change of plans?
(5) Any need to preach to Gentiles?
(6) Homesick - want Momma.
(d) Redeemed self.
2 Tim. 4:11 "Only Luke is with me. Take Mark and br
4. They go from Perga to Antioch.
(a) Paul sick.
Gal. 4:13 "Ye know how through infirmity of the flesh
b.) Ramsey said had malaria & wouldn't stay in low
c.) Antioch 3600' above sea level.
d.) Climb across Taurus range - most dangerous rd.
e.) 100 miles to Galatia area.
f.) Heroism on sick Paul's part. He never thot of
turning back.
g.) Antioch imp. military & adm. centre.
C. On arrival.
1. Went to synagogue on Sabbath.
2. Sat down.
3. Read law & prophets.
4. Any word of exhortation (sermon after the reading
"Say on, Brethren.")
II. Something we believe vital to say on to you brethren:
A. Let's Press On.
1. We must not quit, falter, or slacken pace.
2. We must not be discouraged.
B. Things arise to distress.
1. Anxiety.
a.) Carrie Ten Boom poem on Anxiety.
b.) We worry, fret & take pills, yet no Dr. has cure
   for worry.
c.) Do we worry about—
(1) Things we can change?
(2) Things we can't?—then why worry?

4.) Overcome self pity in service to others.
(1) "If you are unhappy at your lot in life, build a service station on it."
(2) "I complained I had no shoes, then I saw a man who had no legs—I stopped complaining."
(3) Poem "Slow Me Down".

2. Worry.
Phil. 4:6-7 "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing pray and make supplication with thanksgiving unto God."

a.) To worry is a deep seated distrust of God.

b.) He watches the sparrow fall— if he made your body, he can put clothes on your back!

(c.) Commanded "Fear not."
"Word of God has no suggestions, only commandments."

Lu. 8:14 "And that which fell among thorns are they, of which the world caught them, and the Devil spoiled them."

d.) Yesterday He helped me.
Today He did the same.
How long will this continue?
Forever, praise His name.

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

Neh. 8:10 "Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy unto the Lord."
4. Frustration.
   a.) We forever blame others.
   b.) So much to do - yet 1 trick at a time - see clock story.

C. How will we meet?
   1. Regular worship - they to synagogue on Sabbath.
   2. Love word.

Rev. 8:3-4 "And another angel came & stood at the altar of Pray.
   a.) So precious they are preserved.
   b.) Not lost - kept in Heaven.
   c.) Susanna Wesley story.
   d.) Devil smiles when we plan
       Devil laughs when we are busy
       Devil trembles when we pray.
   e.) Poem "We Mutter."
   f.) Do we trust God for eternal safety, but not for today's? 17000 promises in Bible!
   g.) Do we try to hurry God?
   h.) Camels kneel before Master to remove his burden.
   i.) Ask forgiveness.

Isa. 44:22 "I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy t
Ps. 103:12 "As far as the east is from the west, so far (God puts up No Fishing sign) Micah 7:19
4. Let's let others see reality in us!

Lloyd - Jones Clip.

Sent End 12-31-78

Morgan & Jones, Bartsville, Okla., 1-24-79
Plainview, Tex. 1-30-79
Prescription for Anxiety

Why should I feel discouraged, Why should the shadows come,
Why should my heart be lonely And long for Heav'n and home,
When Jesus is my portion? My constant Friend is He:
His eye is on the sparrow, And I know He watches me.

"Let not your heart be troubled," His tender word I hear,
And resting on His goodness, I lose my doubts and fear;
Tho' by the path He leadeth But one step I may see:
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

Whenever I am tempted, Whenever clouds arise,
When songs give place to sighing, When hope within me dies,
I draw the closer to Him, From care He sets me free;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He cares for me.

MRS. C. D. MARTIN
Slow me down, Lord,
I am going too fast,
I can't see my brother,
When he is going past.

I miss a lot of good things
Day by day,
I can't see a blessing
When it comes my way.

Why, therefore should we do ourselves this wrong,
Or others—that we are not always strong,
That we are ever overcome with care,
That we should ever weak and heartless be,
Anxious or troubled, when with us is prayer,
And joy and strength and courage are with Thee.

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

We imagine that a little anxiety and worry are indications of how wise we are. We think we see the dangers of life clearly. In reality, however, our fears are only an indication of how wicked we really are.

As Charles G. Trumbull says:

Worry is sin; a black, murderous, God-defying, Christ-rejecting sin; worry about anything, at any time whatever. We will never know victory over worry and anxiety until we begin to treat it as sin. For such it is. It is a deep-seated distrust of the Father, who assures us again and again that even the falling sparrow is in His tender care.
We mutter, we sputter—
We fume and we spurt.
We mumble and grumble—
Our feelings get hurt.
We can’t understand things—
Our vision gets dim,
When all that we need—
Is a moment with Him.

To pray only when in peril is to use safety belts only in heavy traffic.

Fear knocked at the door.
Faith answered
No one was there.

Men as Trees Walking

In his book *Spiritual Depression, Its Causes and Cure*, Dr. D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones wrote about the great importance of living as rich as we are in Jesus Christ.

If all Christians simply began to function as the New Testament would have us do, there would be no problem of evangelism. It is because we are failing as Christian people in our daily lives and witness that the Church counts for so little and so few are attracted to God. So for that most urgent reason alone, it behoves us to deal with this question.
6 Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.
7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

10 Therefore David blessed the Lord before all the congregation: and David said, Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, the rock of my salvation.
11 Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all. (Ps. 110:1)
12 Both riches and honor come from thee, and thou reignest over all: and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.
13 Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.

14 And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.

10 Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the Lord is your strength.

22 I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee.

3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.
4 And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.
Pray Alone and Together

Prayer is the sturdy answer to worry. I urge you to find a place where you can be alone with the Lord. Let it be your own little private prayer chapel.

I understand that Susanna Wesley, mother of Charles Wesley, had her own little private prayer closet. When things got bad in the Wesley household—the children screaming, money scarce, the roof leaking—she would reach down and grab the hem of her long shirt. Separating it from the many long petticoats women wore in those days, she would pull the outer skirt up over her head and close herself in. There she would meet the Lord and commune with Him, returning to her hectic world refreshed and revived.

Prayer should be informal and to the point: conversations with God, so to speak. Nice words do not count. Be definite. If you have a nervous tummy, do not ask the Lord to take it away. Rather, confess where you got it and ask Him to shut the door on the source of your worry.

Pray specific prayers. God does not give stones for bread. If you ask for specific things, you will receive specific answers. Most of us receive not because we ask not, or if we do ask, we ask amiss.

Go to God the same way you would go to your father or mother. Tell Him about your worries. Tell Him you are a sinner because you are anxious and nervous. Be
clocks were busy ticking away the noisy seconds next to the young clock.

"Well," said one of the clocks to the newcomer, "so you have started out in life. I am sorry for you. If you'll just think ahead and see how many ticks it takes to tick through one year, you will never make it. It would have been better had the maker never wound you up and set your pendulum swinging."

"Dear me," said the new clock. "I never thought about how many ticks I have to tick in a year."

"Well, you'd better think about it," the old clock said.

So the new clock began to count up the ticks. "Each second requires 2 ticks, which means 120 ticks per minute," he calculated. "That's 7,200 ticks per hour; 172,800 ticks per day; 1,209,600 ticks per week for 52 weeks, which makes a total of 62,899,200 ticks per year. Horrors!" The clock immediately had a nervous breakdown and stopped ticking.

The clock on the other side, who had kept silent during the conversation, now spoke up. "You silly thing! Why do you listen to such words? That old grandfather clock has been unhappy for years. Nobody will buy him, and he just sits around the shop gathering dust. Since he is so unhappy, he tries to make everyone else unhappy, too."

"But," the new clock gasped, "he's right. I've got to tick almost sixty-three million ticks in a year. And they told me I might have to stay on the job for more than one hundred years. Do you know how many ticks that is? That's six billion, two hundred million ticks. I'll never make it!"

"How many ticks do you have to tick at a time?" the wise old clock asked.
"Why, only one, I guess," the new clock answered.
"There, now. That's not so hard, is it? Try it along with me. Tick, tock, tick, tock. See how easy it is? Just one tick at a time."

A light of understanding formed on the face of the clock, and he said, "I believe I can do it. Here I go." He began ticking again.

"One more thing," the wise old clock said. "Don't ever think about the next tick until you have your last tick ticked."

I understand that was seventy-five years ago, and the clock is still ticking perfectly, one tick at a time.

No man sinks under the burden of the day. It is only when yesterday's guilt is added to tomorrow's anxiety that our legs buckle and our backs break. It is delightfully easy to live one day at a time!
HE GAVE UNTO THEM JUDGES
Acts 13:17-20

I. May I borrow the language of Paul in his famous Antioch in Pisidia speech. Acts 17:20 "God gave to them judges"
A. This is my assignment to discuss.
B. Not all of the Judges but some we'll study.
C. I'll call 5 honest men to help me: who, what, when, where and how.
   1. It's been called the least studied section of the Scriptures--let's remedy that.
   2. Even from a neglected garden we'll see flowers of heavenly beauty and fragrance come forth as we move to our study of the period of Judges.

II. Let's call our "Teachers."
A. 1st Brother "Who."
   1. Era ends with Joshua's call of all tribes, elders, heads, judges, officers (Joshua 24:1).
   2. 3X they said "The Lord our God will we serve, and His voice will we obey."

   3. How quickly did they forget.
   4. Joshua left no successor.
   5. 12 folk of record called: both men and women--Othniel to Samuel.
   6. Duty to drive out others in the promised land.
      a) Didn't do it.
      b) Lived with them (Judges 2:11-19)
      c) Compromised
d) Bochim (Judges 2:4)
e) Friendship with the world is adultery.

   a) Leaders— not afraid of fall of man.
   b) God sent
   c) Administrators
   d) Commissioned for special work.
   e) No defined order of succession.
   f) Chosen not by popular vote, succession, heredity, influence.
   g) To keep alive a nation devoted to God through whom Christ came.
   h) Repelled invader, restored peace.
   i) Fought idolatry and softness
   j) Delivered folk

Judges 2:18

B. Brother "What"
   1. Gave leadership in fighting.
   2. Their appointment shows the sovereignty of God.
   3. Like a King without regal state or title.
   4. Not a period of incessant war--frequent intervals of peace.
   5. By and large the nation was moving upward.
   6. People must learn to keep the commandments of God.
   7. God became my adversary.
C. Our 3rd witness is "When."
1. Between death of Joshua and the
   anointing of Saul the 1st King.
2. We do not know how long it took
to enter corruption after death
   of Joshua.
3. Are you surprised today with the
   rapidity of change?
4. You have a period of about 400
   years to cope with.
5. At various intervals the judges
came--the express purpose to keep
   nation faithful to God.
6. We share an indebtedness and
   respect for these courageous men
   and women.
7. If this period was 450 years it
   is estimated 377 of these years
   were in peace.

D. Fourthly, let's hear from observer
"Where."
1. It is not certain that every judge
   ruled the entire land of Canaan.
2. We see various fortune, affliction
   and deliverances.
3. Nation repeatedly forgot covenant.
4. This fight moved hither and yon
   on the map.
5. No King in Israel, every man did
   what was right in his own eyes.
6. Began to imitate heathen ways.
7. Made leagues with Canaanite and
did not overcome them.
E. Lastly we look at "How" with the idea of its speaking to our today's needs.

1. We find scary words, such as "wood dwell"—changed worship style.
   a) Intimates Israel and Canaan want to agreeably co-exist. 
   b) Can we take the world and its ways into our camp and please God?
   c) Could stay if paid tribute.
   d) Are some too prominent to be converted = morals, marriage, money, prominence?
   e) Gold of Canaan made way for idols of Canaan—Ephraim is joined to his idols, let him alone (Hosea 4:17).
   f) Abundance, luxury—lovely! but dangerous.
   g) The more tribute paid less likely to move them.

2. Do others have the oracles of God?

3. Do we have a cause worth fighting for?


5. Did unbelief, heresy and worldliness remain?

6. Bochim "ye have not obeyed, why have ye done this?" (Judges 2:2) vs Gilgal.
7. Read 1 Peter 1:9 section.

8. Lessons learned:
   a) How quickly error can come
   b) How innocently it approaches—ever show the doors of friendship
   c) How effective a deed can be—upset ridiculed by sweeping back the tile of inauthentic music
   d) How richly God can enfold—few bone often as
   e) How diverse are the methods God uses—Saul becomes meek, no battle, no confederate
   f) How bloody the battle
   g) How victorious can be the peoples of God!
A STOLEN SERMON
Acts 13:14-41

1. Most of what all of us do finds us relying on
others to help us grasp - and we pass along the
contributions to our lives.
A. From all of you I've learned much.
B. Today I bodily lift a sermon & thus call it a
stolen one.
C. You need to know a bit of the background.
   1. Paul's 1st recorded speech in Acts.
   2. Oster points out earlier mention is made
      of the power of Paul's preaching (9:20-22)
      now we see an example of it.
   3. Further, it's the 1st recorded presentation
      of the gospel to the Roman world - (have
      we changed much in needs?) - it went to
      Jew & Gentile.
   4. We see Paul move into the leadership role -
      Barnabas & Paul to Paul & "Those around
      Paul".
   5. It lets you see how the ancient synagogue
      conducted their services.
      a) No definite minister assigned.
      b) Synagogue functions not assigned to any
         special class.
      c) Any Israelite in good standing could
         participate.
      d. 3 parts of service.
         (1) Cite Shema
         (2) Read Scrp. - 1st law then prophets.
         (3) Exhortation or exposition.
e) Luke 4:16 only other synagogue account.

D. The sermon itself.
1. Paul gave it a title "Words of Salvation".
2. 3 divisions.
   a) Historical background.
      Christ Predicted (14:22). Paul had no N.T. can't outline the usefulness of the past.
   b) Proof that Jesus is the Deliverer.
   c) Appeal coupled with a warning against rejecting Jesus.
      Christ Proclaimed - Forgiveness, warning, justification.
3. 3 parts separated by "men of Israel" - verses 16, 26, 38.
4. Paul kept in mind the special character of his audience.

II. The Sermon
A. The Salutation - Men of Israel & Ye That Fear God.
1. Uniformly Paul went 1st to the Jews.
2. Paul went to bema to do this.

B. The History (sounds like Stephen's speech)
1. Became a nation in Egypt.
2. Compliments Israel on their long association with God.
3. Chose Israel to bless all families of the world.

Gen. 12:3 "I will bless them that bless thee & curse"

4. Brought out with high arm - showing his irresistible power.

5. Jews had a great history & proud of it.
   Cite it & you are praised; be indifferent and you incur wrath.

6. Wilderness - 40 years.
   a) Note patience of God.
   b) Change one letter and it's "bore as a nursing father".
   c) God put up with their childish willfulness and waywardness. (Rackham).

7. Destroyed 7 nations in Canaan & gave land by lots. 3,500 yrs from now

8. Judges - 450 years.
   a) Period covered by this not clear 1 Kings 6 - 480 years. 240 yrs off?
   b) Count time oddly - Nazarite lost time if did not comply with law. (Coffman)

Nu. 6:12

   c) Critics have had fun.


10. King Saul - as rejected God.

11. He was of Benjamin - so was Paul!

12. David next.

Ps. 89:19 I have exalted one chosen out of my people - I have found David!
C. The Christ comes of David.
1. Of David's seed a Savior.
2. We'll see:
   a) John's testimony.
   b) Prophesy fulfilled.
   c) Resurrection - final proof.
3. Jesus Savior, King, Son of God.
   a) All accepted John as a prophet.
   b) Baptism of repentance to all the people.
      "Coming" - entering in.
   c) Course = runner! race.
5. To you is word of Salvation sent, (v-26) - all included.
6. Christianity is not taking the best out of paganism. It is not a readaptation of Judaism. It is not even a complication of men's best thoughts. It is something new - it is a new revelation. (Laurin)
   a) Emphasis on power of Scripture.
   b) Rejection of Christ is life's greatest crime.
   c) Cross called tree.
   d) Sepulchre shows he's dead - death a reality.
8. "Glad tidings" "Promises" "Fulfilled" "Resurrection".
   a) God reversed the sentence of man (Bruce)
   b) Promise demanded a resurrection.
9. Resurrection
   a) Majority of speech majors here.
   b) All Paul says leads to Jesus.
   c) Completely fulfilled.

Isa. 55
Ps. 2

   d) Begotten - not to birth but resurrection.
   e) No corruption.

Ps. 16:10

   f) Holy things are made sure.

D. Christ's Purpose = Forgiveness & Justification.
1. Forgiveness
   a) His primary purpose.
   b) Moses law could not.
   c) Good things promised Jew & Gentile through Jesus.
   d) No gift so great as forgiveness.
   e) Free offer of gospel without distinction of person - Jew & Gentile equal.

2. Must believe - synechoidal term.
3. Justified
   a) By faith.
   b) In Christ - 169 X in Paul's writings.
   c) Justification = acquitted.
   d) Not under law could it come.

Heb. 10:1-2

   e) Absolve from all offense.
   f) Regard as righteous by merit of Jesus.
E. Warning & Appeal – Offer Invitation.

1. Beware
   a) Warns against scoffers & those that never believe.
   b) Jews wouldn't like this, audience attitude will change but truth must be preached.
   c) Despiser = look down upon.
   d) End sermon with offer & warning.
   e) You can accept or reject.

2. Prophets spoke.

Hab. 1:1-5

   a) Not all will obey.
   b) All must be told though of judgement.
      (1) Amazement.
      (2) Destruction.
      (3) Tremendously big.

3. They rejected in face of full proof.

4. Speech calls for action on part of hearers.

West End - 3/30/86
At a 3 o'clock news broadcast over WSM radio Monday, March 24th, John Malone was reporting the work of some outstanding doctor. He made the statement that asthma could be a very dangerous thing for a child because it could shut off the breathing completely. Then Mr. Malone said, "Dr.---- warned parents that if their children stopped breathing for any unusual period of time they should give them special attention." I'd think!!!
faith of its time; it would continue to be so, he asserted, by constantly reforming and purifying itself, by abandoning outworn ideas and practices in the name of ever higher ideals. To Kohler, revelation is thus progressive and not bound even by the event on Sinai.

... The election of Israel cannot be regarded as a single divine act, concluded at one moment of revelation, or even during the Biblical period. It must instead be considered a divine call persisting through all ages and encompassing all lands, a continuous activity of the spirit which has ever summoned for itself new heralds and heroes to testify to truth, justice and sublime faith, with an unparalleled scorn for death, and to work for their dissemination by words and deeds and by their whole life. Judaism differs from all other religions in that it is neither the creation of one great moral teacher and preacher of truth, nor seeks to typify the moral and spiritual sublimity which it aims to develop in a single person, who is then lifted up into the realm of the superhuman. Judaism counts its prophets, its sages and its martyrs by generations; it is still demonstrating its power to reshape and regenerate religion as a vital force. Moreover, Judaism does not separate religion from life, so as to regard only a segment of the common life and the national existence as holy. The entire people, the entire life, must bear the stamp of holiness and be filled with priestly consecration. Whether this lofty aim can ever be completely attained is a question not to be decided by short sighted humanity, but only by God, the Ruler of history. It is sufficient that the life of the individual as well as that of the people should aspire toward this ideal.

Of course, the election of Israel presupposes an inner calling, a special capacity of soul and tendency of intellect which fit it for the divine task. The people which has given mankind its greatest prophets and psalmists, its boldest thinkers and its noblest martyrs, which has brought to fruition the three great world-religions, the Church, the Mosque and—mother of them both—the Synagogue, must be the religious people par excellence. It must have within itself enough of
the heavenly spark of truth and of the impetus of the religious genius as to be able and eager, whenever and wherever the opportunity is favorable, to direct the spiritual flight of humanity toward the highest and holiest.

Mordecai Kaplan (born in 1881) is the leader of American Jewish religious naturalism, i.e. of a version of religion without revelation. "God" is the term man uses for the sum of his highest ideals. Obviously there can be no "chosen people," in such a system. Even here, in the boldest anticlassicist among modern Jewish theologians, one can perceive a re-echo of one part—but only one part—of the teaching of Amos, that the Jews are no better than the Ethiopians. But Amos also believed that they were in covenant with the living God who had chosen them to do and to suffer more than others.

The apologists for the doctrine of Israel's election do not take the trouble to think through to a conclusion the role of religion in human civilization. Formerly the adherents of all the traditional religions of the Western world maintained that religion was supernaturally revealed truth. That such truth was transmitted only by one's own people was sufficient evidence that only one's own people had been chosen. Since it was assumed that salvation could be achieved only through revealed truth, the possession of that truth imposed the obligation to convey it to others and to induct them into one's own "chosen" community by way of conversion.

But when one abandons the idea of supernatural revelation, what becomes of religion? If religious truth is independent of any historic self-revelation of God to a particular people, then it is no different from scientific truth in being accessible to and attainable by all mankind. Indeed, one of the main criteria of truth is its universal applicability to and conformity with universal reason.

A religion is the organized quest of a people for salvation, for helping those who live by the civilization of that people to
THE SECOND SABBATH

Acts 13:44-52

I. When I was a boy the fourth Sunday was special.
   A. Locust Grove had preaching.
   B. We awaited his coming and fourth Sunday was special.

II. When I went to Lipscomb I saw the giants have a Sunday circuit.
   A. H. Leo Boles
   B. S.D. Pittman
   C. S.C. Boyce
   D. Days before located preachers.
      1. L.S. White first one in California.
      2. Church houses had no telephones.

III. With our story— it’s the second Sabbath.

Acts 13:44 on

A. Come to Antioch of Pisidia.
   1. Much travel to get there.
      a) Paphos of Cyprus sail to Perga.
      b) Mark leaves them.
      c) Cross dangerous mountains.
      d) Hackett quote.
      e) Then to Antioch.

B. First Sabbath
   1. Synagogue visit as Christian.
   2. Paul and Barnabas speak.
3. They were not observing the law but reaching a crowd.
4. Followed customs of Jews first.
5. Long sermons, convincing them Jesus is Christ.
6. Request for more words next Sabbath.

IV. More on Second Sabbath
A. Great crowds, "almost the whole city was gathered together to hear the Word of God."
   1. Outdoor meeting?
   2. Paul one place, Barnabas another?
   3. Crowd resented via size--filled with jealousy.
   4. Argument failed so blasphemy employed.
   5. Same method used today if can't meet the truth--say mean things.

Rom. 1:16

7. No distinction between Jews and Gentiles.
8. Yet if go to Gentiles first, turn off the Jews. "It was necessary that the word of God should first be spoken to you." (V-46)
9. Jews turned from salvation offered them--"thrust it from you."
10. Do people today detest truth?
Isa. 69:6

B. Gentiles welcomed the truth (V-48), were glad.
   1. Praised God because they were included.
   2. The "ordained believed"—what does that mean?
   3. Is it a specified individual?
   4. An irresistible blessing?

Matt. 5:6 "Blessed are they that hunger and thirst..."

Isa. 66:2 "To this man will I look, even to him..."

5. Is the will of the individual involved?
6. Must he exercise an interest?
7. Others interested.

Acts 13:13

Isa. 49:6 (Called Great Commission of O.T.)


C. Devout women get the picture (V-50).

1. Gentiles heard prophesy that they were included.
2. Rejoiced and obeyed.
   a) Wives of rulers?
   b) Prominent folk.
   c) Women of infludence.
   d) Today women of power & wealth.
e) They know prominent folk.
f) Joined with chief men and opposed Paul—"stirred up with persecution."
g) Cast out of city.

4. How does the gospel come to your heart?
   a) Great diversity of sentiment: hear vs. reject.
      1) When Jesus preached "some said he was a good man—
         nay he deceiveth the people."
      2) Apostles, "the multitude was divided, part held with Jews,
   b) Jews rejected gospel—set against it, violent, contradict
      as false, blasphemy, with inveteracy, put it away, unworthy
      of life.

D. Reaction of Paul and Barnabas

V-51 "But they shook off the dust."
   1. They left for Iconium, 45 miles southwest.
   2. Disciples left behind full of joy and Holy Spirit.
   3. Luke using bold and courage is like "certain."
5. Jews rejected their priority.
6. Note he uses Scripture as the last word.

E. Galatians 3:26-29
1. Through faith becomes son.
2. Achieved via baptism.
3. Middle wall gone.
4. Created of two, one new man.

Acts 13:32-33 "And we bring you good..."
5. All seed of Abraham.

F. Will you accept or reject?
EXPECTED EXPERIENCES IN PREACHING
Acts 13:48-52

I. To preach, is to have at least 5 experiences. To avoid them is not to preach.

II. Acts 13:48-52 is 5 verses and each verse cites one of the 5 experiences that comes to every preacher of the gospel. We'd like 5 "P" words to cite these experiences: Promoting, Publish, Persecute, Protest, Participate.

A. Preaching is Promoting.
Acts 13:48 "And when the Gentiles heard this, they w 1. This involves who & where.

   a.) They went to Jews 1st.
   b.) They went as a team - in both utterances both men took part. V. 46
   c.) Ones you go to first may not receive you. Note this about the Jews (their own people).
      (1) Saw multitude - fill c envy (45).
      (2) Contradicted sermon (45).
      (3) Blasphemed (V. 45).
      (4) Judged self unworthy of eternal life (V. 46).
   d.) Others will receive. Note this about Gentiles.
      (1) Glad (48).
      (2) Glorified word (48).
      (3) Believed (48).
      (4) Ordained to eternal life (48).
   e.) Note what Paul & Barnabas said - Read verses 46 & 47 Quotation of Isa. 49:6.

2. "Ordained to eternal life believed" statement.
   a.) Word's generic = set in order, dispose.
   b.) Never used for foreordained.
c.) Thus not speaking of an external decree involving a certain number.
d.) Rather it speaks of the word being placed, positioned, disposed - (DeWelt).
e.) It's an action performed by one's self on one's self - you are still responsible.
f.) McCarey explains it like this:
   (1) Was it absolute - did all the ordained believe that day & all who didn't couldn't?
   (2) Sometimes we don't know what to think - then we grasp truth & reach conclusions - this "sets in order."
   (3) Determined (ordained) & believing are cause & effect; antecedent & consequence. Determined is passive voice, past tense, mental state just earlier bro't about.
   (4) One hears eternal life is available, made up his mind to have it; accepts way to get it.
g.) God's ordained the scheme of redemption.
h.) Same sun hardens brick & melts butter.
i.) Observations:
   a.) Self neglect is a great sin.
   b.) Opportunity comes to those who are ready for it
   c.) Take away word & you take away prospects of eternal life.
3. Decide where & with whom you can be most effective.
   a.) Robt. Frost Card #1.
   b.) Henry Card #2.
B. Preaching is Publishing.
V. 49 "And the word of the Lord was published thru
1. Went everywhere - city & country.
2. Went c the same thing - the word, not American
culture.
3. Those who have received word have an obligation
to carry it to others.
4. There is an emergency and urging in the carrying.
5. "Whirl is in the Saddle" Card #3.
7. South Pacific Bible story #7.
8. No man's an Island Card #8.
C. Preaching brings Persecution.
V. 50 "But the Jews stired up the devout and hono
1. Jews usually caused the trouble.
2. They manipulated powerful women & chief men.
3. Favorable impression of Paul's 1st sermon didn't
last long c the Jews.
4. Jews had no political power in their own hands,
so must maneuver it.
5. Couldn't stop Gentiles from obeying but could
make it too hot for the missionaries to stay.
6. Women got into the act.
   a.) Women can help or hinder.
   b.) How can she be devout & do devil's work?
7. But remember persecution usually leads to more
preaching.
8. We may expect some disappointments - from those
you've helped the most!
9. T. Roosevelt, "Things that will destroy Am. are
   prosperity at any price; safety 1st instead of duty
   1st,
love of soft living, & get-rich-quick theory of life.

10. Pastor X Cards #9-12.
D. Preaching Demands Protest.
  V. 51 "But they shook off the dust of their feet aga
1. This was a gesture taught them by Christ.
Luke 9:5 "Whosoever will not rec. you, when ye go o
Luke 10:11 "Even the very dust of your city, which ch
2. Not an act of anger, but rather identification -
   shows the man to be a heathen.
3. It is a judgement.
4. Man does not refuse gospel w/o consequences.
5. Preachers clear self of further obligation.
Matt. 13:58 "And he did not many mighty works there
6. Set forth faithfully the good news & you get a
   response - Yes or No!
F. Finally Preaching is Participation.
  V. 52 "And the disciples were filled with joy, and
1. They were not discouraged.
2. Fruit of the Spirit - Joy.
3. We grow to the capacity to stand alone & to
   edify one another.
4. Nothing stopped their joy:
   a.) Personal faith.
   b.) Gospel is spread.
   c.) I have the presence of the Holy Spirit.

CCC James Baird's Bible Class 10-9-78
West End 10-15-78
No one has portrayed this state of mind better than Robert Frost in his poem "The Road Not Taken". I once heard him read it, in his resonant, slightly rasping voice, and I never forgot him or what his poem conveyed.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I--
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

From Dr. Carl A. L. Binger of the Harvard Medical School

He did not, of course, create automatons, although He might have made instruments which look like human beings and which, every fifteen minutes, would bow down and chant the doxology. But instead, He willed to create moral beings, for whom the doing of the good would involve a moral choice.

"Answers for the Now Generation" - By Carl F. H. Henry
"WHIRL IS IN THE SADDLE and rides mankind."

The phrase suggests that the only constant feature of our world is change. Understandably, religion in general and Christianity in particular has not been immune from the efforts of men and the impact of events to make changes.

"Let's Take Another Look" - By David A. MacLennan

Page 83

This could be a parable of much of the Church in our time. Frightened by the prospect of becoming involved in the changing tides and pressures of everyday life, the Church has too often hollowed out its own cave where it could remain untouched by the world, setting up its own rules of conduct, ethic, and style of life. To become enmeshed in the problems and stresses of culture, politics, economics, and changing morality has seemed a sure way for the Church to lose its purity and possibly its very identity.

"The Emerging Church" - By Bruce Larson and Ralph Osborne

Page 103
During World War II, a member of our armed forces on an island in the South Pacific saw a native reading a copy of the Bible. The GI said to him: "Do you bother with that book here? We've gotten over that." The islander responded quietly, "Maybe you have outgrown it, but you should be thankful that the Bible got here and that we do read it and try to live by it. If it had not been given to us, you would have been boiled alive and eaten by now."

"Let's Take Another Look" - By David A. MacLennan
Page 37

No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friends or of thine own were; any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.

"No Man is An Island" - By John Donne
He is in the way most of the time, especially when his presence is not expected. The mad shuffle to hide the highball glasses and other indications of lighter moments is a scene of mass confusion if it is observed that the pastor is ringing the doorbell. He is really thought of as an intruder where most men are concerned, yet he is needed to bring moral guidance to the children and to aid the old folks in distress. As far as the mainstream of living is concerned, he is unwelcome and unwanted.

"How to Murder a Minister" - By Pastor X - Page 24

He knows that the people will soon tire of him and as he looks at his older pastor friends he realizes that the average pastor starts downhill at about the same age the professional man in any other occupation begins to enjoy the fruits of his labors.

"How to Murder a Minister" - By Pastor X - Page 32
As pastors, we do actually live in what has been called a "goldfish bowl" world. The sad thing about most fish in a bowl is that they either go around in a circle or dart aimlessly, never cutting the same path twice. They jump at every finger that touches the bowl, or what is worse, follow the moving fingers around the bowl. One of the strangest things a fish in a bowl will do is back away in seeming fear of a menacing hand. The tremendous sense of insecurity of many pastors is heartrending as they look with fear at the fingers on the bowl.

"How to Murder a Minister" - By Pastor X - Pages 8-9

Noodles have no individuality. They have to be mixed with chicken or soup--nobody eats a plain bowl of noodles. We have a lot of spineless noodle Christians these days. I'd hate to be a noodle!

"Seasonings" - By Vance Havner - Page 96
Cod hath not made a week without a Sabbath; no tentation, without an issue; God inflicts no calamity, no cloud, no eclipse, without light, to see ease in it, if the patient will look upon that which God hath done to him, in other cases, or to that which God hath done to others, at other times. Saul fell to the ground, but he fell no lower; God brings us to humiliation, but not to desperation.

"No Man is An Island" - By John Donne

It has been said that Patrick Henry asked, "Give me liberty or give me death," but modern Americans simply say, "Gimme." Certainly in this day of the welfare state Uncle Sam has become our Santa Claus. Christians make a Santa Claus of God and praying is usually a long list of "gimmes" longer than a small boy draws up before Christmas. How few can say:

Once earthly joy I craved,
Sought peace and rest;
Now Thee alone I seek,
Give what is best.

In a Roman jail an old preacher wrote to his son in the Gospel to bring ". . . (my) cloke and . . . parch-ments" (2 Timothy 4:13). He had no stocks except those
around his feet and no bonds except those he wore on his wrists. All he wanted in life was to know Jesus Christ, the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings. God was not merely his Rewarder, God was his Reward.

Paul had gotten over the gimmies!

"Seasonings" - By Vance Havner - Pages 66-67
THE GOSPEL'S STILL SUCCESSFUL
Acts 13:49-52

I. One of the joys of childhood was to crawl into Dad's lap and hear him tell about "when he was a boy."
A. Yesteryear's contrast thrill us.
B. We see their excellency or else their deprivation.
C. We sometimes wonder why they had the excitement & we have "dullsville."

II. We transpose this to the church.
A. They had the growth.
B. They had the crowds.
C. They broke the new ground.
D. This I admit--but so do we!
   1. Purpose is to see one phase of mission work then.
   2. And the open door now.

III. Go back with me to Antioch of Pisidia--Acts 13:49-52.
A. Barnabas & Paul have hit a home run, after a great sermon.
   1. Synagogue encounter.
      a) Jews leave.
      b) Gentiles (contested word--may be without foundation, v-42) ask beseechingly for another hearing next Sat.
      (Shero story - #1)
      (1) Hungry for truth.
      (2) Every man either a mission or a mission field.
      c) Jews & proselytes follow P & B who "persuade them to continue in the grace of God." (v-43)
2. One week later.

a) Whole city gathered to hear "the word of God."
   (1) Calhoun at Central.
   (2) Hardeman tabernacle.

b) Jews saw multitude, envy, contradicted & blasphemed.
   (1) Violent language betrays.
   (2) Insulted name of Jesus.
       (Tell Stephenville baptism story - #2).

c) P & B waxed bold.
   (1) Message direct.
   (2) Ultimate destiny--life or death.
   (3) 2 camps--followers or rejectors.
   (4) Preach word--grasp it--put from you "ye judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life."
       (v-46)
   (5) Opposition brings out the best that's in the best.

d) Turn to Gentiles
   (1) Most dramatic moment in Acts for us!
   (2) "Salvation to the ends of the earth."

e) Reaction
   (1) Glad
   (2) Glorified the word of the Lord (used only here).
   (3) Ordained--believers appointed to eternal life--Greatest Gift.
   (4) Free to obey gospel tho not a Jew.
(5) Those who do believe show they are enrolled in God's book.

IV. The End Results
A. "Word of the Lord was published through-out all the region" (v-49).
   1. New believers made possible the discrimination of the Word.
   2. Continual diffusion of the gospel.
   3. Current Romania report #3.
B. Jews Stirred
   1. Medical term--used 3X to "stimulate."
   2. Tho rejected by them Paul always went to the Jews first.
      a) "Began at Jerusalem."
      b) Shows grace & compassion.
      c) Also tragedy of lost opportunity-- as for us!
      d) They had 1st shot--were eye-witnesses of Christianity's beginning.
      e) "Man is not what he says he is, or what others think he is, but is what his conduct is." Thomas
   3. Stirred--why?
      a) Envy--wanted still to be the only one. (White tape to me #4)
      b) "If men are still running their own lives a confrontation with the truth makes them angry." (E. Price)
      c) Jealous for themselves.
d) Guy 40 rows in stands, yells because a 17 year old can't catch another 17 year old's pass 40 feet away, then goes to the parking lot & can't find his own car. (Wake Forrest Coach)

4. Used Honorable Women
a) Women of high social rank are powerful--card on women #5.

b) Ladies of Aristocracy--Mr. Moore, you weren't born here?

c) Honorable in sense of social rank only.

d) False teachers try to get effective women to do what's wrong.

e) Worshippers can be wrong.

5. And Chief Men
a) Gov. officials employed in opposition.

b) Secret influence & public authority to oppose and drive missionaries out.

c) "1st Men"--Duumviri--the 1st ten.

d) Religious devotion & selfish interest combine.

e) Zeal can be great but judgement wrong.

6. Persecuted & Expelled.

a) Was Paul here beaten with rods?

2 Tim. 3:11 Persecutations come to me at Antioch

2 Cor. 11:24-25 5x 40 strips, 3x rods

b) Truth offends--Funeral Sermon#6
5. c) No institution will stop the work of God—no one man indispensable to it.
   d) What vexes us, what do we feel pressured to do?

V. Apostles Action.

A. Shook off dust.
   1. Shows contempt for opponents.
   3. "My spirit shall not always strive with man" (Gen. 6:3).
   4. Truth both antagonizes & converts.

B. Came to Iconium.
   1. 85 miles.
   2. Another opportunity—didn't quit.

C. Disciples left behind.
   1. Filled with Joy & Holy Ghost.
      a) Rejoiced even in suffering.
      b) Lord said this would happen thus on right track.
      c) Further shows He's always right.
      e) Joy knew no bounds.
      f) Imperfect tense—continued to be filled in spite of teachers leaving them—they were tied to Jesus not Paul.

D. Our task—keep telling the story!
   1. God gives the success.
   2. Effects of persecution contrary to what enemies expected.

Walnut St., Dickson, TN - 3/11/90
Clarksville Hwy., Joelton, TN - 3/18/90
Once there was a class of first graders. The teacher brought a rabbit to class. The children had a grand time feeding and watching the rabbit. One day one of the children asked, "Is this a boy rabbit or a girl rabbit?"

The teacher said she didn't know. One little boy said he knew how they could find out.

"All right, Johnny. How can we find out?"

"We can vote!" Johnny said.

Democracy is a wonderful thing, but it has little to do with establishing truth. Jesus said the way of life is narrow. Truth is always narrow. But it is always true. Facts are stubborn things. One million people can believe a lie and it is still a lie. Ten million people can believe a stupid thing and it is still a stupid thing. But truth is still true.

All around us we hear many conflicting voices. We are pulled this way and that...but truth is still true.

Churchill said, "The truth is incontrovertible. Panic may resent it; ignorance may deride it; malice may distort it, but there it is."

And our Lord said, "You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

---Paul

"God has ordained all people willing to obey him to eternal life, and to such he sends the gospel, that they may believe it." D.N.
Two young men were to be hanged at Stephenville in the Mecklenburg County. Word had been sent to Mother, "These two are to be executed," The object did not mean to test.

"Why are they hanged?"

The grandmother didn't know and answered, "To keep Jesus."

The little 4 yr. old, "This doesn't make any sense!"
LETTERS FROM ROMANIA

On February 1, 1990 Bill McDonough, Director of Partners In Progress, visited the editor of ROMANIA LIBERA (Romania Free Press) in Bucharest, Romania and inquired concerning advertising a free correspondence course in his paper. The editor not only allowed this ad to be placed but agreed to run the ad free of charge since the course was offered free. The advertisement ran the next day.

When the Editor inquired as to the expected response from such advertising McDonough explained that in the nations of Nepal, Suriname and Rawanda where he had placed similar ads the response had been several hundred to one thousand. The Editor told McDonough to anticipate several thousand responses from the Romanian ad.

The first week's mail has proven that the Editor knew his readership. Two thousand five hundred and ninety one (2659) requests were received and they continue to pour in. On one day thirteen hundred and four were received and on two other days 561 and 318 arrived. McDonough said, "We simply must respond to this great hunger for God's Word but we are not quite sure just how at the present". The cost of the course runs in excess of Six dollars per student and that already totals more than fifteen thousand dollars ($15900). "The alarming part of that equation is that we believe the real rush has not yet arrived", McDonough said, "and based on past experience and the response thus far we anticipate as many as 5,000 requests from that one advertisement."

In order to save hundreds of dollars in postage the introductory lessons are being prepared and sent in a suitcase with missionaries traveling to that country where they will be placed in the local mail system.

The stage has been set for a great harvest in what the Evangelical churches are calling the most receptive area in the world, at this moment. Two long term missionary families are now making plans to arrive in Bucharest by early summer. This will be just as the first of these students is completing their course.

McDonough reports that people spoke to him on the street, in hotels and restaurants and on airplanes about God and Christianity. "There is a door open now and a great void that will be filled", he said. "Either we will fill it with the truth or it will be filled by denominational lies and the temptations of materialism and the world will crowd it out", McDonough continued.

Funds are needed to deliver these Bible correspondence courses to those longing for the truth. If you can help please contact Bill McDonough, c/o Sixth & Izard church of Christ, P.O. Box 228, Little Rock, AR 72203.
Researchers have found that from the earliest years little girls talk more than little boys. One study showed that even in the hospital nursery, girls had more lip movement than boys! That propensity keeps right on increasing through the years, giving them an edge on meaningful communication!

In our home, Norma noticed the same thing discovered by Harvard's Preschool Program in its research if communication differences between the sexes. After wiring a playground for sound, researchers studied all the noises coming from the mouths of several hundred preschool boys and girls.

The researchers found that 100% of the sounds coming from the girls' mouths were audible, recognizable words. The girls each spent a great deal...
of time talking to other children – and nearly as much talking to themselves!

As for little boys, only 68% of their sounds were understandable words! The remaining 32% were either one-syllable sounds like "uh" and "mmm" or sound effects like "Varoom!" "Yaaaaah!" and "Zoooom!"

THE LANGUAGE OF LOVE – Smalley and Trent – P.33-34
Besides this he aided many weak congregations in their efforts to become established.

Under the influence of his preaching 2542 persons have rendered obedience to the gospel, an average of about 88 per year for the twenty-nine years for which he kept record.

HIS FUNERAL SKETCH

In one of his many scrap books, the following was found together with the request that it be read at his funeral. "In life, I tried to banish all ill feeling from my heart for those who disliked me because of my religious contentions and in death, I pray our Heavenly Father to forgive them. I freely forgive and hold malice toward none. And now, to one and all, as you look upon my featureless face for the last time, amid the sobs and breaking hearts of my loved ones, say to them what you said to me in life. If you loved me in life, love me still and tell my dear ones so; if you hated me in life, do not try to deceive them over my lifeless body; it will do them no good and will do harm to you. I died as I lived, in full faith in God's word and His promises, and here at this time, bequeath my life's work to my poor family and to my brethren and sisters in the Lord, and beg each of you to follow the teaching of God's word though it lead you away from friends and loved ones of earth. I bequeath my spirit to Him who loved me, died for me, and arose for my justification. My race is run; the battle is fought; here ends life's labors; in a few moments my lifeless body will be lowered into the dark, dreamless, tongueless, windowless grave, there to await the resurrection morning. Continued on News Page.
HOW CAN THE CHURCH TODAY GET THE INTEREST
OF MODERN MAN? Acts 14:6-11

1. With this question we address ourselves to one of
the toughest questions that confront us: how can
we get the message heard?
A. Review some Nashville efforts.
   1. Tabernacle meetings.
   2. Craig - Collins.
   3. Let Freedom Ring.
   4. Joint meetings.
   5. Herald of Truth trailer.
   7. Kindergartens, camps, Mother's day out, VBS,
      bus.
B. On a wider scope.
   1. Advertisement.
   3. Radio spots -1 minute.
   4. Woodson Chapel $10,000.
   5. Word of mouth.
   7. Larger stafFs.
C. Questions to ponder.
   1. What will convince & convert?
   2. What avails?

II. Let me tell you of the Lystra effort.
A. Tell the story of Iconium.
   Acts 14:1-7 "And it came to pass in Iconium, the
   1. Note they fled.
   2. But they kept preaching.
B. We find ourselves at Lystra.
   1. Roman colony as of A.D. 6.
   2. Near Black Mt.
   3. Exact site only discovered last century, 1885.
   4. Remote district - more like the sticks - no trade routes - no harbor of course.
   5. Antioch to Iconium about 93 miles - this 20 miles further.
C. There seems to be no synagogue - how you we get started?
   1. Paul always went there first.
   2. Loved the Jews, plus they should be able to grasp & obey the message.
   3. It will be a city we remember via Timothy.
      a.) Converted?
      b.) Circumcised?

Acts 16:1 "Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, beholding a place for a assemble, he entered into Lydia's house, where she was a worshipper of God, and besought her that she would receive him into her house."

1 Tim. 1:2 "Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

2 Tim. 3:10-11 "But thou hast fully known my doctrine, and how I liveth in me every where preaching the gospel of Christ, that great and good hope."

C. His attention getter - a miracle.
   1. "But I can't do that." "I want to people"
   2. I can:
      a.) Do good.
      b.) Eyes open to opportunity.
      c.) Act when I see the chance.
   3. The miracle.
      a.) Certain man.
      b.) Impotent in ft.
      c.) Luke emphasizes from birth & never walked.
      d.) Strong similarity + strong contrasts c. Acts 3

healing.
e.) Ingredients of success.
   (1) Heard Paul speak.
   (2) Believed.
   (3) Obeyed immediately.
   (4) Walked.
   f.) Same true salvation.
Rom. 10:17 "So then faith cometh by hearing, and he
   g.) Preacher saw something - seed was falling on good ground!
   h.) Loud voice - stand up.
   (1) No small task to stand when you'd never walke
   (2) Believed he could tho.
   (3) Gospel restores body & soul; mind & spirit.
D. Results.
1. People said gods are come down to us.
2. Not results desired but later achieved something.
E. What was done?
1. Used what he had - no synagogue so open air.
2. Sparked an interest in one & made contact.
3. Did a service of goodness & held self in holy position.
4. Unfalteringly preached the truth.

West End 10-24-82

Shaymore Church, Columbia, TN Combined Adult Bible Class 3-27-93
On Dispatching Disciples

I. Witnesses

Luke 24:48 "And ye are witnesses of these things.

A. Personally involved
   "We have seen it to be true."

B. Greatest thing world's ever seen:
   1. Spotless human life
   2. Power man's been given
   3. Truth as never before
   4. Suffering a sorrow sublime
   5. Death of shame a pain
   6. Message of mercy a hope by courage

C. Not of their accomplishments but His

II. Received Promise - Power

A. Holy Spirit came (Dunamis)
   Sufficient

B. Those whom God sends He gives power
   (Clothed - wrap as robe) (envelope)

III. WAIT

A. Wait on God - secret of power

B. God makes weak strong

C. Tarry - sit still literally

D. They also serve who only stand

A. wait - Milton
One of the simplest and most effective ways of reaching another person is through a carefully worded question asked at appropriate moment. In the gospels, we see how Jesus used this technique with great efficiency. Using probing, stimulating questions as one of His favorite methods of teaching and provoking thought, Matthew’s gospel alone records 59 times when Jesus asked a question of individuals, opponents, general listeners, or disciples.

"Ten Questions Every Pastor Should Know About" – By Robert Beithl, President of the Master Planning Association

Once I saw a circus. Elephants weighing several tons stood around each with a chain running from one leg to a small stake in the ground. The stake looked hardly bigger than a tent peg and I couldn’t see why the elephant didn’t just kick it out or pull it up and walk away. I asked the trainer. He answered, "When an elephant is a baby we stake it down for the first time and there are two things to remember about elephants. One is they are not very smart, but two they have a very long, long memory. When the baby elephant is first staked down, he tries to get away. He pulls and tugs on that stake perhaps thousands of times rocking back and forth and pulling at it from all directions, always without success. Eventually, he stops trying. The baby grows up, but has a long memory and his memory tells him I can’t get away from that stake. So even as a huge adult that elephant remembers the stake but it’s really his memory that keeps him chained."
YOUNG ADULTS

A newly prominent group of Americans is composed of young adults from twenty-five to thirty-four. This group is growing faster than the senior citizens group and will increase by 35 per cent from 58 million today to 78 million in 1990. After a peak in 1995, however, this segment will decline until the end of the 1990s. The educational attainment of this group is quite high and so are salaries. These young adults have grown up with inflationary pressures and desire instant gratification of their wants.
"CARING CHURCHES GROW!"

John S. Savage writes recently in Catalyst as to why people either drop out of the church or remain faithful in the church. "What it is that keeps persons active in the church?" is a question he asked in his research. "We discovered three things: One is a very strong commitment to Jesus Christ and God. Two, they have two or more personal friends in the congregation with whom they can go to talk when something upsets them. And three, they have a support group, a larger group of people. When all three of those stay intact with each other, the person will unendingly remain in the life of the church."

After studying 240 converts to churches of Christ and 240 dropouts from churches of Christ, Flavil Yeakley, Jr. concludes in his recent book, Why Churches Grow--"When subjects formed personal relationships with members of the congregation, they were likely to remain faithful. When they did not form such personal relationships, they were likely to drop out of the church" (p. 54).

At first thought, one may think that a new convert to Christianity ought to be faithful regardless of personal relationships. One might reason that the Christian faith is a personal relationship between himself and God and that it ought to remain firm, regardless of relationships with other Christians. The problem with this view, however, is that it overlooks God's way of reaching people. In every instance of conversion recorded in the New Testament, a personal relationship exists between the Christian and the one being converted to Christ. Following conversion, God adds a new convert "to the church" (Acts 2:47). From the view of God, Christianity is personal, but never private. It always exists in a network of personal relationships, especially with other members of the church. No wonder the most often used description of the church is the figure of a human body.

Churches which grow are caring churches. Members minister to each other and to the world which is precisely what Jesus intended the church to be in the very beginning. Churches failing to do this practice a private religion which isolates itself from the needs of each other and the needs of those outside the church. Whatever else may be said for such churches, they will not grow. For they have cut themselves off from the power which causes growth--God.

So let's be dead sure that we place our weight down on the side of caring, sharing, serving, and ministering. Caring costs money, time, effort, and ability. Yes, it costs a great deal to care. It cost God His only son!

--Prentice Meador, Jr.
WHAT KIND OF GOD DO YOU PREACH?
Acts 14:11-18

1. We all have not the same opportunity to tell of our God, but it is imperative we utilize every chance.
   A. I want to tell you what precipitated Paul's chance it no doubt will differ radically from ours.
   B. Then I want to tell you what he said about his God which is the precise thing we can also say.
   C. Thus, circumstances vary, but conclusions are constant.

II. Paul & His Circumstances.
   A. At Lystra he has just healed an impotent cripple.
      1. Cripple in ft. from mother's womb.
      2. Never had walked.
      3. Heard Paul.
      4. Had faith.
      5. Loud voice, "Stand upright."
   B. People's Reaction.
      1. Used speech of Lycaonia.
         a.) Reverted to native tongue.
         b.) Language didn't let Paul grasp what they were doing. (Bruce)
      2. The gods are come down to us.
         a.) Words of great adulation.
         b.) Men are ever prone to idolize something:
            (1) Nation.
            (2) Business.
            (3) Other folk.
            (4) What do we?
c.) Barnabas - Jupiter.
   (1) Zeus - chief.
   (2) Shows their regard.
d.) Paul - Mercurius.
   (1) Hermes - oratory.
   (2) Hermes is Mercury, the interpreter.
   (3) Divinity is manifest in the miraculous.
   (4) Divinity assumes human form.
   (5) Divinity is to be worshipped when appearing
   in human form.
   (6) What view of God do we convey?
   (7) Paul the speaker - see Luke knew Greek
   mythology.
3. The priests action.
   a.) Convinced they were gods - so leaders of
   religion can be wrong. Don't trust man's
   wisdom.
b.) Brot oxen to sacrifice.
   (1) Wanted to show gratitude - all this spirit
   commendable.
   (2) If Gods pay a visit they deserve an honor.
   (3) Ox & garlands.
4. Paul & Barnabas react.
   a.) Heard.
   (1) Gift of tongues didn't give apostles power to
   understand all languages.
   (2) Heard = became aware of what was going on.
b.) Rent their clothes.
   (1) Tore clothing - it was blasphemy to them.
Mk. 14:63 "Then the high priest rent his clothes, and
(2) Others ripped clothes.
Gen. 27:29 "Let people serve thee, and nations bow c
Job 1:20 "Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and sh
(3) Only time apostles did...
c. Ran in & cried. Let spring in
(1) Our loyalty to Christ often tested - accept the
praise of men or deny it?
(2) Didn't come to be worshipped but to bring glad
tidings.
(3) Paul asked, "Why do ye do these things?" -
must account for our acts.
(4) Human popularity worthless, not worshipful.
(5) It's capricious - Hosanna today - crucify
tomorrow.

III. Paul Then Describes His God.
A. We are men like you.
B. We preach your turning.
C. We proclaim the living God.
   1. 1st speech to pagan audience. No OT reference
   2. They won't know Bible so appeal to God of
      nature - take men where they are. Every man
      has some light.
3. 4 points:
   a.) God is a living being, not only worthy of worship
   b.) God created all.
   c.) God gave man freedom.
   d.) God gave witness of Himself.
4. Others: God is Creator, Controller, Giver.
D. Let's elaborate these points.
   1. Living God - He contrasts c lifeless idols.
   a.) Good to look at the origin of things.
   b.) No reference to Christ in sermon.
   c.) Can't tell about God incarnate till they 1st know there is a God.
3. Patient God who changes things for better.
   a.) Some things earlier acceptable become inexcusable.
   b.) God earlier overlooked.
Acts 17:30 "And the times of this ignorance God winked at.
Rom. 3:25 "Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation.
c.) Has a witness.
   (1) Left sign of his presence everywhere.
   (2) W/o excuse.
Rom. 1:20 "For the invisible things of him from the cre.
4. He did good.
a.) To do good is the very nature of deity.
E. Hard to restrain people that they not do sacrifice.
IV. But there is a tomorrow!
A. Jews came from Antioch & Iconium.
   1. We react harshly to exposure of our mistakes.
   2. Sermon counter productive results.
   3. 1st incidence of followed from one city to another to persecute (Paul did earlier).
   4. Came 100 miles.
B. Persuaded the people.
   1. Stoned Paul.
   2 Cor. 11:25 "Thrice was I beaten with rods, once wa
   a.) Mob action - no formal charge lodged.
   2 Tim. 3:11 "Persecutions, afflictions, which came ur
   b.) Hunter became the hunted.
2. Drew him out of city.
   a.) Drug him out?
   b.) Timothy see this?
   c.) Did he see how fickle people are?
   d.) Suppose Paul that of Stephen - he held coats then.

C. Paul -
1. Disciples stood round about him.
2. Rose up.
   a.) When he came to senses, he went back in.
3. Came into city.
   (Luther warned about Worms said, "I'd go if every tile of its roofs were a devil). 
   (Paul refused to go home to Tarsus - he'd earlier chastised Mark for turning back).
4. Next day to Derbe.
   a.) Walk of 30 miles.
   b.) Nothing stopping him!
THE RECITAL
Acts 14:26-28

1. It's the end of a great journey.
   A. Important because it gives apostolic example for missionary efforts today.
   B. Impressive because: Time, Place, Person, Purpose.
      1. People - Paul & Barnabas.
      2. Territory covered - 1300 miles.
         a) 500 by water.
         b) 800 by land - rough & dangerous.
         c) May have walked it.
      3. Time 45-50 AD - took 1 year.
      4. Antioch
         a) 300 miles N. of Jerusalem.
         b) 3rd only to Rome & Alexandria.
         c) Had been earlier recommended to the grace of God.
      5. God is acknowledged.
         a) Started by God.

Acts 13:2 "The Holy Spirit said Separate"
   b) Carried on by strength of God.
   c) Crowded by recital.
   d) God had done with them - He is the Doer - you are his worker & co-laborer.
   e) Granted free providential access to Gospel.
   f) Open door of faith - not circumcision or Judaism.
II. Let's see the Conclusion of the Work.

A. Walker says it's the precursor of modern missionary meetings for giving information.

B. 1st NT account of missionary meeting.

C. Gathered the Church Together.
   1. They deserved & wanted to hear.
   2. If decisively altered Jew-Gentile balance.
   3. Whole church - not just officers.

D. Gathered
   1. Synagogue comes from word.
   2. Often used to speak of assembled.

E. Rehearsed
   1. Bring back glad tidings.
   2. Had a history worth relating.

F. All that God Had Done With Them
   1. Earlier recommended.
   4. Missionaries deserve the prayers of the church & praise!
   5. Church is under his direction.

G. They Abode Long Time
   1. R & R needed.
   2. Sabattical - maybe 1 year.
PART II

1. With this we try to coordinate a visit with the Caribbean capitals & tell something of the strength of the church in various parts of this West Indies area.

II. We visited with 5 churches
   A. San Juan, Puerto Rico
      1. Island 100 x 30 miles
      2. 3 million folk
      3. 4 congregations on Island - number about 800 totally.
      4. Roger Dickson one of the missionaries - they have reached many poor people.
      5. Plan via Bible correspondence course, radio, printing a commentary via Reader's Digest press (50,000 copies), a 1000 page work for 90¢, reach middle class.
      6. They plan to get on a station, buy full page ad in local paper that has 200,000 circulation, cost $1500 per issue - thus delivery problem solved.
      7. Have bought 3 times - 200 responses.
      8. 380,000 Pentacostals there.
      9. Starting college work.
     10. Converted Cuban main driver of this congregation - works for Kodak.
     11. 4 "men" coming who will support selves;
          3 Puerto Rican. One of 4 a lady beautician.
     12. $10 book a week's salary.
B. Caraccas, Venz. (LaGuara port)
   1. Venz. means Little Venice.
   2. Super 6 lane - $6 million dollar per mile highway leads you there.
   3. City 3000' high - near Equator.
   4. 3 or 4 million people, 5 in whole country, 1/3 of land populated. Indians in jungles.
   5. Young country 1/2 under 18 years; 70% under 30; 5 women to 1 man, gas 28¢ gallon, tie on to billboards - squatters do till looks like spider web; compulsory to vote.
   6. $350 per month average.
   7. Church with Bob Brown has 204 members.
      Jeff Geisman also there.
   8. Church in 20 communities of Venz. 950 members in all. Want to keep one strong congregation. Rent 400 seat theatre. Hope to outgrow it in 2 years.
   9. Church obviously young.

C. Grenada - Spice Island
   1. Famed due to invasion. Never saw a more grateful people.
   2. World Radio reaches here - 1¢ per day.
      a) Mail 300,000 per issues - largest paper in brotherhood.
      b) 110 foreign stations.
      c) 350 broadcasts weekly in 16 major languages, 51 speakers used. 1500 Bible correspondence courses.
d) Costs $240,000 per yr.
e) Local preachers poorly educated.
4. 14 church leaders.
5. No racial prejudice.
6. If you are blessed with car, the community expects you to pick up any hitchhiker - share.
7. 110,000 folk - ground
9. 200 members in 10 churches.
10. No radio program - no radio station.
11. Florence, Ala. (Macadonia) trying to build meeting house here.

D. Ethiopia Film
1. $7 1/2 million church gave.
2. Stockton, Calif. sponsors.
3. 4500 churches gave.
4. Rent film to churches.
5. Bryan Bannister there.
6. Bought trucks to deliver - USA gov. gave church $132,000 in food to distribute.

E. Barbados
1. Winston Messiah, 21 yrs., 84 yr. old "Minister in Charge" sign.
2. Starts another church in August.
3. Have own meeting house.
4. All women wore hats.
5. One white member.
F. No Church on Martinique - most advanced Island.

G. St. Thomas, Virgin Islands
   1. 71 members
   2. 3 preachers
   3. Combined 2 trailers - 5th Street
   4. Must move as lost lease.
   5. Want 2 acres, $40,000 per acre.
   6. Church is sending out missionaries - one to India.
   7. "I hope to see you next year". Old lady "No guarantee".
   8. Since we've none good time to obey gospel.

West End 6/16/85
I. The early church was growing.
   A. The gospel was preached to the Jews first.
   B. It also included the Gentiles and this from Cornelius on was an established fact.
   C. No wonder, with universal appeal, the church grew.
   D. Luke wrote of it.

Acts 14:28-29

II. Yet, often, the best of days are criticized.
   A. An element arose that added confusion. "And certain men came down from..."
   B. Added circumcision to scheme of redemption.
      1. Not from the Holy Spirit.
      2. Intended to preserve some part of Judaism.
      3. Paul and Barnabas take the complaint to Jerusalem.

Gal. 1:12

4. They did not recognize the authority of the apostles.

Acts 15:6 (Story of second meeting).

5. V-4 and 5 tell of earlier meeting.
6. Note the open discussion.
7. Opposed intrusion.
   "It is need but to circumcise them one and all."
8. They felt law of Moses must be kept--taught in an open meeting.
9. Meeting held to resolve matters.
   a) Not for the apostles to learn what to do.
   b) Nor to give the church a vote on doctrine.
   c) Settle matter not via voice of uninspired.
C. Nature of the meeting:
   1. All given full time to speak.
   2. All saved same way, "cleansing their hearts by faith."
   3. "Faith comes by hearing."
I Pet. 1:22
4. Along with faith, repentance and baptism.
5. Peter earlier accepted the Gentiles without circumcision.
6. Thus God Himself had settled the matter.
7. Long journey from Antioch to Jerusalem, thus a lot of work involved.
D. Barnabas and Paul report.
   1. Names will be reversed or dropped.
Acts 13:13
2. Later Paul and company.

E. James enters picture.
1. This is not brother of John.
2. Earlier killed.

Acts 12:1-2
3. Rather the other apostle.
4. Affirms Peter's preaching.
5. Prophets foretold this.

Amos 9:11-12
Acts 2:29-36
6. Christ on David's throne.
7. Speaks by inspiration.

Acts 16:19-21
8. Long standing "Eat no blood."

Gen. 9:4
Lev. 17:10-16
9. Must bleed animal and fowl.
10. Thus open door to Gentiles.
11. Extra brethren confirm this.

F. In spite of this ruling, some continued to oppose Paul.

I Cor. 9:1-3
2 Cor. 10:8-11

G. Church thus did not become a sect of the Judaizers.
I. I've always had a feeling for the minority, especially if slandered.
   A. Black folk in my day had not the educational opportunities I did as white.
   B. I'm a member of a church held in deride on and predjudice by many.
      1. Cambellite
      2. Only ones saved
      3. Water salvation
      4. Fail to appreciate organ
   C. Hearts reach the lonely and ill.

II. Contrawise I'm grateful for the relief and betterment that comes to the distressed.
   A. For awhile it was bad to be a Gentile.
      1. Even God had a favorite people.
      2. We were not allowed in their place of worship.
   B. Then came a little information letter—Acts 15:22-29
   C. Let's study this.

III. A bit of background.
A. Paul back from missionary tour.
Acts 14:26-28  READ – how long was "long time?"

B. Jerusalem was concerned about the Gentile situation as their baptism gave them union with God.

C. Luke says nothing about this interval of time, but we do know something about the journey.
   1. Elders appointed.

Acts 14:23

2. Had to grow suitable material.
3. Plurality
5. But this is first about appointments.
6. Congregations can exist without elders.

D. Leaving Judaism for Christianity np small step.
   1. Antioch first church of Gentiles.
   2. Judaizers came and told them OK if only circumcised.
   3. Contention arose.
   4. Timothy was; Titus was not.
   5. Thus apostles consulted as what was proper, as we've had our battle via Sunday School, communion cups and kitchens.
IV. The Jerusalem Response

A. Action of apostles, elders, whole church (V-23).

B. Special Jerusalem men chosen to accompany Paul and Barnabas since they'd come to Jerusalem.
   1. Note Paul had earlier come.

Gal. 2:1-2

C. Men chosen were:
   1. Judas - name not ruined.
   2. Barsabas
   3. Silas - all chief men among the brethren.

D. Issue joined: Is a Gentile saved the same way a Jew is?
   1. Are Jewish customs necessarily observed?
   2. Are there two plans--like two positions in the bus?

E. The letter written, borne, Read.
   1. It's been preserved - Acts 15:24-.
   2. It's an effort to avoid division.
   3. It's attended with every possible precaution.
   4. It has many men attending to guarantee its authenticity.
   5. It has creditable men affirming this.
   6. At all cost avoid misunderstanding.
7. Its reception would verify apostolic thinking along with the approval of the Jewish Jerusalem church.

8. It included regions beyond Antioch.

9. This above all was the decision of the Holy Spirit.

10. No greater burden than "necessary things."

F. The Letter - four statements.

1. Abstain from things sacrificed to idols.
   a) We sing "give your idols up."
   b) Puts mammon where it belongs.
   c) God alone supreme.

2. From blood.
   a) Few Indian recipes.
   b) This dietary command still exists.
   c) You watch it in your meats.

   Gen. 9:4-6
   Lev. 17:10-12

3. Things strangled.
   a) There is this requirement about our food and its slaughtering.
   b) Wring the chicken's neck.

4. Abstain from fornication.
a) What about a million abortions as a means of birth control?
b) Kids sexually active at 14.
c) Morality always in order for Christians.
d) Sex our weakest point?

G. All these things currently wrong.

V. One added duty.

Gal. 2:10 "Only they would that we remember the poor."

A. Is it a part of our budget?
B. How are we handling this?
C. Is it a famous part of our reputation?
D. Paul collected a special offering one time--and we split the church over it and the "for" line of the check--third missionary journey.
E. He said "which very thing I was also zealous to do."
(Do we say the same?)

VI. Today be:

A. Guided by things of revelation.
B. Seek to avoid division.
C. Use all wisdom possible for peace.

(Notes lifted from Annual Lessons – September 20, 1936).
I. One of the evidences of inspiration of the Bible is the complete cycle of honesty with which it treats the heroes.

A. From accomplishments to carbuncles it tells all.

B. It makes no difference if they are apostles or missionaries; neophites or veterans, it tells it like it is.

C. Since we are all men of frailties and conflicts, would it not seem strange to you if differences were never mentioned in the sacred text.

D. This lesson concerns one of the more prominent altercations.

1. Abraham and Lot.
2. Syntyche and Euodias.
3. Does not compare with Paul and Barnabas.
4. Events recorded in Acts 15:36-41 as we go to it.

II. The Division and Paroxysm of Acts 15:36-41.

A. "And"

1. Connections of the Bible are important, especially the "Ands" - Acts 2:38.

2. Things Paul wrote:
Rom. 12:10 "Be kindly affectioned one .."
(Child slapped another for forgetting memory verse. Be ye kind).

Eph. 4:3 "Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

3. Yet it seems inevitable that some altercations shall arise.

Heb. 12:15 "Lest any root of bitterness spring up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled."

4. It takes personal poise to encourage spiritual growth (Bruce).

5. It's rewarding to note this controversy did not hurt permanently the cause of Christ—so if you must fuss don't do any more damage the Malchus and his ear.

6. It is well for us to remember that just before this explosion they had just returned from a unity conference in Jerusalem.

7. When you put the pencil to it can you imagine anything more improbable to cause a conflict than a suggested church visit?

8. The best of men are not infallible.

B. "Some Days After"

1. Don't know how long this was—(unless we want to pontificate and say we know exactly the span).
2. It's an expression in Greek to be quite indefinite as to time—be it months or days.
3. We do not know how long this was.

C. Paul said to Barnabas "Let's go again"
1. Paul did not want a peaceful though laborious sedentary work in Antioch.
2. We see for the first time tender solicitude for his converts.
3. This spirit we often see in his letters and it's admirable.
4. Note this spirit in Paul:
   2 Cor. 11:28 Beside these things that Rui
   Rom. 1:9 God is my witness, whom I serve
   Eph. 1:16 lose not to give thanks for you
   Phil. 1:3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of
   5. Barnabas of the same spirit.
   6. "His active spirit could not bear to be long out of work nor was his hold on daring spirit to be long out of danger" (Henry).

D. Visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the Word of the Lord.
1. Though the second missionary journey opened vast new areas to the gospel, its original purpose was to revisit the churches and strengthen them.
2. It was not to begin a new step, but to review fields where gospel was already sown.

3. We'll water the sown seed.

4. Going to preach nothing but the word and see nature of our successes.

5. Lipscomb reminds us they have not yet the written word, but only partially gifted teachers so they anxious for the new converts.

6. We see perfect argument between the two for the proposed visit.

7. All would be to the glory of the Lord.

8. P.C. points out we need constant watchfulness and inspection to see how we fare; plus encouragement and confirmation, the maintenance of order, the need to maintain the advancement of teaching and extension of brotherly sympathy.

9. We must not baptize people and then ignore.

10. Only item on agenda: "see how they do."

11. Necessary to water sown seed; baptize and nurture.

12. Are we prayerfully concerned about the church?

13. Note the pinpoint ordeal to see all.
E. They preach nothing but the Word!
1. It was Barnabas. We enlarged the matter.
2. All else in agreement.

F. Barnabas adds to the agenda.
1. We need to guard against partiality and preferred relations.
2. Wanted to take his nephew.

Col. 4:10 4. It becomes unto you, receive him
3. Agreeable to everything else Paul wanted.
4. He was "determined" to take Mark. One version "minded."
5. Imperfect tense suggesting persistence in his wish and intentions.

G. Paul thought it not good to take him with them.
1. Barnabas has shepherd's heart and personal reasons knows his nephew better than Paul knows him.
2. Paul too a shepherd's heart, but he wants the journey to be successful and much depends on the unity and mutual strength each supplies. Mark had not been tested since his early defection.
3. He felt what Mark had done he might do again.

Prov. 25:19 Confidence in an unfaithful man
in times of victory is like a broken tooth.
4. Barnabas could say one failure must not condemn him.

5. Barnabas' gentle disposition made him open to imposition.

Acts 4:36 Son of consolation, exhortation

11:24 Evorted, purpose of heart, cleanse with

Gal. 2:18

6. Paul knew a second failure would weaken their effort.

7. Paul had only one object in view, to see the companion of the arduous work was one of thorough congenial spirit and sufficient nerve. Barnabas over and over the same desire may not reasonably be afraid for the soul of his nephew lest the refusal to allow him to accompany them on a journey might injure his Christian character and deprive the church of the true servant of Jesus.

8. P.C. puts it harshly: "Paul was blind to the inconvenience of having a half-hearted companion with him. He was consulting with flesh and blood, not with the Spirit of God.

9. At first was his objection only mutually stated?
10. Jesus taught no man putting his hand to the plow and looking back is not fit for the Kingdom of God.

11. Remember Barnabas was perhaps still alive when Luke wrote this. Paul too—was he not showing how brethren can settle differences?

12. Was Paul sitting in judgment on Mark's repentance?

13. The word in vs. 38 imperfect tense and it indicates continuous action. Barnabas kept insisting and Paul kept saying no.

14. Should they have called a third person?

15. These verses call us to check our censure of others and moderate our feelings.

16. Paul in his writings was very kind about his memory of Barnabas.

1 Cor. 9:6 Power to forbear wanting
2 Tim. 4:11 Mark, bring, profitable—used to

H. The Argument was over Mark's Departure.

1. Departed.
   a. Strong word—stood aloof.
   b. Turned away.
   c. Did it while work still before them.

2. Could he have seen what his departure caused—lifelong separation of Paul and Barnabas.
3. He fell away from them, but not from Christ.
4. NIV and NEB says "desertion."
5. Paul no desire to travel with a drone. (Allen)
6. Word means to fall away like an apostate to a mission.
9. "Work"
   a. Led to exasperation.
   b. Suppose Barnabas told Paul how he went to bat for him at Jerusalem (9:26-30).

III. The Contention was Sharp.

A. Literally a paroxysm, or fit of a fever. Wesley said there is nothing in the text to imply sharpness on both sides. He feels Paul had the right on his side and then tended it with love.

1. This word occurs here and in Hebrews 10:24 - here to provoke, stimulate to excite, to love and good works.
2. P.C. calls it a question of companionship, but note it separated friends for life.
3. They feel both men were unconsciously contending for their own self—both were in the right, each from his own point of view aiming at the good of the young man of the furtherance of the Kingdom.

4. It's well to note the sincerity and simplicity of Luke—an imposter would never have inserted this.

5. How frugal the language is, how utterly absent is the least symptom of satisfaction in narrating it, and there is not an attempt to dilate or expatiate upon it.

6. RSV "sharp contention," another "an angry feeling," another "a sharp clash of opinions."

7. It indicates a heated exchange. Suppose 1 Cor. 13:4-5 made Paul blush? How suffers, envies not, vaunt.

8. Exasperation, "angry dispute."

9. Controversy well known, highly respected people involved in it, Paul and Barnabas had been companions at least ten years.

10. Sharp contention a medical term—fit or exacerbation, violent, sharp, convulsive.

11. Remember this was the only occasion like this in Paul's life— he had not written any of New Testament at this time.
12. There are the sins of disposition like bad temper, selfishness, jealousy, malice—all can cause a rupture.

13. It is not always big issues or great problems that divide us.

14. Trying to cure common cold said 30 to 50 times as difficult and complex and expensive as polio.

B. Go back to word "sharp."
   1. Strife between two good men is to be lamented as in privacy.
   2. Hold on hard course, lament the error.

2 Cor. 6:21

3. Difference was not doctrine.
4. A paroxysm is an incitement, a stirring up, a compound of intensive to wit, to sharpen.

C. How to solve it?
   1. Both men crying for something worthy.

D. How will they solve it?
   1. Outstanding and spiritually leaders can hold a reconcilable opinion when the wise thing to do is to get on with it.
2. Either the ingenuity of love should advise a middle way or the superficial spirit of love should yield the point altogether.

3. God judges the good by their abiding spirit, not by their occasional disposition.

4. Face the fact personal controversy is inevitable as religious controversy.

5. We must express our nature through imperfect bodies, limited minds and defective personalities.

6. Both sought only the glory of the coming Master. Each looked at the question through the medium of his own temperament which grace sanctifies and defends, but does not destroy.

7. Paul thought if he left once he would do it again.

8. Remember the paroxysm is an incitement, a stirring up, a compound of extensive to wit or to sharpen. As a result the churches were more speedily visited and the work of God more widely and more rapidly spread.

10. Often times men can agree with each other and work together though they have a difference until a third person enters in and then keen discord can play a part.

11. Here contention so sharp— it was such exacerbation they departed asunder.

12. It underscore we are man of like passion— Acts 14:15.

13. God can forgive their passing ebullition.

14. But the error of good men must not hinder the work of God.

15. Laurin "the multitude of personal factors will have their prevention and remedies offered.

16. There can quickly come a party spirit. 1 Cor. 3:1-5

E. Note they departed.

1. Neither would yield, there can be no remedy but parting.

2. This can happen to the best of men.

3. Fault—we stick to our opinions and will not yield.

4. Our intemperate heats, passions are shown, do we censure others?
5. Repentance teaches us to be severe in reflection on ourselves, but charity as we deal with others.

6. It's only Christ we can follow without a blot.

7. Personalities can keep us apart.

Gal. 6:1 Be not over come of evil
Rom. 12:21 Be not over come of evil

8. Boy commanded to sit down. "I'm sitting down but I'm standing up inside."

F. Departed Asunder.

1. Avoid rash judgment and hot temper toward others.

2. If disposition to yield is important be careful to do it lovingly lest you hurt a brother.

3. They were not separated by the persecution of unbelievers, but by unhappy disagreement among themselves.

4. The paroxysm is the proposal of two friends whose fast friendship was of many years understanding, two brethren loving and beloved, two apostles of Jesus Christ who long labored to win souls to advance the Kingdom of God, and who have achieved together the most horrible assault from the
house of darkness, who had suffered together, who had undergone all the most appalling dangers together, who had stuck by one another in the every circumstance of trial and difficulty, the proposal of two such men to start together a new errant of life might have seemed to be the very last occasion likely to produce contention and strife.

5. Better to separate and both work rather than to fight and both stop work.

IV. Actions in the Departure.

A. Barnabas took Mark and went to Cyprus.

1. Great that Mark later OK'd by Paul.

Col. 4:10 *If he come, receive him*

2 Tim. 4:11 *Bring Mark*

Phil. 23 *Marcus my fellow laborer*

2. Thus he was in position now to dissipate the cloud that hung over him.

3. We must try hard to not allow personal influences to prejudice us.

James 1:20-21
B. Cyprus
1. Barnabas goes to his own country.
2. We have no further record of Barnabas.
3. Barnabas cuts short the discussion and departs his old companion.
4. No record of any earlier response or current ones either.
5. Note they did not allow their differences to keep them from doing God's work and well.
6. Suppose anyone asked "Where is Paul?"

I Cor. 9:6
7. Mark's blessed to have a friend like Barnabas.
8. It's great to share sermons who stands with you.
9. Don't break confidence.

C. Paul
1. We must constantly watch for welfare of others.
2. Don't be too hard on people--they may come back proving usefulness.
3. Paul and Barnabas--good--but only Jesus perfect.
4. It was Barnabas and Paul; Barnabas and Saul; Paul and Barnabas finally Paul and company.
5. Use Philippian passage where Paul said delighted gospel preached even if his enemy.
6. Paul goes where he's been before.
7. Chose Silas.

D. Departed and Recommended
1. They had a service commending him to the grace of God. It was not done for Barnabas. Does this mean they were more in sympathy with Paul?
2. Barnabas did not stay for the services.
3. They probably prayed for Paul's success.
4. Love and prayer are necessary to all good work.
5. This church rich with the talent it had--good preaching can overcome the unsettling effects of controversy.
6. Confirming means to lean on.
7. Paragon Mills gathered around me and sang three times We love you with the love of the Lord--roses to Betty.
8. All this resulted in doubling the missionary team via Mark and Silas.
9. Better to be oil on the water than fat for the fire.
E. Grace of God

1. Let no man glory in men.

1 Cor. 3:21 let no man glory in men

2. Mighty is His grace in midst of world with sins and snares of Satan that in spite of incredible weaknesses we can overcome and preserve us to the end.

3. Later Paul, Barnabas and Mark commended to his grace.

Gal. 2:9 Give to me the right hands of fellowship

4. Instead of punishing us for our quarrels He can turn them to the furtherance of his call.

5. Jesus' prayer "Be one."

John 17:22

6. Can't promote unity at the expense of truth.

7. God had bigger things in mind than Paul proposed in verse 36.

8. Good came out of it all.

Phil. 1:12 Fellow out rather to furtherance gospel

9. From this we learn two things. First, good men can differ in judgment, be unable to work one with another, and still serve God acceptably.
Second, when two Christians differ over opinions, neither should attempt to destroy the influence of the other. (Allen)

10. At Lystra Paul said "We are men of like passion with others." This proves it.

11. Paul goes through Syria conforming the churches.
Main Entry: paroxyasm 

Pronunciation: 'par-ək-"si-zəm also pə-'ræk-

Function: noun

Etymology: French & Medieval Latin; French paroxysme, from Medieval Latin paroxysmus, from Greek paroxysmos, from paroxynein to stimulate, from para- + oxynein to provoke, from oxys sharp -- more at OXYGEN

1: a fit, attack, or sudden increase or recurrence of symptoms (as of a disease): CONVULSION <a paroxysm of coughing>

2: a sudden violent emotion or action: OUTBURST <a paroxysm of rage>

-paroxyasmal /"par-ək- 'siz-məl also pə-"ræk-/ adjective

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For More Information on "paroxysm" go to Britannica.com

Pronunciation Symbols
HOW DID IT ALL START?
Acts 16

I. We study Philippians.
   A. One of the most beautiful of all of Paul's letters.
   B. Called the epistle of joy.
   C. Written to the first church established on European soil.
   D. It's a letter of gratitude; thanks for monetary gifts; for standing steadfastly with Paul; for having a heart of concern.

II. We learn about it during 2nd missionary journey.
   A. Separation came to Paul and Barnabas via John Mark.
      1. Barnabas & Mark to Cyprus.
      2. Paul and Silas for Asia Minor about AD 50--springtime, goes overland, Timothy joins at Lystra.
   B. Holy Spirit blocked intended direction in Asia.
      1. North to Mysia but not to preach there. Not good time for gospel here.
      2. To seaport of Troas.
      3. Here the Macedonian vision.
      4. Greek culture, however great, not sufficient to save one.
      5. Without delay sailed northern Aegean.
         a) To isle of Samothrace, but no work here. 20 miles.
         b) 2nd day to Neapolis--no work here. Many cities so named.
         c) 13 miles to Philippi, on Egnatian way.
C. Philippi
1. 400 years old.
2. Founded by Philip II, father of Alexander the great.
3. Mining center in the Pangaeus gold fields.
4. Rome defeated Macedonia 168 BC--made 4 republics--Philippi 1st and farthest east.
5. Some hard times--Brutus and Cassius committed suicide BC 42--Shakespeare's Julius Caesar.
6. Changes came as it became a colony--like a municipality of Italy.
7. Known for military and agriculture.

III. It is here we turn to Acts 16--church to get a letter that has joy and rejoice.
A. Letter also appeals to unity.
B. Here we'll mean Luke--"they" and "us or we." 
C. Sabbath seaside with Lydia.
   1. Baptized.
   2. Constrained us.
D. Damsel with spirit of divination--verse 17 servants of most high God--show us way of salvation--cleansed, gain gone, these mean are Jews, beaten, prison, stocks.
E. Jail and songs at midnight, earthquake, Do thyself no harm.
F. Jailer's question "what must I do to be saved?" and the answer.
G. Magistrates "go in peace". No come and release Romans.

H. To Lydia's house--saw brethren, comforted, departed.

IV. Later they will get a letter from Paul in a Roman jail, saints in Caesar's household send greetings.

Neely's Bend (BC) - 1/6/02
THE LAD FROM LYSTRA
Acts 16:1-5

I. For the first time we are destined to meet a great young man but we will never forget the Lad from Lystra.
A. Paul's "Then" is his second missionary journey "in reverse to his first one" said David Lipscomb.
   1. Visits churches he'd planted.
   2. Wants to encourage & strengthen them by teaching the word of God to them.
   3. Exhorts them to faithfulness & brings decrees of Apostles & elders--they are a part of the whole though autonomous.
   4. Gospel is ever moving.

B. To Derbe and Lystra.
   1. Lystra built on small hill rising 150' above the plain.
   2. Roman influence though not called a colony.
   3. In Asia minor.
   4. Here Paul stoned.

Acts 14:19 Persecutions, afflictions which came to me at thy. I endured.-Lord delivered
2 Tim. 3:11

   5. Healed cripple man and first people tried to call them gods.
   6. Stoning leaves no suggestion of Roman order of justice.
   7. Timothy saw all this that came to Turkey town.
   8. How do you suppose Paul felt in returning & Timothy seeing all this?
C. That certain disciple--the Lad from Lystra.

1. Converted on earlier tour?

1 Cor. 4:17 I sent T Bedoved Son. 1 Tim. 1:2 bring you into rem. of my ways in Christ.

2. If so Christian for 5 to 7 years.

3. Name--one who honors God.


D. We learn certain things about him.

1. Son of a certain woman.
   a) Note Dr. Luke's certain.
   b) Name Eunice = Victoria.
   c) Grandmother influential.

2 Tim. 1:5 Cell to rem. the un for 1st in thy.

2 Tim. 3:15 From a child thou hast known.
   d) See faith descend--grandmother--mother--son.
   e) All his religion influence is traced to mother--not his dad.
   f) Taught Scrp. from youth.

2 Tim. 3:15

2. His dad a Greek.
   a) Son of a mixed marriage.
   b) Double connection--could go to GK from Dad or talk to Jew from Mom.

3. Well reported of by brethren.
   a) Fixed character.
   b) Time shows the quality in the man.
   c) Opinion of others important.
   d) Left in Ephesus later to deal with "certain men" who taught "false doctrine", thus confidence in him.
e) Character of church leaders very important.

f) Shuns scandals.

g) Value attested.

1 Tim. 1:18  Read #1

1 Tim. 4:14  Neglect not the gift, given prophecy

4. Other things. Having hands pressed

   a) Laid hands on him.

1 Tim. 4:14

   b) Received letters from Paul.

   c) Devoted to truth.

   d) One of the best companions.

Phil. 2:19-23  Read #2

1 Cor. 4:17

1 Cor. 16:10-11  Read #3

1 Thess. 3:1  Read #4

   e) Companions few & changeable.

II. Him Paul Had Go With Him.

   A. Note Paul's great influence with youth--

   Develop it--need new blood.

   B. Timothy knew what could happen.

2 Tim. 3:10-11

   1. Lifeless stoned body of Paul surely on his mind.

   2. Saw spectacle of innocent suffering.


   4. Saw with tribulations one enters the Kingdom.

Acts 14:21-22  Read #5

   5. Stayed with Paul to the end.

   C. Took to be circumcised.

   1. Ordained with many witnesses.

1 Tim. 6:12  Read #6

   *Cor 9:20* to the Jews = become a Jew
2. No one demanded to be circumcised as religious duty.

3. It was social—Jews would not listen to him without it.

4. Titus not circumcised.

Gal. 2:3-5

a) Had he been it would have implied something else essential to conversion.

b) Would not hear to it.

5. Timothy's necessary for social contact, not religious ceremony.

6. We make timely concessions.

7. We seek to cooperate without friction.

8. Note he is already a Christian and so recognized.

9. To a Jew he became a Jew.

10. We submit to some things painful & burdensome if they point to greater usefulness.

III. They Go to Work.

A. See a companion.

1. Not physically strong.

1 Tim. 5:23 Use a little wine, strengthened often ins.

2. Emotional.

2 Tim. 1:4 Mindful of thy tears

3. Shrinks from some hardship.

1 Cor. 16:10 Be c you who tear

B. But he's moving through cities for a purpose.

1. Delivering decrees to keep.

5.

b) "Sound doctrine, not merely good technique, lies beneath all God-given church growth." (Elwell)

c) Be faithful to compacts.

d) Recognize Apostles & elders.

2. Establish churches in the faith--"make firm."

3. Increase in number daily--Growth Important.

Beltline church, Decatur, AL (BC) - 5/18/97
Germantown, TN (BC) - 10/26/97
Antioch (BC) -12/28/97
1 Tim 1:18 #1
Phil 2:19-23 #2
1 Cor 16:10-11 #3
1 Thes 3:1-2 #4
Acts 14:21-22 #5
1 Tim 6:11-14 #6
Gal. 2:3-5 #7
WE MADE IT!

Acts 16:10

I. I received the title for my speech but no word as to how to proceed. Thus I hope the three-fold procedure meets what Kay Gowen had in mind.

II. First we look at the word MADE.

(See attached card)

III. Then I thought of what as seniors, as veterans in the Lord's service, as elders, deacons, preachers and teachers, you have seen come to pass in the last hundred years.

A. Made the remnant to blossom.
B. Made known a restoration plea.
C. Made the emerging church have a place to meet.
D. Made the scriptures alone a safe guide.
   1. Declaration and Address--Thomas Campbell, Washington, PA.
   2. Silent where scriptures silent.
      Speak where scriptures speak.
   3. If any man speak let him speak as the oracles.
E. Made education and benevolence flourish.
1. Universities
2. Orphans and old folks homes.

F. Made opportunities available to various talents.
1. Educational directors
2. Counseling centers
3. Youth ministers, women's work

G. Made use of inventions
1. Radio
2. TV
3. Newspapers
4. Magazines

H. Made gifts of money that's inspirational.

I. Made the church have a name—and may God forgive us!

J. Made art in literature attractive and truthful.
   1. I didn't know Paul was a cripple.
   2. Even church bulletins attractive.

K. Made a study of effectiveness.
   1. 30-second ads—change frame every 8 second.
   2. Power points

L. Made accapella music vibrant.

IV. Made various scriptures speak.
   John 1:3  (mades)
   Acts 13:5
   Romans 1:3
V. Made women seen and heard.

Acts 16:10

A. One word in Greek for preach the gospel.
   1. Proclaim glad tidings.
   2. Start evangelizing Europe
   3. Woman first convert

B. Paul went searching--prayers want to be made.
   1. Out of the city.
   2. Lit. outside the gate.
   3. Nomos= law but earlier usage or custom.
   4. Prayer customarily made--meaning both prayer and place where we supposed there was a place of prayer.

C. Met Lyddia
   1. Seller of purple, worshipper of God--how?
   2. Expensive dye
   3. Successful--two houses--some of mine and some of somebody elses.
5. Approached her by first sitting down and then spoke.
6. Spoke, heart opened, respond, baptized.
7. Still same scheme of redemption.
D. Fellowship followed.
1. She urged. Constrained—urge strongly.
2. If judged me faithful—not one of doubt but earnest petition.
3. Come into my house and stay.
a) Big enough for Paul's party.
b) Must have been successful maternally.
4. Prevailed, constrained (no immediate complying).
a) We love our teachers.
b) She needs to express thanksgiving to her teachers.
c) Constrained only used her and means use force, urge strongly.
5. First convert in western world a Greek event, not a Chinese as going west, not east.

Branson, MO
(Sunday Night) -- 10/11/09
We are persuaded that it is high time for us not only to think, but also to act for ourselves; to see with our own eyes, and to take all our measures directly and immediately from the Divine Standard; to this alone we feel ourselves divinely bound to be conformed; as by this alone we must be judged.

We are also of opinion that as the divine word is equally binding upon all so all like under an equal obligation to be bound by it, and it alone; and not by any human interpretation of it: and that therefore no man has a right to judge his brother, except in so far as he manifestly violates the express letter of the law.

--Thomas Campbell  
Declaration and Address  
First Edition, 1809, pg. 3

Tired and sick of the bitter jarrings and janglings of a party spirit, we would desire to be at rest; and, were it possible, we would also desire to adopt and recommend such measures, as would give rest to our brethren throughout all the churches--as would restore unity, peace, and purity, to the whole church of God.

--Thomas Campbell  
Declaration and Address  
First Edition, 1809, pg. 3

We might forever cease from farther contentions about such things; returning to, and holding fast by, the original standard; taking the divine word alone for our rule: The Holy Spirit for our teacher and guide, to lead us into all truth; and Christ alone as exhibited in the word for our salvation--that, by so doing, we may be at peace among ourselves, follow peace with all men, and holiness without which no man shall see the Lord.

--Thomas Campbell  
Declaration and Address  
First Edition, 1809, pg. 4
Without attempting to inculcate any thing of human authority, of private opinion, or inventions of men, as having any place in the constitution, faith, or worship, of the christian church—or, any thing, as matter of christian faith, or duty, for which there cannot be expressly produced a thus saith the Lord either in express terms, or by approved precedent.

--Thomas Campbell
Declaration and Address
First Edition, 1809, pg. 5

The cause that we advocate is not our own peculiar, nor the cause of any party, considered as such; it is a common cause, the cause of Christ and our brethren of all denominations. (Not only Christian but Christ's only)

Dearly beloved brethren, why should we deem it a thing incredible, that the church of Christ, in this highly favored country, should resume that original unity, peace, and purity, which belongs to its constitution, and constitutes its glory? Or, is there any thing that can justly be deemed necessary for this desirable purpose, but to conform to the model, and adopt the practice, of the primitive church, expressly exhibited in the New Testament

--Thomas Campbell
Declaration and Address
First Edition, 1809, pg. 10

Whose express command to his people is, that there be no divisions among them; but that they all walk by the same rule, speak the same things, and be perfectly joined together in the same mind, and in the same judgment?

--Thomas Campbell
Declaration and Address
First Edition, 1809, pg. 14
THAT the church of Christ upon earth is essentially, intentionally, and constitutionally one; consisting of all those in every place that profess their faith in Christ and obedience to him in all things according to the scriptures, and that manifest the same by their tempers and conduct, and of none else as none else can be truly and properly called christians.

Yet there ought to be no schisms, no uncharitable divisions among them.

--Thomas Campbell
Decloration and Address
First Edition, 1809, pg. 18

That in order to this, nothing ought to be inculcated upon christians as articles of faith; nor required of them as terms of communion; but what is expressly taught, and enjoined upon them, in the word of God. Nor ought any thing be admitted, as of divine obligation, in their church constitution and managements, but what is expressly enjoined by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ and his Apostles upon the New Testament church; either in express terms, or by approven precedent.

--Thomas Campbell
Declaration and Address
First Edition, 1809, pg. 19

That with respect to the commands and ordinances of our Lord Jesus Christ, where the scriptures are silent, as to the express time or manner of performance, if any such there be; no human authority has power to interfere, in order to supply the supposed deficiency, by making laws for the church; nor can any thing more be required of christians in such cases, but only that they so observe these commands and ordinances, as will evidently answer the declared and obvious end of their institution. Much less has any human authority power to impose new commands or ordinances upon the church, which our Lord Jesus Christ has not enjoined. Nothing ought to be received into the faith or worship of the church; or be made a term of communion amongst christians, that is not as old as the New Testament.

-over-
Ye believe that the word itself ought to be our rule and not any human explication of it; so do we. Ye believe that no man has a right to judge, to exclude, or reject, his professing christian brother; except in so far as he stands condemned, or rejected, by the express letter of the law.

--Thomas Campbell  
_Declaration and Address_  
First Edition, 1809, pg. 24

We have no nostrum, no peculiar discovery of our own to propose to fellow-christians, for the fancied importance of which, they should become followers of us. We propose to patronize nothing but the inculcation of the express word of God—either as to matter of faith or practice,—but every one that has a Bible, and can read it, can read this for himself.

--Thomas Campbell  
_Declaration and Address_  
First Edition, 1809, pg. 28
Wherein we declare ourselves ready to relinquish, whatever we have hitherto received as matter of faith or practice, not expressly taught and enjoined in the word of God; so that we, and our brethren, might, by this mutual condescension, return together to the origial constitutional unity of the christian church, and dwell together in peace and charity.

In fact sprinkling from creed

Thomas Campbell
Declaration and Address
First Edition, 1809, pg. 53

But can the opinion of any party, be it ever so respectable, give the samp of a Divine authority to its judgments? If not, then every human standard is deficient in this leading, all-important, and indispensable property of a rule, or standard, for the doctrine, worship, discipline, and government of the church of God.

--Thomas Campbell
Declaration and Address
First Edition, 1809, pg. 53

"Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar." We dare therefore neither do, nor receive any thing, as of divine obligation, for which there cannot be expressly produced a "thus saith the Lord" either in express terms, or by approved precedent. According to this rule we judge, and beyond it we dare not go.

--Thomas Campbell
Declaration and Address
First Edition, 1809, pg. 32
The final leg of the journey took the group to the home of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society in the Nashville area. Of particular interest was a plaque describing the mission of the Restoration Movement, which reads,

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST. Early in the nineteenth century, in the land of the Western waters, a new Christian movement was born, impelled by conviction that God could require of this highly favored New World nothing less than a thorough reformation in all things civil and religious. Its pioneers, men of the adventurous spirit of the New Age of Freedom and Enlightenment, held these truths to be self-evident: That men are endowed by God with equal rights to think and act for themselves in all matters of religious belief and practice;
That a divided church is sin and the spirit of love and unity, liberty and concord is to be restored by casting off the shackles of human traditions and returning to the original faith and order of the Church of Christ; That belief in Jesus the Christ and obedience to Him as Lord is the only test of Christian character and the only bond of Christian union.

--Kay Gowen
_A Pilgrimage to Remember_ - pg. 16-17
Abundant Living - July 2009
being over 40...

7. Things you buy now won’t wear out.
8. You can eat dinner at 4 P.M.
9. You can live without sex but not without glasses.
10. You enjoy hearing about other peoples operations.
11. You get into heated arguments about pension plans.
12. You have a party and the neighbors don’t even realize it.
14. You quit trying to hold your stomach in, no matter who walks into the room.
15. You sing along with elevator music.
16. Your eyes won’t get much worse.
17. Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.
18. Your joints are more accurate meteorologists than the national weather service.
19. Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can’t remember them.

Either...

20. Your supply of brain cells is finally down to manageable size.
21. You can’t remember where this list came from.
CHANGED BY A BODY OF WATER
Acts 16:6-12
I. What really changes the course of our lives?
   A. Maples wanted Bergners to go to Harding.
   B. Leon Locke's telegram that said no to ACC.
   C. But what affects us the most is a little narrow body of water - not just being in it in baptism but on it as a missionary. I want to tell you this story.
II. We've earlier wrestled with the Divine guidance - 1st the Holy Spirit, then the Spirit of Jesus bottled up Paul. Coming down to Troas we find the famous Macedonian call. It's the 3rd incidence of divine guidance.
   A. A Vision in the Night (V. 9).
      1. We don't know how Gospel got to Troas.
      2. Did Luke carry it?
      3. Was he the man?
      4. How did Paul know he was a Macedonian?
      5. Here was a vision that touched off the European tour & resulted in my salvation!
      6. Macedonia was dominant power in GK world.
      7. Was it a dream?
   B. Paul Endeavored to Go.
      1. If the cry of help calls do we not try to go.
      2. One of the great sins of our time is apathy.
      3. We help by preaching the gospel.
      4. Do we want to help via mission work today?
   C. "Assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel unto them" (V. 10).
      1. Part of Paul's decision rested upon a deduction - not a firm statement of God.
2. Coffman - Paul had many arrows but still saw the providential guidance.
3. His action reduced to deliberate judgment & common sense based upon what he that he saw.
4. No doubt God guides - but what are the means.
5. What is our fleece today?
6. V. Hugo, "God makes visible to men His will in events, an obscure text written in a mysterious language."

III. That Crossing of the Bar.
A. The Journey - Troas - Sam - Neapolis - Philippi.
   1. We have our first "we" in Acts.
   2. No mention he preached at Troas but he did.
   Acts 20:5 "These going before tarried for us at Troas.
   3. Sam = mountainous island - 5000' hills.
      a.) Favorable wind.
      b.) Straight course & fast one too.
      c.) Island 20 miles in circumference.
      d.) Haven for criminals.
      a.) Big city.
      b.) Why didn't he preach there?
      c.) This journey quickly done because wind was favorable. Reverse journey took 5 days.
   Acts 20:6 "And we sailed away from Philippi after the
   d.) Mt. rose 4 to 8000' around it in 30 miles.
5. Philippi.
   a.) 1st island town.
   b.) Or best town of district - what do words mean?
   c.) Here Antony & Octavian whipped Brutus &
Cassius. (Octavian later became Augustus.)
Battle 42 BC.
d.) Philippi aped Rome - tried to be just like it.
e.) 10 miles inland from Neapolis.
I. A lot of questions arise:
   A. Should I pray for the sick?
   B. What do I expect my prayers for Harris Goodwin to do?
   C. How is God going to guide Juan Monroy in the wisest usage of his time.
   D. Do the Scriptures speak on these matters?

II. Paul's search for Direction.
   A. "They had gone through Phrygia" (V. 6).
      1. We don't know exact bounds of Phrygia & Galatia.
      2. Asia not continent but Roman province west of S. Galatia.
      3. Was it region of Ephesus, Sardis, Smyrna?
      4. Interpreters say P. & G. a single district.
      5. One time did preach in Galatian.

(guards that came from France – Warriors)

1 Cor. 16:1 "Now concerning the collection for the saints, you know that because of the infirmities of the flesh I pr.

Gal. 4:14-15 "And my temptation which was in my flesh which was in my flesh, out of most unpropitious circumstances he preached.

B. "Forbidding of the Holy Ghost to Preach the Word in Asia" (V. 6).

   1. 3 very important things: HG; Word; Asia.
   2. Word instrument of salvation & surely it is to be preached.
   3. Asia an ideal place.
a.) More cities there than anywhere else close.
b.) Folks were lost there.
c.) Terrain & people seemingly were more favorable to spread of Gospel.
d.) God looks inwardly not outwardly.

a.) Divine guidance accompanies the preacher of the gospel.
b.) Call it Providential direction if you like but spell it with a capital P.
c.) Why wouldn't God want word everywhere?
d.) How does the Holy Spirit suppress?
(1) Subjective impression.
(2) Word of another prophet.

Acts 20:23 "Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every place whither we have come..."
21:10 "And as we tarried there many days, there..."

C. "After they were come to Mysia...Bithynia...Spirit suffered them not" (V. 7).

1. Mysia was northern border between Asia & Bithynia.
a.) Most northern part of Asia.
b.) Passing by means he didn't preach there.
c.) "Passing by" = w/o stopping - why?

2. Bithynia.
a.) Peter's town.

1 Pet. 1:1 "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the..."
b.) Place for Peter, not for Paul - there is a place for each of us, tho not the same.
c.) Costal region - North & east along Propontes & Black Sea.
3. Non-suffering spirit.
   (a) Same story.
   (b) Spirit of God, Spirit of Jesus, Holy Spirit all divinity & all stand in same relationship.
   (c) One prohibition laid to Holy Spirit & one to Spirit of Jesus.
   i Cor. 15:45 "And so it is written, The first man Adam
   (d) Spirit of Jesus used only here.
   2 Cor. 3:17 "Now the Lord is that Spirit; and where t
   (e) Thus prohibited from going either east or north - came from South - so either go West or go home
   (f) Puzzle to come to dead end of sea - where go?
III. This Brings up a Strange Matter - Divine Guidance in the Work of Man.
A. Some obvious facts.
1. Paul's tour had both strategic planning & divine guidance.
   (a) If we count the later call at Troas - 3 times it's said in these short verses.
   (b) Remember Paul not traveling for pleasure or profit but as an ambassador of God.
2. God has a plan by which he guides men.
   (a) Is He a messenger boy to tell us what to do next
   (b) Fatalism says all planned
      Accidentalism says none planned
3. Providence is flexible enuf to include free men.
   a.) Did God plan what you wear today?
   b.) Did He plan a long spell of sickness for you - if you carelessly got your feet wet, smoked, drank?
c.) Does He not let some things work themselves out just as you do in an overall plan? Even as you do for your children?

d.) You plan development for your child - if he breaks a toy, did you plan this?

e.) Did not your plan include the possibility of failure?

f.) Is your plan to preserve the quality & quantity of life?

g.) In the middle of a novel who can say an event was pointless - all points toward an end - a motivation.

4. There are foolish ways to determine guidance.

a.) Stick finger at flapped open Bible - "it's for me.

b.) Strange voices heard from outer world.

c.) Infallible conclusion that "this is it!"

d.) Oracle, ouija board, horoscope.

b. I had had:

1. Right desire

2. Right guidance

3. Miraculous communication.

4. Yet had to also use common sense & "common sense."

End 2-6-77.
LYdia: The Lady on Whom God Did Open
Heart Surgery
Acts 16:13-15

1. You have a heart? It's a great piece of machinery.
   A. Statement about its function.
   B. Statement about its repair.
   C. Yet the Bible heart is greater than that - and God claims it for His.
   1. He's concerned about it.
      Matt. 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart..."
      Matt. 6:21 "For where your treasure is there will your heart be also..."
      Matt. 12:34 "For out of the abundance of the heart..."
      Matt. 15:19 "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts..."
      Matt. 18:35 "From the heart forgive not every man..."
   2. With my heart I:
      (a) Reason.
      Mk. 2:8 Jesus, "Why reason ye these things in your hearts..."
      (b) Believe.
      Lu. 24:25 "O fools & slow of heart to believe..."
      (c) Feel
      John 14:1 "Let not your heart be troubled..."
      Acts 2:37 "Now when they heard this they were pricked in their heart..."
      (d) Think.
      Heb. 4:12 "For the word of God is quick & powerful...
      (e) Purpose.

2 Cor. 9:7 "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart..."

3. It was a heart that God opened.

   A. That Sat. Prayer mtg.
   B. Spoke c worshipping women.
   C. Spake to one certain woman - Lydia.
D. God opened her heart & she cooperated.
E. 1st baptism on European soil.
F. Power of a constraining woman.

III. That Saturday Prayer Meeting. (1)
A. Out of the city - by the river side.
   1. 10 Jewish men usually built a synagogue - thus few in Philippi.
   2. Strange congregation.
      (a) All women - no men.
      (b) No building.
      (c) No city influence or prestige.
      (d) Where was man who'd said, "Come over into Macedonia & help us." Do we often have friend desert us on arrival?
   4. Inviting - because prayer was wont to be made!
      (a) Good place to preach the word.
      (b) Prayer doesn't need a building. Do we accept inconvenience.

B. In a friendly manner "we sat down & spake unto the women."

Jn. 4:6-26 Jesus sat thus
Acts 8:29-39 Phillip & Eunuch
   1. Above story of others who "sat."
   2. So stage is set for us.

IV. We Spake o the Women. (2)
A. Several things are apparent.
   1. Paul was evangelical.
   2. Each should seek to reach another.
   3. Wonder how he found out about these folk?
B. Big point: women are valuable.
1. Phillip Morrison Clip.
2. More women than men - then & now - why?
3. Other women at Philippi.

Phil. 4:2 Euodias & Syntyche

V. But a Certain Woman Heard. (3)
A. That certain woman was Lydia.
1. We know her name = "Bending."
2. Occupation = seller of purple.
   (a) Wealthy?
   (b) Widow?
3. Address = Thyatira.
4. Character.
   (a) Didn't let her business interfere with her worship.
   (b) We'd all do better if we put God 1st.
B. Obviously:
1. One soul is very important.
2. It is essential we be personal.

VI. Whose Heart the Lord Opened. (4)
A. I've earlier defined heart.
B. What's associated with the opening?
1. God got the preacher & the prospect together.
2. Paul spake the gospel since she heard about the
   Lord & baptism, the addition
3. God declared as the heart opener.

Jn. 1:13 "Which were born of blood, will not God
Jn. 6:44-45 "No man can come to me except
   (a) Was this the only heart opened?
   (b) Does He vary His method?
C. What Role Did Lydia play?
1. She attended unto the things spoken.
2. She heard.
Rom. 10:17 "So then faith cometh by hearing, and he
3. Her mind not closed against more truth; tho she
was earlier a worshipper.
4. Chrysostom, "To open is the part of God: to pay
attention that of women."
Ps. 119:18 "Open thou my eyes that I may behold
119:130 "The entrance of thy word giveth light; it
Lu. 24:45 "Then opened he their understanding, that
5. Note quality of hearing - "gave heed".
Acts 8:6 "And the people c one accord gave
(a) Heed to truth.
(b) Drank it in.
6. Purpose of gospel is to open.
Acts 26:18 "To open their eyes & to turn them from da
7. "Devil closes."
2 Cor. 4:4 "The god of this world .. blind .. believe
not .. lost the light of the glory of .. shine.
8. Man permits heart to be opened.
Rev. 3:20 "Behold I stand at the door & knock: if any r
VI. Open Hearted Lady was Baptized. (5)
A. All N.T. Conversions end c Baptism.
1. Great public profession.
2. Not prayer, nor testimony of experience but
baptism.
3. I can't even find a baby there!
4. River was .. so could immerse.
5. Purple gave way to white robe of the Lamb.
6. No delay in its occurrence.
7. 1st mention of baptism in a conversion by Paul.
B. Great Moment.
   1. Woman was 1st European Christian.
   2. One person is very important.
   3. Mustard seed - later a church Paul called "his crown."
   4. Household - great to have family solidarity.

VII. Power of Constraining Woman.
   A. Am I faithful to the Lord?
   B. Do you move folk to positive response?
HEART—Power—21

Did you know that your heart, if normal, beats approximately 100,000 times every day; a million times every ten days, and between 36 and 38 million times every year? Every hour, your heart expends enough energy to carry a 150-pound man from the street level to the roof of a three-story building. Every day, it pushes from five to ten tons of blood (depending upon the size of your body) through your blood vessels. If you attain your allotted threescore and ten years, your heart, in the course of those 70 years, will have exerted enough force to lift the world's largest battleship fourteen feet out of the water! — Sunshine Magazine.

The function of this highly specialized muscular organ about the size of one's fist is to pump blood—day in and day out, hour after hour, minute after minute, second after second. The resting heart, beating (for example) 72 times per minute, beats over 100,000 times per day. With each beat it ejects up to three ounces of blood from each ventricle. The left ventricle, during contraction, works against an average mean pressure of 85 mm. of mercury, which is equivalent to a vertical water column (water pressure) of about 46 inches, and propels the blood in the aorta at a mean velocity of some 16 inches per second. Thus the left ventricle, beating at a rate of 60 times per minute, each minute...
may move nearly 1\(\frac{1}{2}\) gallons of blood an approximate distance of 1\(\frac{1}{2}\) feet, pumping a staggering total of some 2000 gallons of blood per day. Though multiplied many times by frictional resistance, this task, uncomplicated, would be roughly equivalent to lifting some 12 tons through a distance of one foot, a truly prodigious feat.

THE CONQUEST OF FEAR
M. F. Graham
P. 49
...There's a lot of "purple pride" in Kansas, especially at Manhattan on football Saturdays. But did you know that all this pride over purple started in ancient Lebanon?

To this day great mounds of shells can be found on beaches near Tyre, south of Beirut. These are the sites of ancient factories that produced the famous Tyrian purple dye during the days of the Phoenician empire. Not only is "Phoenicia" the Greek word for "purple", but when the dye was shipped to Rome it became a symbol of Roman authority and led to the expression "born to the purple." The dye was derived from shellfish, each of which contributed two precious drops of yellowish liquid from which tones ranging from rose to dark violet could be extracted in boiling vats.

The Tyrians dominated the market, for theirs was the only dye then available that did not require a fixative. At first the coloring was applied to garments woven in Crete but, after the decline of that island race, the Phoenicians imported raw wool and did their own weaving and embroidery.
THOSE WHO'VE ACCEPTED AN INVITATION
SHOULD EXTEND ONE!
Acts 16:13-15

1. We are all familiar with the conversion of Lydia.
A. To tell that story to emphasize the facts that
brought her into Christ doesn't give time to tell
you of the effects her faith had on her.
B. I'd like now to look at that one phase of this story.

II. After Accepting an Invitation She Extended One.
Acts 16:15 "And when she was baptized & her
A. Her Conversion was Real.
1. She had a zealous attachment to the gospel cause.
Heb. 6:9-10 "But, beloved, we are persuaded better t
2. We need to adorn the gospel we receive.
3. 28% of Nashville said they were prejudiced
   against the church of Christ - Why?
4. Only when we apply ourselves to the word does
   it do us good.
5. "Faithful to the Lord"
Matt. 11:27 "All things are delivered unto me of my F
Lu. 24:45 "Then opened he their understanding, that t
B. Her Gratitude was Tangible.
1. It was practical - she invited Paul, Silas, Luke,
   Mark (?) to her house - and she was even away
   from home!
2. Kind deeds are a natural response to the gospel.
3. When she got preachers to visit her, she knew
   them better & they her. We need more "5th
   Quarters." In Hi tonite Student Center.
4. Such action is basic to Jesus.
Matt. 25:35 "For I was an hungred, and ye gave me m
C. Her Action Aroused Others.
1. You are a motivating power.
2. Aren't there fringe people you can move today?
3. She was not reluctant to be associate c a small group.
Lu. 24:29 "But they constrained him, saying, Abide wi
5. She was not ashamed of the Lord's battered prisone
6. She maintained the "spiritual glow" - Moffatt.
Rom. 12:11 "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit;
7. Souls of the faithful cleave to those by whom they were joined to God.
8. She overcame there reluctance—as well a woman in her own sphere can.

* Head-Evât 10-1.2-75
LET'S PRAY FOR THE HEART'S OPENING
Acts 16:13-18

I. Philippi would never be the same.
   A. A lady - a girl - a jailer all touched.
   B. Philippi a Roman colony.
      1. It's like a piece of Rome transported abroad. - Philip, Alex., and revenue from gold mines
      2. Its citizens enjoy same rights as those of Italy - Bruce.
      3. Brutus & Cassius defeated here by Antony & Octavian 42 B.C.
      4. Octavian became Caesar Augustus.
      5. But more than Caesar a woman, the first European convert becomes a Christian. Instantly everyone God will
      6. Passed through Neapolis (new town) 10 miles S.E. - it was Philippi's harbor.

II. It All Started with a Need to Pray.
   A. Sabbath?
      2. Sabbath - to Rest.
      3. Does not this imply they searched for a Jewish group?
      4. Choose a day when the hearing is best; choose a people who should respond.

   B. Riverside
      1. Perhaps no Synagogue - it took 10 men. 400 in Jerusalem
      2. Jews often used seaside.

Ps. 137:1
3. River 1 mile from town.
4. If you can't do all we would do no reason for not doing all we can do – thus to the River's bank – Vaughn.

C. Wanted Prayer – Prayed for what?
1. Guessed at where it would be made.
2. Evidently these women prayed for salvation – so God sends a preacher.
3. He timed it perfectly.
4. Thus not saved by a miracle but providential direction of petitioner and preacher.

D. Taught the Women
1. Sat & spake
   a) Grown folk
   b) Talked informally
2. Women
   a) Christianity puts great value on women– other religions do not.
   b) Women had been instruments of man's greed & lust.
   c) Gospel honors her.
3. One of the women – Lydia.
   a) Character
      (1) Wealth & aristocratic circle to move in.
      (2) Had her own house.
      (3) Widow – single – divorced?
      (4) Busy in business yet time to pray.
      (5) Woman of means, modesty, boldness, intellect.
   b) Character uses hygrophylic
   (6) Named for ecume
(6) She used what little she had in religion & got a lot more.

b) Occupation – sold purple.
(1) Dye from murex shell.
(2) "Royal" purple – only the wealthy used it.

c) From Thyatira - Location, N.d.
(1) Oddly close to where Paul got call to come to Macadonia.
(2) Couldn't go where he wanted – man turns out to be a woman!
(3) Thyatira one of 7 churches (Rev. 1:11).

d) Religiously –
(1) Worshipped God
(2) Greek ?

III. The Conversion
A. Paul spoke the gospel
B. She Heard
   1. Imperfect tense.
   2. Sustained attention.
C. Heart Opened – Wheel Breaks Back
   1. Open heart
      a) Here & Luke 24:45 only so far as conversions.
      b) This comes after Paul spoke & after she started listening.
      c) Word used metaphorically.
      d) It means to expand, broaden, awake.
      e) Note what we have so far.
         (1) God does it. But all of it?
         (2) Gospel is preached.
         (3) A worshipper listens.
f) When narrowness of heart produced by improper education stands in the way of Salvation God removes it. He opens the heart by the expanding & ennobling influence of his truth. (McGarvey)
g) This applies to both Saint & Sinner.
h) Compound verb – completely opened.

2. Method
a) By direct operation of Spirit (?)
   (1) No evidence of such
   (2) No abstract influence ascribed.

b) By the preached word.
   (1) God gave the gospel – results thus produced by it were said to be His.
   (2) After she listened God opened her heart.
   (3) God by his Spirit was real agent through words of Paul.
   (4) Holy Spirit was in Paul.

3. Attended to word spoken
a) Means to concentrate the mind on a subject.

b) Practically observe
   Acts 8:6 (labeled: Philip & friend)
   1 Tim. 4:13
   Heb. 8:13

c) Now see Gospel – Spoken – Heard – Open – Attended – Baptized.
4. Spoken
   a) Paul told Lydia what to do to be saved.
   b) We need good seed, sower, broken ground, honest hearts.

D. Baptized Household
   1. N.T. conversions all end in baptism - even for praying folk.
   2. Gospel evidently includes baptism else why was she so moved.
   3. Immersion was included else why use "when".
   4. "When" carried idea of immersion - virtually implied.
   5. None but believers are baptized.
   6. Household
      a) Does not admit babies.
      b) Spoke (v-13) to women.
      c) No proof infants there.
      d) Some try argument by silence of Script. (This would outlaw her repentance).
      e) Some go so far as to say no need for faith.
      f) But do note the influence of head of house very strong.

IV. The Results
   A. She besought
      1. Expression of gratitude.
      2. More than a casual invitation.

B. Judge Me Faithful

Phil. 4:2
   1. Conversion involves continued faithfulness.
2. Also acceptation.
3. To be faithful implies that one is baptized.

C. Come to My House
1. Hospitality proves she is accepted.
2. Means - she has a house.

D. Constrained Us
1. Paul backward about accepting the invitation.
2. Delicate.
5. Forcible urgency.

Oxon Hill church, Temple Hills, MD - 8/26/88
Tampkinsville, KY - 9/11/88
Highland church, Columbia, TN - 10/2/88
Old Hickory church - 10/9/88
Beltline church, Decatur, AL (Bible C.) - 10/16/88
Maul Rd., Camden, AR - 10/23/88

Benton, AR -

College St., Waxahachie, TX (Noon) - 9/18/89
Graham St., Stephenville, TX - 3/6/90
Northside, Terre Haute, IN - 8/16/92 (BC)
Conway, AR - 8/23/92 (BC)
Washington St., Fayetteville, TN - 10/18/92
Benton, KY (BC) - 11/15/92
Germantown, TN (BC) 2/14/93
THE UGLY HEAD OF PREJUDICE
Acts 16:19-24

I. Man naturally wants a defense for his actions. In answer to "why" he may:
   A. Offer positive truth.
   B. Justify it by human judgment.
   C. Or in subterfuge disguise his selfish, prejudicial views by "patriotic reasons." All this is seen in the Philippian reception of Paul.

II. You recall his exorcising the spirit of divination from the damsel.

III. This action precipitated certain results.
   A. Masters saw all hope of gain was gone (V. 19).
      1. How honest are our pursuits.
      2. Pocketbooks are sacred precincts.
      3. Vested interest play a strong role.
      4. Masters not impressed by kindness shown girl.
   B. "Caught Paul & Silas & Drew them into the Market Place."
      1. Drew literally "dragged."
      2. Wonder how Luke & Timothy felt & why they were not sieged.
      4. This was pure Gentile persecution.
   C. Disguised their actions c a strong patriotic statement V. 17 "These men being Jews, do exceedingly
      1.) Racist view.
      2.) Laws prohibited foreign religious propaganda among Roman citizens."
3. Christianity was called religio non licita - not licensed - an unlicensed cult.
4. In foreign as well as US we have trouble being understood since no earthly headquarters.
5. Want to ordain men - yet I want to be no part of a clergy.

D. Mob reaction was born.
   1. Magistrates rose up together.
      a.) Paul never seemingly given a chance to speak & declare he was a Roman citizen.
      b.) Men are aroused to madness when business is threatened.
   2. Magistrates rent off their clothes.
      a.) Proceedings disorderly & irregular.
      b.) Magistrates give way to popular fury.
   3. Commanded to beat them.
      a.) Savagely beaten.
      b.) God calls servants to hard usage many times.
      c.) Why didn't Paul claim his Roman citizenship?
         (1) Couldn't be heard?
         (2) Couldn't prove it?
         (3) Protect only self & leave Silas to suffer?
      d.) It was severe treatment - more than normal.
      e.) 1 Thess. 2:2 "shamefully treated."
   2 Cor. 6:5 "In stripes, imprisonments, tumults"
   f.) Coffman says our dimes have picture of rods & ax showing invested civil power of magistrate to whip & execute.
4. Imprisoned them.
   (a) Cast into prison.
(b) Charged jailer to keep them safely.
(c) Placed in inner prison.
   (1) Could be underground.
   (2) Dungeon type (?).
(d) Made their feet fast in the stocks.
   (1) Roman stocks didn't just hold legs but extended them in most painful manner.
   (2) Stock sometimes had 5 holes.
   (3) When fiercely assaulted Christianity survives.
   (4) It is not a hot house plant but lives W/i the path of the furnace blast.

IV. I Face Some Necessary Questions.
A. What Material Desires Cause Me Madness?
B. Do I give a Fair Exchange of Time for Pay Receive?
C. Am I tempted to follow the popular fury?
D. Whom do I leave in the lurch to protect my own skin?
E. Do I analyze a problem & see it larger than the moment--do I assess future needs--Paul would need Silas later to convert the Jailer.
F. What hurt have I endured for Jesus' sake?

These End, 8-8-76
THE CONTRAST OF TWO EVENINGS
Acts 16:19-34

I. Have you not had two evenings that differ widely?
   A. One night it was a birthday celebration; the next night it was clean up.
   B. Maybe it was graduation; the next it was packing to go home.
   C. But of all contrasting times, I think Paul and Silas take the cake.

II. The First Evening
   A. Paul and Silas are busy.
      1. A vision has led them to come to Macedonia.
      2. They came to Philippi.
      3. On the Sabbath they went to the riverside where prayer was wont to be made.
      4. They met with women, Lydia was there and attending to the things spoken by Paul she was baptized.
      5. This business woman urged them to come to her house and they did.
      6. As the day wore on those going to prayer met another interesting woman.
         a) Possessed a spirit of divination.
         b) Was a profitable slave.
         c) Made big bucks for her master.
7. She followed "Paul and us" and cried "these men are the servants of the most high God which show unto us the way of salvation."
   a) The more people want their fortune told the more they pay.
   b) Yet she knew great truths.
8. Note the truths this woman proclaimed.
   a) Way of salvation--singular, to be learned and needs to be proclaimed.
   b) To learn the way listen to the apostles.

Heb. 2:1-4
   c) God wants men saved.
9. She did this many days.
10. Though she spoke the truth it is advertisement from the wrong source--Heaven and Hell are apart.

11. Evil spirits know Jesus.
Matt. 8:29
Lu. 4:41
12. But he cast them out.
13. Paul too was "sore troubled," both the condition of the maid and the source of the advertisement.
14. Jesus came to destroy works of the devil.
3. So to the enragement of her masters, Paul cast out demons and we are not told the future of the girl--came out same hour.

B. The Men's Reaction
1. Hope of gain gone.
2. Laid hold on Paul and Silas.
3. Drug them to marketplace--a forum where public meetings were held.
5. First lower officials, then before magistrates--two men called dviri or pretors who had supreme power in Roman city.
6. Real cause not told but Jews create trouble--unlawful customs.
7. Prejudice aroused.
8. Excited multitude rose up together against them.
9. Garments rent--no defense heard, beat with rods as stripped and naked bodies beaten.
10. Many stripes--severe--inner prison--feet fast in stocks.
11. So went the first evening.

III. The Next Evening as Midnight Comes
A. At midnight now.
1. Praying
2. Singing to God
3. Prisoners heard
4. Must have been a strange sound to others.
B. God heard as He does all prayers.
   1. Sent Earthquake.
   2. Foundation of prison house shaken.
   3. All doors opened, all bands loosed.
C. Jailer felt earthquake whether he heard the singing or not.
   1. Saw all doors open.
   2. Thought all escaped.
   3. Drew suicide sword.
   4. Paul's loud voice, "Do thyself no harm."
D. Something more important than catching prisoners so his question--what must I do to be saved?
   1. Specific
   2. Personal
   3. Active--do
   4. Salvation the aim--not get rich, promoted, but saved!
   5. Called for a light, trembling, sprang in, fell at feet.
E. He got his answer.
   1. Brought them out of dark inner prison.
   2. Question--what must I do? Not saved from Roman punishment for letting them escape--(they are all there!)
   3. Saw Paul's kindness to him and was saved from Roman consequences.
4. Didn't know Jesus so word
came to declare him to all big
evenough to understand.
5. Washed stripes as changed from
laying on stocks via repentance
as taught by word.
F. Further Action
1. Baptized outside house.
2. Brought into house.
3. Set food.
G. And so the 2nd evening!
Rejoiced greatly.
CORE OF THE GOSPEL
Acts 17:1–4

I. At times you strike a statement and you know immediately this is it. It is a superior summary.
A. Ever try to write a headline?
B. Have a slogan--rains it pours, Sherwin Williams--we cover the world.
   Car: We try harder.
C. Here in this missionary journey we find it: "v-3 Christ must needs have suffered and risen from the dead--out of the Scriptures."

II. See the Continued Journey
A. Now
   1. Leaving Philippi.
   2. Start of another city assault.
   3. Moving SW toward Athens.
      a) Arnot said, "the instinct of a warrior seeking a worthy Athenian philosopher."
      b) New area to evangelize.
B. They Passed.
   1. New pronoun--they, first person dropped.
   2. Timothy and Luke stay in Philippi?
C. Passed (used by Luke special word)
   1. Took the Egnatian way of Roman construction with flagstones, before Hitler, before us--Rome had it.
   2. Amphipolies
      a) Means "around the city."
      b) Surrounded by River Strymon perhaps.
c) But no gospel preached here.
d) Looking for strategically placed cities.
e) Find seats of government & trade.
f) Aren't we blessed to have heard of predenominational Christianity?

3. Apollonia
   a) No gospel here either.
b) 27 miles from Amphipolis.
c) No synagogue there?

D. They Came to Thessalonica.
1. 100 miles from Philippi and we know so little that went on in the journey.
2. Holy Spirit did not share these secrets.
3. Thess. 38 miles from Apollonia.
   a) Renamed for Cassander's wife, Alexander's sister.
b) Today Salonika.
c) Great seaport.
d) 200,000 strong.
e) Free Roman city.
f) Gentiles there.

1 Thess. 1:9
   g) Biggest town so far Paul had gone to.

E. Synagogue "where there was".
1. Other cities not have one?
2. "Meeting place."
3. Go to Jews 1st and he'll also attract some Gentiles.
4. By preaching to Jews will convert Gentiles—Keeble & the Whites.
5. When synagogue chance no move he went to house of Jason.
6. "Custom was"—this is Lukan.
7. Paul sought good opportunity in ordinary places.
8. Church must reach people & their needs.
9. 800,000 in Berlin—25,000 seats in all its churches—they had little concern for people's problems.

III. Now Comes the Core of Evangelism & the Gospel.
   A. 3 continuous days (and in 3 days he'll move a multitude.)
   B. Reasoned with them out of the Scriptures.
      1. His basis—the Scriptures.
      2. Above flesh, God reveals.
      4. Scriptures his only standard—not feeling or tradition.
      5. Happily ask "What sayeth the Scriptures?"
      6. From reasoning we get word dialectic, dialogue—never adopt world's method to conquer (as force)

2 Cor.10:4-5
   C. Method: Reason, Open, Allegle.
      1. God's word is sensible.
      2. Open it.
         a) Opening out & laying down.
         b) OT a nut, open shell & see kernel.
         c) Open—explain.
         d) Reveal a truth that was hidden in O.T.
3. Allege
   a) Not uncertain, like newspaper usage.
   b) Not quarrelsome attitude of irate apostle.
   c) But a "setting forth" to win a convert, not an argument.
   d) Gentle as a nurse.

1 Thess. 2:7
2 Tim. 2:24-25
   e) To declare as under oath.
   f) Allege--lay now the proposition.

C. Christ must suffer, die, rise again.
   1. Major premise: that Christ must suffer, die, rise.
   2. Minor: the Jesus I preach suffered, died, arose.
   3. Conclusion: Jesus is the Christ.
   4. He knows no subject but Christ.
   5. 333 OT prophesies fulfilled in Christ.
   6. Must--important word relative to dying.

Acts 9:6
   9:16
   23:11
   a) Can a man be King before He is crowned?
   b) Do sovereignty & suffering go together?
   c) Do we see cross as something done for us?
   d) Is it necessary?--I'll just be a good man--our best efforts in love & service seldom gets us beyond the downpayment. (Interpreters)
e) Complications arise, responsibility to family & friends frighten us, self consideration rules, fear & death threaten and we falter.

f) Look to the cross--there is no other way.

g) It does something to us as our standards are lifted.

h) It does something through us as tongues are softened, wrath is reduced, and stinginess is overcome.

i) Jesus either stumbling block or sanctuary.

Isa. 8:14
Lu. 2:34

j) Note Paul's personal statement, "I preach"--I believe it!

k) All through Scripture--could use:

Gen. 3:13-15
Ps. 2:1-9
Ps. 16:9-10
Ps. 16:11
Isa. 53:14-15
Dan. 7:13-14
9:24
9:26

IV. Reaction

A. Some Believed and Consorted with Paul and Silas.

1. Always some--even Jews as gospel shifts to Gentiles--we'll either accept or let it slip.

2. It's life to some, death to others.
2 Cor. 2:16
3. Consorted.
   a) Associate with.
   b) New word—adhesion to Paul.
   c) Became their heritage.
   d) Is the church that to us?
B. Devout Greeks
   1. High and educated folk attracted.
   2. 3 weeks moved a multitude.
C. Chief Women
   1. 1st congregation of socially prominent.
   2. Women either wives of officials or filled leading positions themselves.
   3. High born women folk of great influence.
   4. Women more emancipated here than other parts of the world.
   5. High class—represented by women—even as today you lift us.
   6. Chief women provided a noble example.
   7. Can go either for or against the Cause.
Acts 13:50 "Jews stirred up devout & honorable women—Antioch"
D. Jews did not believe.
E. Which way for you—accept or reject?

Ypsilanti, MI - 9/15/96
Gilroy church - 9/24/96
Schochoh, KY - 10/1/96
Sycamore Chapel, Ashland City, TN - 10/27/96
Woodland Hills, Cordova, TN (BC) - 11/5/96
BIRTH OF A CHURCH
Acts 17:1-9

I. How did the church start in your community?
B. Aren't you grateful?
C. Isn't there a need for more?
D. Aren't we dependent on you young people
   1. You'll treat me as I die as my DE. 2. Younger men will preach my funeral. 3. You "out there" will be the presidents, missionaries, etc. My last gifts to younger.

II. Let me tell you how one church -Thess.- started. *It was 1:20 yr. Mother and where are you going* Acts 16:40 "Prison - Lydia - Seen Br. 2. "Comforted & departed."
   1. 1st church established in Europe.
   B. On the way to Thess: 1. 100 miles there. 2. Walked Egnation hiway. 3. 33 miles from Ph. to Amphipolis.
      (a) Meant city surrounded.
      (b) Encircled by bend in Strymon River.
      (c) Pleasant scenery - meadows, flax fields, saw Northern base of Mt. Pangaeum noted for gold & silver mines.
      (d) Cool winds from snow capped mts.
      (e) Crystal streams plunged from mts. to refresh.
(f) Amphilos few miles inland from sea.
(g) Gave splendid view of Aegean Sea.
(h) At bridge saw statue of Lion of Amphipolis - memorial of eastern expedition of Alex the Great - 17 1/2' hi on square marble base - rediscovered in 1912.
(i) But didn't preach here.

4. 28 more miles to Apollonia.
   (a) At times see sea.
   (b) Other times in dense forest.
   (c) Pass tomb of Euripides, one of 3 famous writers of GK tragedy.
   (d) Didn't preach here - why?

5. 38 more miles to Thess.
   (a) Lakes & valley region passed.
   (b) Road to higher ground - climb last ridge, look down plane of Vardar & see eastern shore of Gulf of Thess.
   (c) City on ft. hills by sea.
   (d) Busy port c ships of all kind.
   (e) To the west the planes & winding Vardar River thru them.
   (f) Jutting over them peaks of Mt. Olympus, reputed home of Homeric gods.
   (g) GK revered it as Heb. do Sinia.
   (h) Macedonia capital & metropolis.
   (i) Rose in semi-circular terraces from shoreline.
(j) Broken by cross streets, ornamented c foliage of gardens & darker cypress trees. Eugene name Thessalonica
(k) Researchers have found ruins of temples & arches. Selonika today
(l) Hot springs, theatres, arenas, harbor c ships from everywhere. What an opportunity!
(m) Thess., main st., part of Egnation. Hgw.

B. 'They came to Thess.' What came?

1. A Paul making his own way.
   1 Thess. 2:9 Labored night and day not for rest
   2 Thess. 3:8 Neither did we eat any meal
   (a) Those who turn world upside down have come - enemy's statement

2. The word came. begin c word of truth
   James 1:21 Recei c weakness the engrafted
   (a) Found his most likely audience - Jewish synagogue.
   (1) Here received c respect.
   (b) Reasoned.
      (1) New word in Acts. (2) Like dialogue.
      (3) Interchange of ideas in conversatio & discussion.
      (4) Like qt. & answers.
   (c) His base was Scriptive.
      (1) Opening & alleging.
4. Faith came.
   (a) Some believed & consorted.
   (b) Of devout GK a multitude.
   (c) Of chief women not a few.
   (d) It was the church & he so wrote

I Thess. 1:1. Church of God, in Christ

C. Today
   1. Men of word & work.
   2. The Bible.
   3. The Christ Emphasis.
   4. Result - the birth of a church.

Thess. End. 11-22-70
The Mountain Preacher

Across a wild part of the Tennessee border from Uncle Joe’s church there was another little one, manned by a mountain preacher. He was a bachelor...and a practical sort. Somehow you went out from his church, with its lamp-lit shadows of people, feeling that the whole earth was quiet and at rest.

It was his unique closing service that gave this feeling...After “all minds had been discharged and the benediction craved,” the congregation stayed on a few moments while the minister called the Lord’s attention to the individual needs and personal reasons for thanksgiving of each and every member...If some brethren not so regular in church attendance as might be had got down sick and was up again, then prodding thanks were given that he had been spared to come back to meeting.

When the preacher found that a young widow of the congregation was out of firewood, he prayed that the Almighty would put it into the minds of her neighbors to get together and give her a woodchopping...they chopped the young widow enough wood to last a whole year. And when the preacher married her the next day, what was there to do, after thinking it over, but admire him? ALBERTA PIERSON HANNUM, Look Back With Love (Vanguard).
WHAT'S BEING SAID ABOUT US?
Acts 17:5-9

I. We live in a world that puts its appraisal on most everything. The appraisal is subject to much error.
   A. Go around only once.
   B. One dies with most toys wins.
   C. It has its views of the church.
      1. Merle Haggard said it was too narrow.
      2. Think they are only ones saved.
      3. Majors on doctrine more than deeds—Smithville book.
   D. What is said about us here?
      1. If wrong will I correct it?
      2. If embarrassing will I quit?
      3. Will I fight back in an unChristian way?
      4. Let's see what happened at Thessalonica and learn from the Acts 17:5-9 story.
      5. Remember publishers' restriction of "church of Christ."
      6. Newspapers report "church of Christ deacon"—do no others this way.

II. The Setting of the Event
   A. Paul and Silas preach and folk respond—v. 4.
   B. Believed not was Jewish response.
      (Uses term Jews to show those opposed to the gospel.)
      1. We still do.
      2. Their unbelief caused the conflict.
   C. Moved with Envy.
      1. Didn't like seeing other Jews converted.
2. Yet we have to preach the gospel and leave results to God.
3. We grow jealous of another's success.
4. Jealousy ever an obstacle to the truth.

D. Took Certain Lewd Fellows of a Baser Sort.
1. Maybe you will feel better when you note the quality of your opposition.
2. They will unite with anything to oppose the truth.
3. Center of life in the city was Agora or Market Place.
4. Rabble--"Market men" they were called--waiting for a job.
5. Stood around waiting for any work.

E. Gather a company and set city in an uproar.
1. Assualted house of Jason.
   a) Didn't knock--bolted in.
   b) Jason Paul's kinsman?

Rom. 16:21

c) Jason GK word from Hebrew Joshua.

d) Not sure he was a Christian but certainly a friend.

2. Sought to bring out Paul & Silas.
   a) "Sought"--imperfect--continued to search.
   b) Were they aware of the effort and escaped somewhere else--or were hidden?
F. In absence of Paul seize Jason and put before rulers.
1. Rulers = politarchs.
   a) Used only here.
   b) Critics laughed--no such office--in no GK literature.
   c) Pound on tablets, city arch, now in British museum.
   d) Luke knew accurately He used terms in commonest use among educated circles.
2. "Crying"--use verbal abuse--loudly yelling.
3. Turned world upside down.
   a) Archimedes said give him a fulcrum long enough and he could move the world.
   b) The cross is doing just that! Great effects come from preaching. Gospel assaults pagan ideas.
   c) Moral world in wrong position so turn it upside down.
   d) They were upsetters of the world--Moffatt
   e) World was already upside down--apostles trying to set it right side up.
   f) Do we upset anybody? OR do we sooth everybody?
   g) Do we upset consciences, prejudices, moral indifference, smug self-satisfaction?
   h) We must love the folk we are trying to upset.
4. Jason received them—the charge against him.
   a) Received by stealth—their charge—without proof.
   b) Rec. = harbor them—guilt by association.
   c) Thus he is implicated.

G. Charged with Treason.
   1. Early Christians called cannibals—ate blood.
   2. Contrary to Caesar's decree.
      a) Sedition charge.
      b) Jews know how to manipulate.
      c) Accusation a vile perversion of their work.
   3. Another King.
      a) Christ's Kingdom is different.
      b) It's in existence and Paul preaches it.
      c) Obey Christ—not trying to encroach on civil government.
      d) Tried to establish treasonous charge.
      e) Did not distinguish between earthly and spiritual Kingdom.
      f) Our King came to subdue not by fighting but by dying.

   1. Perhaps Paul had to leave in view of Jason's pledge and not return under current administration.
   I Thess. 2:18 "Wherefore we would have come"
2. Left at night--60 mile journey to Berea.
3. Sent away a good man who had supported himself.

1 Thess. 2:8-9 (READ)
Phil. 4:15-16 "Sent once & again unto"

4. Jason posts bond--Paul must be expelled else lose bond.
5. Paul couldn't go back.

1 Thess. 3:2-3 "Get. T., bro., min., fellow laborer"

6. Spirit in Rome was to expel Christians.
7. Security = to satisfy.
8. Jason offers his life for Paul.

I. False accusations hurt a good man & hindered his work.

III. Again, what are they saying about us?

Ypsilanti, MI (AM) - 9/16/96
Hendersonville, TN (Men's Ministry Breakfast) 11/9/96
West End - 1/19/97
Antioch - 1/26/97
PAUL DESCRIBES GOD

Acts 17:22-34

I. When the terms God, Lord, Almighty, Jehovah are used, what do you see?
   A. God is Spirit. (Pneuma)
   B. God is Love. (Philein)
   C. Jesus is God seen and revealed.

II. For those who never knew Him, the unknown--Paul makes known.
   A. We study the Athenian speech.
   B. Let's count the points of description.

III. Making known the unknown God.
   A. Place of the speech.
      1. Athens
         a) Called literary capitol of Greece and the world.
         b) Educational ultimate.
         c) Home of philosophers, orators, sculptors, poets.
         d) At that time 100,000 strong.
         e) "Full of Idols." It was "easier to find a god than a man."
         f) Just planted churches in Thessalonica and Philippi.
    
2. Idols "provoked" Paul.

1 Cor. 1:21 "World knew not God through its wisdom."
3. Went first to Jews.
4. Then reasoned in the marketplace daily (v.16-17), and taught in synagogue.
5. What will this babbler say?
6. Brought to Areopagus (v.18-20), in friendly manner.
7. Epicurean didn't believe in future state--enjoy present, gratification of flesh.
8. Stories--subjugate appetite, indifferent to pain and pleasure. Both groups met Paul as neither believed in future resurrection.
9. Cyclist agnostic; Oprah living unmarried.

B. Areopagus--sovereign court--famous for justice and impartial decisions.
1. Webster said "look cognizance of crime, impiety, immorality, laws, public treasury.
2. Met on hill named for Ares or Mars, God of War.
3. The agora bounded on whole northern side of a ridge of course marble, 30' high.
4. On west in 1/4 mile descends to the level of the plain.
5. Temple of Mars once there.
6. Summit reached by flight of steps cut into natural rock.
7. Court met in open air as McGarvey said they settled religious questions and condemned great criminals.
8. V.21 came to tell or hear new things. Called Paul to speak.
9. Knew most everything, but truth of God in spite of their culture, refinement and theories.

IV. Invited to speak, Paul's address (Acts 17:22).

A. Remember they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia.
B. Then Thessalonica, Berea, now Athens and Jesus' resurrection.
C. Mars Hill speech.
   1. You are very religious.
      a) Superstitous.
      b) Very demon fearing.
      c) Worshipper--virtue to regard all forms of devotion.
   2. Altar to all gods--unknown one--lest they miss one.
      a) Paul skillfully used this as compliment.
      b) Introduce true God.
      c) Will introduce facts that are contrary to gods they worshipped.
3. God made the world and everything in it.
   a) Creator—not evolution.
   b) All to glory of Jesus.
4. Lord of heaven and earth.
   a) Existence more than earth.
   b) Heaven his domain.
5. Does not live in temple made with hands.
   a) House can't contain him.
   b) Above all of earth.
6. Not served by men's hands as though he needed anything, rather he gives all men life and breath and all things.
   a) We thank him for food.
   b) Can't add one day to our calendar.
7. He made of one every nation of men to dwell on all the faces of the earth, having determined their appointed seasons and the bounds of their habitation.
   a) All one blood.
   b) All accountable to him.
8. That they should seek the Lord.
   a) Ultimatum.
   b) Not far from any—he that wills to know the doctrine shall be known.
9. In him we live, move, have our being -- poets spoke.
   a) Recognizes world of men.
   b) God the ultimate.
   c) Our mission to help men find him -- not shun clearance.

10. We are his offspring.
    a) I did not evolve.
    b) The dignity of life is seen -- not to abort.

11. The divine being is not like gold, silver or stone, graven by art of man.
    a) No graven image -- R.C. skip -- we in church have no false doctrine or laws to defend, celibacy, i.e.
    b) Athens didn't have one god, but god of sea, another of sky.
    c) True God made all of heaven and earth, not of just one nation.

12. This God demands, "commands" all men everywhere to repent.
    a) Overlooked earlier ignorance.

Rom. 1:18-32
    b) Does not excuse idolatry.


13. He has set a day of judgment by Jesus who was raised and crowning evidence He is God's Son, Savior of men.
V. As sermons should, this moved men to respond.
A. Resurrection presented.
   1. Some mocked, sneered.
   2. Some delayed—hear again.
   3. Some obeyed, believing.
      a) Dionysius the Areopagite.
      b) Damaris
      c) Number of others.
B. What will you do with it?

Berry's Chapel - 7/13/05
The city of Athens was the capital of Attica. It is said to have been “founded by Cecrops, and an Egyptian colony, about 1556 years before the Christian era.” The name is derived from the patron goddess Athena. Barnes states that it was called Athens in honor of Minerva, but this is an Italian goddess whose worship was subsequently identified with Athena. “In order to understand the localities mentioned in the sacred narrative, it may be observed that four hills of moderate height rise within the walls of the city. Of these one to the northeast is the celebrated Acropolis, or citadel, being a square craggy rock about 150 feet high. Immediately to the west of the Acropolis is a second hill of irregular form, but inferior height, called the Areopagus. To the southwest rises a third hill, the Pnyx, on which the assemblies of the citizens were held; and to the south of the latter is a fourth hill, known as the Museum. The Agora or ‘market’, where St. Paul disputed daily, was situated in the valley between the Acropolis, the Areopagus, the Pnyx, and the Museum. . . . The remark of the sacred historian respecting the inquisitive character of the Athenians is attested by the unanimous voice of antiquity. The great Athenian orator rebukes their love of constantly going about in the market, and asking one another, What news? . . . The remark of Paul upon the ‘superstitious’ character of the Athenians is in like manner confirmed by the ancient writers.” (Smith’s Bible Dictionary.)

A good education in the arts and sciences of the day is a good thing, but it should be remembered that it is not a worthy end in itself; it is but a means to an end. That amount of knowledge which can be used to the good of our fellow man and the glory of God is worthwhile; beyond that, knowledge of worldly affairs is detrimental. The trend of higher learning at present is away from God. Very few university professors believe the Bible to be a revelation from God, and many of them do not even believe in God. If Paul were to preach the sermon in our average university which he preached in Athens, he would get about the same reception today which he got in Athens. Christian parents should be slow to send their children into such universities where they are continually exposed to the poison of infidelity.
many gods, and feared they might overlook one whom they did not know, that they erected this altar just to be sure they did not slight a god.

What ye worship in ignorance, Paul called their devotions to this idol worship. Yet he characterized it as ignorant worship. This was not very flattering to the philosophers, but it served well as a starting point for Paul. These men spent their time in doing nothing but hearing and telling something new. Hence it was wise in Paul to begin by telling them he knew of that God whom they called unknown. That God is worshipped by many today in ignorance almost equal to that of the men of Athens is shameful but true. What are the characteristics essential to God? How have his glory and power and wisdom been manifested in his dealings with humanity? These are questions all must be able to answer if they expect to render intelligent worship. But some are too lazy mentally to study, so continue to worship in ignorance.

The God that made the world. Here Paul begins to describe God to them. In telling them God made the world, Paul contradicted two ideas to which they held. First, that the various gods were responsible for various parts of the creation and control of the elements. Second, this contradicts the idea that matter is eternal. On the positive side it presents God as all powerful, and not a lifeless idol to be carried about by them at will.

Lord of heaven and earth. Since God is Lord, or ruler, of heaven and earth and fills the immensity of the universe with his power and glory, they should not think to confine him to temples made with hands. Solomon realized this truth when he said, "But will God in very deed dwell on the earth? behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded!" (1 Kings 8: 27.)

Neither is he served by men's hands. May we not serve God with our hands? There are many services we may render him with our hands, but here the thought is that God is not dependent on his creatures. The heathen brought food to their gods, and they offered gold and precious stones on the altars, and built costly shrines to appease their gods.

He giveth to all life, and breath, and all things. Instead of God being dependent on us, we are absolutely dependent on him for all things, even to our breath. What a contrast! Their gods could be carried about from place to place; had to be fed by them; and extended favors only when the heathen gave them what was pleasing to them. But the God Paul knew filled the universe, needed nothing from men, but freely gave all necessities of life.

He made one of every nation. King James version says, He made of one blood. Whether the word blood is in the original or not, the statement means that God made all existing people from one common stock. From this the men of Athens got two lessons. First, since all have sprung from one stock, there should be no racial prejudice, no feeling of superiority, as Greeks felt towards the Jews. Second, if all men came from one stock, and God was the maker, all men should worship that God. This left no room for national gods. The difference in language, features, and habits must be accounted for on some basis other than polytheism.

Determined seasons, and bounds of habitation. The word determined means to fix, or mark out as a boundary. Seasons here refer to time of national growth, prosperity, and decline. Bounds of habitation simply means the limits of their territory, the place of their abode. And again this refers to nations, not to individuals. "In assigning to the nations their respective abodes, he fixed both the seasons of their prosperity and the limits of their territory, i.e., it was he who decided when and how long they should flourish, and how far their dominion should extend." (Hackett.) Job said, "He increaseth the nations, and he destroyeth them: he enlargeth the nations, and he leadeth them captive." (Job 12: 23.) God separated the races geographically, not because one was better than the other, but for social and political reasons; and a lot of social and political trouble could have been avoided.
He Had Three Responses

Acts 17:32-34

I. I continue to marvel at the currency of the gospel – it's almost like it was just written, fresh, vibrant.

II. An oft asked question: "How many responses did you have?" Most of the time the answer is "Three!" That's what Paul had at Athens – it just about telegraphed what happens today - let's study Acts 17:32-34.

III. To set the stage
A. Paul has come to Athens.
B. Great sermon about the unknown God.
   1. He declares God's power and God's oneness.
   2. He teaches man is answerable to God for today's behavior and will be judged as for eternity.
   3. Because of the resurrection of Jesus, judgement is certain.
   4. As we stand there it will be like going through customs.

What have you to declare?
Will it be an empty or fruit filled life?

C. Now when they heard the resurrection preached things started popping.
1. Rightfully call for repentance.
2. Face a certain judgement where wicked are punished and the righteous are rewarded.
3. Jesus arose from the dead so will you.
4. Resurrection is cardinal proof of Jesus.
5. You would think folk would welcome the good news over cold thought of life no more.

IV. Note the three reactions or responses.

A. Some mocked - first of three responses.
1. Defined - ridicule, sneer (message is unacceptable to them)
2. Mocked at God's word not new
   a) Pentacost Acts 2:13
      Acts 2:18
   b) Noah Genesis 6
   c) Lot's sons-in-law Genesis 19:14
d) Jesus felt it. (Matthew 27:29)

Matt. 27:29

3. Seems these people are always present.
4. They rudely shut the preacher's mouth and consequently their door of opportunity.
5. They jeered loudly.
6. Tense shows they continue to do it.
7. Some make a jest of life.
8. Balked at resurrection.
   a) Could not accept the atoning death and resurrection.
   b) Sleep is eternal.
   c) "Once a man dies and the earth drinks up his blood, there is no resurrection - Aeschylus.
9. Remember God is not mocked (Galatians)
10. Future time is uncertain to us.
11. Act when interest is alive.
B. Others said, "We will hear thee again of this matter." Second response.

1. Procrastination - hear later (but no evidence they ever did.)

2. Were they serious or was it a polite dismissal of Paul?

3. Unwilling to scoff still unwilling to obey.

4. Not saying "Never - just not now."

5. Don't erase the truth, but do not let it reign in my heart.

6. Keep door open - just don't go in.

7. Lessons to learn:
   a) Delayers not against God - just preoccupied.
   b) "Defer no time, delays have dangerous ends." Shakespear
   c) Religion most important message of life - don't put if off.
   d) Danger is great - time is short.
   e) Peter "the righteous are scarcely saved."
C. Now before the third response we find Paul departing.

1. He felt stinging ridicule and polite indifference.
2. Left on his own accord.
3. Never told he returned here.
4. He left them with new thoughts and increased responsibilities.

D. Just before he did comes third response.

v.34 "Howbeit certain men clave unto him, and believed.

1. Glued to the preacher.
2. Glued to Paul but believed in Jesus.
3. Admire them for embracing the truth while others were yelling their objections.
4. Believe - accept all the Lord says.

E. Two are named - first

Dionysius

1. Judge in court of Aeropagus
2. One of high influence and social position.
3. Lit. "from the midst" of the Areopagus.
4. Court composed of about 30.
5. Like Nicodemus.

F. Other a woman – Damaris
1. Gospel appeals to both sex.
2. Know nothing about her - root word for "Heifer."
3. Was she a foreigner since other women not without men.
4. Was she a shameful woman – we really know nothing.
5. First fruits in Achaia.

1 Cor. 16:15

G. "Others with Them"

2 Thess. 1:7-9
1. See all different backgrounds.
2. Results seem small but still some believe.

V. Where am I in this picture - mocker, postponer, believer?
A. As I come to customs "what have I to declare? "Faithful, still waiting, disbeliever."
B. Will I continue or must I see great results?

Dothan, AL - 3/5/97
Shane Mitchell (R)
Anesthesia

Post-operative

Painless directly

Pain, discomfort.

Rise in blood pressure

Slight

Not dependent on the

Oxytocin as well

Pilocarpine may

Sedation at times

Commonsense, skill,

Soothingly
A COUPLE THAT MADE MOVES
Acts 18

I. Did you ever move?
   A. When
   B. Where
   C. Why

II. What were the results of the move?

III. What about our study of Priscilla & Aquila?
   A. Move No. 1.
   Acts 18:2 "And found a certain Jew named Aquila, bc
   1. Choice: leave Rome or renounce faith.
   2. Emotions imagined as leave business, familiar
      surroundings, friends.
   3. They moved to Corinth.
   B. Move No. 2 - To Corinth to Ephesus.
   1. Paul heard about them.
   2. Joined his team & went to Ephesus.
   Acts 18:18-19 "And Paul after this tarried there yet a
   3. Did they lay fd. for his 3 yr. work? Tent maker-
      worker in leather goods.
   Acts 20:17 "And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and
   31 "Therefore watch, and remember, that by th
   4. 2 moves because of their faith.
   5. 1 out of 5 USA families move annually.
   6. Country to city & we lose our faith.
   7. Establish connection c MD, P.O., grocery,
      beauty shop - all except church.
   8. J. Carter, "When you move your cook stove,
      you should your membership."
   9. At Ephesus met Apollos.
10. Apollos.
   a.) Intellectual giant.
   b.) Alexandrian.
   c.) Like Harvard PHD from Alex. colleges.
   d.) Eloquent = learned.
   Acts 18:24 "And a certain Jew named Apollos, born a
   e.) Successful.
   1 Cor. 1:12 "Now this I say, that every one of you sa
   f.) Inaccurate, yet well versed (powerful).
   Acts 18:25 "This man was instructed in the way of the
   11. How do we deal c error?
   a.) Pounce on man for 1 mistake?
   b.) Make folks doubt all he says on anything.
   c.) Rebuke publicly.
   d.) Arrogant.
   e.) Accuse him of going to "wrong school."
12. They were not name droppers as "But Paul said"-
    and we studied under him.
13. Do we ever call a preacher aside & tell him the
    way more perfectly?
14. Are we big enough to admit wrong?
15. Are we open minded?
16. Apollos accurately knew the history of Jesus.
C. Move #3 - Back to Rome.
Rom. 16:3-5 "Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers t
   1. Church meets c them, in their house.
   2. 2 great letters to churches started in their home.
   3. They were Jewish but Gentiles rejoiced in them.
D. Move #4 - Back to Ephesus. 2Tim. 4:19
2 Tim. 4:9 "Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me
   1. Did they realize trouble there & go back to
   stabilize church?
2. Eva, time they moved they served the Master.

3. What do our tracks leave behind us?

West End Red, Right Home Builders, class 2-4-81
40th Hazel Church, Pine. Buff. Ark. Combined Bible
Class 2-8-81
MARRIAGE: ITS PROBLEMS AND PRESERVATION
Acts 18:1-3

1. Never have I known the problems of marriage to be so severe as now. We seek to cite & then suggest the victory plan as we look at problems & preservation.

II. Some problems. "All happy families resemble one another; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way". Leo Tolstoy

A. Threats serious since 1960 in the church.
1. Men prophesy end of marriage.
2. Stories delight in presenting deviation from norm.
3. Suggest to be discreet is to be hypocritical.

B. Specifically, PROBLEMS ARE:

1. Sex.
   a.) God intended union. Gen. 1:26-28 2:24-25
   Gen. 5:2 "Male and female created he them; and bles (1) 1 flesh.
   (2) Both man & woman "male".
   (3) Sex act combines - male & female do what God did: He created; man procreates.
   b.) Live w/o benefit of marriage.
      1.) Supreme Court 1877 ruled common law legal unless states said otherwise - 2/3 say "No" of states - to get away from socially unaccepted.
      2.) Marked rise in common law or "live in". Why?
         a.) Avoid responsibility.
         b.) Convenient.
         c.) "Intelligent" trial-"who buys shoes w/o trying them on?"
         d.) Only 1 out of 4 believe any advance in it.
Pre-marital sex couples have mental illness. 76% marriage difficulties, some counsellors report, related to pre-marital sex. Guilt & fear bring health problems. Later sexual comparisons are odious. 3.) Also homosexuality & prostitution an outlet. 4.) Fail to see: a.) Experience all problems of marriage. b.) Unmarried couples 20% of Calif. case load. c.) Greatest loss - kids of this union. d.) Great additions to welfare rolls & wards of state. e.) Length of "total commitment" 7 months - transient, ineffective. f.) Licenses dogs & not wife. g.) Alex. Comfort, British biologist, "A husband or wife is expected to be mother, father, child, uncles & aunts; this is a greater burden than any one human being can possibly carry. Group sex is a way of sharing the burden and there is a future in which settled couples engage openly in a side range of sexual relations with friends." 2. Does sex have a relationship to communication? a.) Disagreement about money. b.) Nagging. c.) Sex - 3 great problems. Joyce Brothers says 50% marriages troubled by sexual problems. Aldous Huxley, "Sex is a maniac struggling in the murky darkness with another maniac."
(1) Erotic expectations in mechanical ways?
(2) Separation of sex & affection?
(3) Self respect, children, social approval, tenderness, security, trust, faith - are in marriage - not out of it.

3. Other problems.
   a. Money.

   "Lack of money is the No. 1 reason why men run away from their wives. Nagging is No. 2." L. M. Boyd.
   "Disputes about money & how it is spent send more couples to marriage counsellors than any other causes combined." Joyce Brothers.
   "Most discontent for women caused by housework, 2nd is finances, largest cause of arguments is money. After this, children, friends, relatives, leisure time, habits & personal appearance." McCall's.

(1) Contributions & liquor bills. Source of argument.
(2) Balanced ck. books & credit cards.
(3) Money is important because:
   It's authority.
   It motivates.
   It can be traded for most anything.
   It's easily calculated as a standard of measurem
(4) Tell of Jay walk experiment - Man carefully & stylishly dressed - Jay walked - Many followed Later shabbily - Jay walked - none did - Murmured "People like that have no respect for law."
(5) Recent poll shows:
57% funds managed by wife.
24% funds managed by husband.
19% funds as wife-hus. team. (handle $500,000 in a lifetime).
(6) (IQ) - (8Q) - (10) budget.
(save) (live) (give)
(7) Save 2 months ahead.
Home cost not above 2 1/2 X annual income.

b.) Maturity - threat of divorce for veterans.
(1) 1 in 4 divorces in marriages over 15 yr. old.
(2) Like rockets need "mid-course correction."
(3) Poor communication, declining compatibility,
  increase selfishness, chronic criticism, escapism
  boredom, health failure. Murder Pig
(4) Tests show after 1 yr. marriage ave. couple
  spends 37 min. per wk. in exclusive conversatic
  15 min. per day c preschoolers.
(5) Greater amt. of leisure time together, better
  the marriage - so talk!
(6) Ave. marriage lasted 20 yrs. 1900 - today 50
  yrs. not uncommon (Lincoln Farewell Address to
  Springfield 1861 spoke of being an old man at
  52.)
(7) Keep loving Gen. 26:6-12.

c.) Religion.
(1) Zipporah.
  Exo. 4:24-26 "And it came to pass by the way in the ir
(2) Job's wife.
Job 1:9-10 "Then Satan answered the Lord, and said,
(3) Abigail.
1 Sam. 25:36-38 "And Abigail came to Nabal; and, be
(4) Faith differences.
(5) Worldly attitudes - crude language & behavior.
(6) Preachers - bldg. programs - non-theological.
(7) Qualify for church leadership.
(8) David & Michal - doubt devotion?
2 Sam. 6:17-23 "And they brought in the ark of the Lo
(9) Pray? Worship?
(10) Questions asked - rate 1 to 5 on fingers or card.
   How interested are you in the church?
   In your occupation?
   In rearing children?
   In vacations?
   In reading Bible?
   In sports?
   In sleeping?
   In hobbies?
   In clothes?
   In your home?
   In spending money?
   In saving money?
   In education?
   In sex?
   In buying a house?
   In TV?
   In new friends?
   In the Bible?
   In S. School?
In reading?
In in-laws?
In Beethoven?
In Dolly Parton?
In house work?
In staying up late?

West End 3-18-79
An old farmer and his wife were leaning on their pigsty when the old lady wistfully murmured, "Tomorrow's our golden wedding anniversary, John. Let's kill the pig."

The farmer pondered the suggestion, removed a stray straw from his sleeve, and wearily replied, "What's the use of murdering the pig for what happened 50 years ago?"

h 4, 1979

HOUSEWIFE—WHAT'S SHE WORTH

Although most of them are underpaid for their efforts, American housewives do $11,000 worth of work a year says financial columnist Sylvia Porter. Porter calculates that the typical housewife spends 12-14 hours a day—or almost 100 hours a week—on the job. Multiply that by the minimum wage of $2.65 an hour, and you get an annual wage of nearly $11,000. And that price tag is a bargain, Porter says, when you consider that in the course of her working day the average wife may perform as many as 12 different occupations!—Family Weekly.

25, 1979

Quote
BABY'S CARE UNSURE

Convicted Killer Gives Birth to Girl

By Lisa John

LAWTON — Convicted child killer Brenda Carr gave birth Monday to her fourth child — a girl — at University Hospital in Oklahoma City, authorities said.

Mrs. Carr is scheduled to be returned to prison Thursday.

The 26-year-old former topless dancer is serving a 12-year prison sentence in conjunction with her conviction last December in the fatal torture and abuse of her 6-year-old son.

Mrs. Carr will not be allowed to keep the baby girl with her in prison. However, state officials Monday were unsure whether the baby would be placed with the mother's relatives or in a foster home under a court order.

Next week, Mrs. Carr is scheduled to testify in Comanche County District Court against her common-law husband, Larry Paul Gough, 36, who is also charged with second-degree murder in connection with the death of young Melvin Kirk Ward.

Mrs. Carr last December testified in her own behalf, claiming her common-law husband tormented her young son while the family lived in two south Lawton trailer homes for about a month around June 1978.

The torture, according to court testimony, included starvation, beatings, being tumbled in a clothes dryer and electrical shocks.

Mrs. Carr told the court Gough is the father of her fourth baby. She said she had been married four times and also has had one common-law marriage.

Her oldest son, Tommy, 12, was sent to live with relatives just before the birth of her third son, Larry Paul Gough Jr., who lives in a Texas foster home.
PAUL CAME TO CORINTH

Acts 18:1-11

I. A mighty missionary came to Corinth.
   Please see the city.
   A. Facts about it:
      1. Located on western coast of the isthmus. There was no canal cut through this mountain of rock at this time.
      2. Nine miles across to Cenchrea.
      3. He left Athens with little response.
      4. Corinth, Greece largest city then.
      5. Site of Roman government for Acadia, the political and commerce center for Greece.
      6. Famed for wickedness—"you live like a Corinthian."
      7. Citadel of whoredom in name of religion.
      8. Corinth 45 miles from Athens.
      9. From Athens acropolis could see westward across Saronic Gulf, could see temple crowned mountains thus rose 2,000 feet above Corinth.
   B. Coming of Paul
      1. Evidently alone.
      2. Soon exhausted his funds and had to go to work tent making.
      3. Not afraid to work and it was necessary.
4. Not a single Christian when he arrived.
5. Of the material at hand he had to make a church.
7. Tents from coarse cloth of goat's hair.
8. Became fellow worker.

Rom. 16:3-4
9. Preached "that Jesus was the Christ" (V.5).
10. Other associates with mixed reaction. Read 5-8 - Heard - Believe - Baptize.
11. Yet some rejected gospel.

C. Paul received the assurance of God.

V.9-11
1. News that much people there to be God's must have encouraged Paul.
2. Wonder what he taught those 18 months.
3. Taught from this letter this: To eat the Lord's Supper

I Cor. 11:17-23
To exhort one another, to sing and pray.

I Cor. 14
1. No Divisions - 1:10
2. Cross - 1:18
3. Fornication and Satan - 5:6
4. Covetness
5. All Sins
6. Go to law.
7. Bought with a price, also again.
8. Bought with a price - 2 chapters.
9. Sex, marriage, singles, circumcision.
10. Hair and supper - Chapter 11
11. Baptism - cloud and sea
12. Example vice.
13. Wilderness wandering.
14. Fornication and murmuring.
15. Gifts - Chapter 12
16. Unity of Body
17. Love - Chapter 13
18. New Body
19. Tongues - Chapter 14
20. Gospel, Death, Burial, Resurrection - Chapter 15
21. Collections
22. Earlier
   a) Meats and offending.
   b) Pay preacher - muzzle ox
I. In many things we express unconcern.
   A. "That's your problem."
   B. "It's no skin off my teeth."
   C. "I've got enough to worry about without getting into that."

II. Maybe there is merit in some matters of unconcern.
   A. Sports not to dominate us—but some events cause congregations to change assembly hours.
   B. Elections—"I'll leave the country if ? does not win."
   C. Would we could generate the same enthusiasm for church?

III. Our Acts 18 story is one of double concern.
   A. Lots of events in Acts 18 prior to our story.
      1. Paul left Athens and came to Corinth, the place of our story.
      2. Aquila and Priscilla came from Rome—Claudius expelled them because they were Jews.
      3. They were also tent makers as was Paul and they got together.
      4. Paul spoke weekly in the synagogue (we were not welcome in Patmos on the steps of Greek assembly).
5. Silas and Timothy came, joining in this work.
6. Paul "pressed in spirit testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ" (V-5).
7. He met strong opposition as they blasphemed—we today can say whatever we want to about Jesus and curse him but not about race.

V-6 "Your blood be upon your own heads."
8. Paul turns to Gentiles, moves in with Justus whose house hard by synagogue.
9. Some success:
   a) Crispus, chief ruler of synagogue and his house believed on Jesus.
   b) Many Corinthians "hearing believed, and were baptized." (V-8).
   c) Lord spoke assurance to Paul.

V-9 "Be not afraid, but speak and hold not thy peace. I am with thee. No man shall set on thee. I have much people."
   d) He stayed there 1 1/2 years "teaching the word of God to them."
11. Our text story begins.
B. We'll see it in V-12 on.

IV. Paul, Jews, Gallio
A. Paul you know; who is Gallio?
   1. Tenney says he:
      a) Born in Cordova, Spain.
      b) Was Marcus Annaeus Novatus
      c) Adopted into family of Lucius
         Junius Gallio, the rhetoricran.
      d) Took the Gallio name.
      e) Genece said of him "no mortal
         ever so sweet to one a Gallio
         was to all."
      f) His brother adds "to love him
         to the utmost was to love all
         too little."
   2. Thus spoke history.
B. Jews became alarmed over gospel's
   successes so came to Gallio's seat.
   1. Made accusations against Paul.
   2. Worship God contrary to the law.
   3. He was ready to defend his
      teachings but stopped.
C. Enter Gallio.
   1. Read his statement - (V-14).
   2. Not a question of morals, but of
      words.
D. Speech made - (V-14).
   1. Lockney calls him "a man of
      righteous carelessness."
2. No concern for Jewish law.
3. There are more concerns in life than settlement of frivolous and petty disputes.
4. Determine not to meddle needlessly in another's religious affairs.
5. Need to exercise patience in deciding trifling wrongs.
6. Have a firm resolve to be impartial rather than curry favor through prejudice.

E. Things obvious.
1. Jews could not meet the truth of Paul's preaching so set it aside via civic authority.
2. Educated men sometimes think the gospel is beneath them.
3. Righteous indifference is perilous.
4. He said it was a war of words and he didn't bother to learn anything.
5. Drove them from his judgment seat.

F. Showed a further indifference as Sosthenes was beaten before the judgment seat—the Bema.

V-17 "And Gallio cared for none of those things."

G. See lessons from attached book sheets.
Akin to him was the American soldier who deserted his regiment in France during World War I and hid in a garret for forty years. And then there was the man in Finland who hid in a barn for twenty years. And more recently the Chinese student at the University of Michigan who hid in a church steeple for three and one half years because of bad grades. Here were men afraid of life. Many are like them but they have different hiding places than barns, dung heaps, church attics and garrets. But to all intents they are in hiding, surrounded by their own shame and shackled by their own fear. They never move onward or upward from one year’s life to another. They are captives to their fears of life. Faith can liberate such captive souls and send them on glorious adventures of life.

2. Love

When Timothy arrived in Corinth from Thessalonica he reported to Paul the good news of the faithfulness of the Thessalonian Church. It filled Paul with joy and it says in this text that “Paul was pressed in the spirit” (verse 5). With this stimulation he redoubled his efforts to win the Jews of Corinth to Christ. The phrase “pressed in the spirit” really means “constrained by the word.” Actually the force which was exerting itself upon Paul was the love of Christ. Love became the constraining, impelling, motivating force of the apostle’s life and ministry. We will never become people of great lives without a great love. The greatest love is the love of Christ.

3. Courage

To backtrack over the missionary trails of the apostle and his companions, is to see a display of courage unequaled in the sagas of men. They faced hostile men, fanatical religionists, implacable functionaries, stern judges, cruel barbarians, and the cold-blooded military. In the face of these oppositions they exhibited unwavering loyalty and inflexible courage in their devotion to Christ.

It has been recently remarked that “our society no longer makes courage an ideal. We teach our children to protect their own rights, but we do not teach them that there are impersonal
values which may be more important than their personal safety and comfort. In fact, we subtly communicate the idea that
courage as an end in itself, is naive and foolish. We replace
dedication to country, to democracy, to mankind, with dedication
to oneself. Self-preservation becomes a primary, rather than a
subsidiary, moral principle. And thereby we train our young
men in a weakness of spirit that borders on cowardice."

Where is similar courage of conviction, sacrifice of life and
daring to uphold principles in our modern society to that found
in these pioneers of faith? We no longer know the meaning of
the words "sacrifice" and "suffering" in the church. Harry
Golden, who arose from the obscurity of a Jewish immigrant's
background to national fame said, "If I were faced today with the
decision my ancestors faced - become a Christian or die - I
would pick a church fast. There is nothing to offend me in the
modern church. The minister gives a talk on juvenile delin­
quency one week, reviews a movie next week, then everyone goes
downstairs and plays Bingo. The first part of a church they
build nowadays is the kitchen. Five hundred years from now
people will dig up these churches, and wonder what kind of
sacrifices we performed." Extreme we say, but there is a great
measure of truth in this indictment.

4. Maturity

The failure to grow up physically, mentally or spiritually is one
of the greatest tragedies of life. Its failure spiritually is particu­
larly tragic, because it is in the realm of our relationship with
God and is, in consequence, the most important growth area of
all our development.

Paul knew its value and wrote later to this very Church of
Corinth. "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto
spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I
have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were
not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet
carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and
divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? For while one
saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not
WHEN A BIG MAN'S WRONG
Acts 18:24-28

I. What confirms a matter?
   A. The man who says it?
   B. Or the facts that sustain it?
   C. What if the big man is wrong—what should one do?

II. The Classic Case is Apollos.
   A. His credentials.
      1. Good name.
         a) Breaks away from 3rd missionary journey to introduce him.
         b) Most all we know is excellent.
      2. Born in Alexandria.
         a) Named after its founder.
         b) Strong commercial center.
         c) Seat of learning.
         d) World's best library.
      3. Eloquent
         a) Learned and able to tell it.
         b) Influential expression.
         c) Well fitted for public service.
         d) Devoid of pride.
         e) Used his voice, language, vocabulary, gestures, countenance.
         a) Need both knowledge and life to preach.
      5. Instructed in the way of the Lord.
         a) Though not perfectly.
      6. Fervent
         a) Boiling in the Spirit.

Rom. 12:11
   b) Noun used in such a way to say it was the spirit of man—not Holy Spirit. (Ellicott)
   a) Speaking & teaching--verbs of continuous action.
   b) Diligent--accurate, exact, correct. (Thomas)
   c) What higher purpose than things of the Lord.
8. Spoke boldly in the Synagogue.
   a) Courageous

B. His Flaw--Knowing only the Baptism of John.
   2. Of the John sect?
   3. Was Christ only the head of glorified Judaism?

1 Cor. 7:19
Gal. 5:6
Heb. 8:13
   4. Faithful to all he knew.
   5. Lacked baptism of Jesus & knowledge of Holy Spirit.
   6. "Kind of man you'd call a Christian but not quite." (Interpreters)
      (Like almost guilty verdict)
   7. Went only as far as John's ministry would carry him.

C. His Audience--Priscilla & Aquila.
   1. Workers with Paul--knew truth.
   3. They were in the synagogue.

D. Their Action--Took Him Unto Them.
   1. Didn't scoff at his ignorance.
2. Did not parade his defects.
3. Hospitality is a Christian ministry.
4. Can one be a Christian without:
   a) Knowledge of the Scriptures?
   b) Instruction in Jesus?
   c) Baptism into Him?
   d) Knowledge of the Holy Spirit?
   e) Missionary zeal to pass it on?
5. Is there a difference between ethics and religion; good works & faith?
6. Helped him via private instruction of man & a woman.
7. Sought to give him greater accuracy.
8. Led to a higher stage of thought.
9. Must see baptism of Jesus.
10. Baptism into Jesus is to die to self.
E. What Does This Say About Apollos?
   1. He listened to a tent maker & his wife.
   2. He did not rest on knowledge he'd attained but wanted more.
   3. Do we all desire more?
   4. Have any of us all of it?
   5. He weighed what was said to him.
   6. Submitted humbly to more instructions.
   7. Baptism of Jesus is important.
      a) Confess our faith.
      b) Gift of Holy Spirit.
F. His Next Chapter
   1. Wanted to go to Achaia.
      a) Not told why.
      b) No cities there--Ellicott???
      c) Ephesus did not begrudge it.
      d) Some can water better than plant.
2. Brethren Wrote
   a) First church letter.
   b) Partisans used it to say he was better than Paul because he came with a letter of commendation.

2 Cor. 3:3
   c) Saw his great usefulness.

   a) Do we?
   b) Are we using our talents?
   c) Confirmed them.

   a) Interpreter "Can do nothing of yourself--stand before God as a sinner counting on his love & grace."
   b) Then why mention they believed--this a work.

5. Mightily Convinced the Jews.
   a) Convinced those that did not believe.
   b) Argue down--very emphatic.
   c) Powerful confrontation.

6. By the Scriptures
   a) To know the Lord must know the Scriptures.
   b) Must know the subject.
   c) Prove all things by the Scriptures.
   d) And so Apollos disappears from Acts.

Titus 3:13,14
1 Cor. 1:12
16:12
2 Cor. 3:1
7. Climax—Jesus Was Christ.
WHAT MAKES WATER BAPTISM VALID?
Acts 19:1-7
I. For Sundays we've talked about water baptism. I'm not afraid of what I've said. I've sought an application of it to your individual life.
A. "But what about my baptism--I'm satisfied, are you?"
B. "If I came into this church, would you accept my baptism."
C. If I could decide these matters, whose church would it be? Some are dissatisfied with
   1. Baptize everybody - it looks better. Shall we help?
   2. This makes it sure.
   3. It also could make it sectarian - and in my efforts to be honest I could be denominational!
   4. I'm not unmindful controversy rages over it & has all this century.
   5. My Scylla & Charybda are failure to obey vs. sectarian view of baptism, I'll seek to sail between both.
II. 1st, let's clear the air about things that do not validate or invalidate scriptural baptism.
A. The efficacy of the administrator.
B. The place.
   Jn. 4
C. The type of water - running river, baptistry, pond, creek, tank.
D. The prescribed age.
E. The pre-subscripted time of study - finishing a certain course.
F. Circumstances: crowd, church house, gospel mtg.
III. What then is so vital?

   1. Important because Ephesus so strategic.
   2. These 12 men only ones rebaptized.
   3. No mention that the apostles baptized under
      John's baptism were rebaptized.
B. These strange "disciples."
   1. Whose were they - John or Jesus? Perhaps later.
   2. They had defective knowledge.
   3. Why didn't Paul see them on earlier visit?
      Acts 18:19-21
   4. Where did they get defective info?
C. They were quizzed about H.S.
   1. Why - did Paul not see fruits?
   Gal. 5:22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, per...
   2. Were they not showing gifts?
   3. Could special gifts have been theirs w/o laying
      on of apostles hands.
   4. Received when - not since as tho there is a
      second blessing.
   5. Ignorant of H.S.
   6. Were not ignorant of immersion or remission of
      sins.
      Mk. 1:4 "John did baptize in the wilderness, and
D. Importance of Baptism.
   1. Coming of H.S. connected with it.
   2. Only folk rebaptized.
   3. Water baptism brings HS into lives of folk.
   4. John's baptism one of expectation (like a
      courtship); Christ's was one of fulfillment (like a
      marriage).
5. Had to use Trititarian formula in baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus else still dark on H.S.
6. When baptized into John reached for that yet to be; into Jesus to that which had already come.

E. Conclusion.
1. Improper baptism can rob you of some of the blessings of Heaven.
2. The improper one, failing to see the Christ as commanding it, ought to be obeyed, redoing improper or else 1st time giving primacy to Jesus.

Sheet End 5-5-74
WHEN POWERS CLASH

Acts 19:8-20

I. Ephesus was one of the most interesting cities I've ever visited.

A. The things restored.
   1. Highways or streets with ruts and footpaths only so high that you could walk across on dry surface.
   2. All chariots tailored to same dimension.
   3. Library and brothel side by side.
   4. Public toilets with rows of holes so crowd could sit and talk.
   5. Temple of multi-greasted Dianna--two columns still stand.
   6. No longer on the sea as harbor changed.

B. Here Paul came, left it and came back, marvelous theatre.
   1. Paul at synagogue three months as "he reasoned and persuaded about the King of God."
      a) Here is a good identification of the church.
      b) Spiritual body.
   2. Some accepted but some hardened and disobedient.
   3. What's the most severe criticism you hear of the church?
C. Holy Spirit calls it "The Way."
1. Great title for the church.
2. Lipscomb wrote Census Bureau that we were a people accepting title church of Christ or church of God.
3. We have sectarianized church of Christ and debate is capital "C" or lower case "c."
4. I say use every Scriptural term.
5. My critic at Bethany said I was either in a no-name church or else didn't know what it was.
6. The Way is so expressive, but as Brewer used to say "if we put that on the door of our building a lot of members would not come in.
7. But note, we are part of a great way of living after the pattern of Jesus.

D. Sometimes you have to leave.
1. If you haven't struck oil in 30 minutes you are drilling in a dry hole.
2. Truth is too precious to let evil destroy--go to school of Tryannus.
3. Great example of Christian education--we've used it effectively.
4. Two years—all in Asia—heard the Word of the Lord (beautiful way to describe the gospel).
5. It's intended for all races and cultures.

E. Miracles conferred Paul's preaching— even as what he wrote does today.
1. Not only in his presence but handkerchiefs and aprons called to the sick for healing were used.
2. Read V.11-12.

II. Then came a bogus imitation. (V.13-16)
A. Strolling Jews—(our flower wandering Jews?)
   1. Exorcists—get rid of evil spirits.
   2. They saw if God was with him in healing he must also be in preaching.
   3. Seeing this confirmation these sons of Sceva thought they could do the same.
   4. They didn't know their pretentious ways would be unmasked.
   5. They claimed power to heal the sick and cast out demons—sounds like anything today—tongues and all?
   6. After all there were 7 brothers and 7 is a confirming number.
   7. 7th son of 7th son?
8. Are we superstitious? 7, 13, Friday?

B. They took on themselves to imitate Paul and did whatever he proceeded to do.
1. Using his words they commanded the evil spirit to vacate the afflicted.
2. Jesus I know and Paul I know, but who are you?
3. Sounds like our phone system when I don't put in all the numbers.
4. Note the acknowledgement of the power of Jesus and of Paul.
5. Angry and turned on imposter and beat him up.
6. Nancy Rutherford would say to students "You make me so mad." Their reply was "no teacher, dogs go mad, teachers go angry." At the close of the class she'd say "Put your books up" and they would hold them up over their heads.
7. But these folk knew who spoke clearly and the Word of God was magnified.

C. After this came true repentance as they burned their books.
1. Can't always show repentance.

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C. After this came true repentance as they burned their books.
1. Can't always show repentance.
2. Are we to make orphans of wrong marriage children?
3. Can't steal a cow and keep milking her.
4. What is the worth of 50,000 pieces of silver? Hard to print the relative price today due to inflation. I remember when coke was 5¢ and eggs 13¢ a dozen. As a boy I'd get the pennies from the cream money.

D. Mighty grew the Word of the Lord and prevailed.
IN THIS VERY THEATRE
Acts 19:23-41

I. Ephesus was a great city - 330,000.
   A. 1000 BC. - 1st City 300 B.C.
   B. Retreated 7 Mi. inland.

II. We see event in life of Paul.
   A. Christianity invokes reactions.
      1. No small stir about that way.
      2. Good "way" to speak of Chr.
   B. Demetrius made a speech.
      1. Demetrius was a silversmith.
      2. Made silver shrines for Diana.
         a.) Haven't found silver shrines.
         b.) Earthen ware temples vouch for it.
      3. Profitable occupation - "brought no small gain".
   4. Called together the workmen.
      (a) Labor union? Vested Int.
      (b) Leadership arises in every sphere.
      (c) Honest - Pocket book religion.
      "Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have
      (We need close scrutiny on our motives)
      d.) Craftsmen above workmen in skill.
      e.) Paul's effect - no gods made c hands.
         (1) Gospel presented threat to cults.
         (f) Diana be despised.
         (1) She was mother of gods & men.
         (2) Worshipped in all Asia.
         (3) That she fell from heaven (V. 35).
(4) Meteorite - strange globes, multi-breasted female.
(5) Artemis another name.
(6) Sin often masks self & pretends piety, benevolency, patriotism, comfort.
(g) Her temple one of wonders.
(1) 4 X big as Parthenon.
(2) 80,000 sq. ft. almost.
(3) 34 ft. X 160 ft.
(4) Gold mortar between marble blocks.
(5) 127 pillars - 60' hi each dedicated by a King.
(6) Jesus has no temple. Only image of Him is mental.

C. Reaction to Speech.
1. Full of wrath.
2. Cried out "Great is Diana".
   a.) Could 10,000 be wrong?
   b.) Messing c my pocket book.
3. Whole city filled c confusion.

D. Went to Theatre.
   a.) Medical term.
   b.) Like sudden seizure.
2. Rushed into Theatre.
   a.) Largest yet discovered - seat 25,000 to 50,000
   b.) Found inscription shows Roman official presented silver image to Artemis.
   c.) Open court - forum often held there.
3. Paul wanted to go in.
   a.) Shows raw courage.
b.) Not allowed – had Asiarchs – chief men (not Chr.) but his friends. Couldn’t open mouth.
c.) V. 32 describes a mob.

"Some cried one thing, & some another for the
a.) He’s a Jew.
b.) Would show they had no part c Paul & cause of riot. Disassociate.
c.) Saw he was a Jew & yelled for 2 hrs.
d.) Drawn truth c noise?
e.) He beckoned violently c hand but to no avail
5. Coming of the Town Clerk.
a.) Reminded them of their history.
b.) They were the Warden of the Temple.
c.) They should make complaint in proper manner.
d.) He was somewhat responsible – Rome would punish a rioting city.
e.) Complimented Paul V. 37.
f.) Illegal assemblies were punishable by Rome.
g.) Note diplomacy - called a riot a concourse, later an assembly.
h.) Be quiet = to arrange, put in order – hair, dress, etc. (V. 36).
i.) Temple keeper = temple sweeper lit. (V. 35) margin – greet honor.
h.) Called a riot – uproar, concourse, assembly.

III. Please remember.
A. Christians are Faithful.
B. Christians are Courageous.
C. Christians are Providentially Protected.
D. Flag, $, & Religion Stir up people.
E. Temple of Diana gone—church here!
LIFE IN THE SLOW LANE

Acts 20:7

I. Life in the slow lane is my assignment.
   A. Bible is anything but slow.
      1. Found "slow" 13 times.
         a) Ten of those either slow to anger or wrath.
         b) Three other slows: speech, believe, belies.
         c) Reference "see sailing."
         d) Acts 20:6 Philippi to Troas five days; earlier Troas to Philippi - slow boat?
         e) Seven-day visit, five to sailing, third left, three months, first day, 12 midnight, daybreak, 26th chapter, 5th book of New Testament, 12 verses. All figures to calculate.
   B. From this I preach "Life in the Slow Lane."

II. "And after the uproar was ceased.
   A. "And" - Bible a connected story.
      1. Theatre at Ephesus
         a) Demetrius, Silversmith, Diana, seventh wonder of world.
         b) Great acoustics.
c) Gaius and Aristarchus seized, Paul restricted, craft in danger. "Great is Diana of the Ephesians, two hours cried out, town clerk, "law is open," dismissed.

2. Paul called disciples, embraced, departed Macedonia.
   a) Six verses covers many months and miles.
   b) Third missionary journey on to Jerusalem with money.
   c) Embraced, via Troas with no meeting of Titus, hearbroken, later gets word.
   e) "In labors more abundant," unbroken continuation, rest and recreation rare, with energy never flagging, courage unequaled, pursued dream to preach Jesus, thus must not told, but fellowship and loyal love we all need sustained this warrior. Conviction and fearless faith must be employed by us.
   f) Let's lift, not depress, as life has its goodbyes, welcomes, embraces, plans.
g) Song shelter—til storm passes over.

h) Everyone has a gift—use it.

I Peter 4:10

   a) District enclouded, Athens and Corinth.
   b) Busy writing New Testament
   c) Exhort—encourages churches
   d) Even to Philippi: beaten, dungeon, jailer, women.

4. After three months ready to sail to Syria and Jews laid wait, (Cenchrea to Syria).
   a) Evidently on board a ship when he became aware of the plot to kill him.
   b) Easily push him overboard.
   c) Had big collection for Jerusalem.
   d) Always plenty of conspiracies against him, hard times for him.

Acts 9:3
Acts 23:2
2 Cor. 11:32

e) Why not special protection from God?

f) Changed plans to save his life: wise!
5. Macedonia (again) to Asia.
   a) Accompanying him Sopater, Aristarchus, Secundus, Gaius, Timotheus, Tychicus, Trophimus seven brethren.
   b) Represented Macedonia, Galates, Asia.
   c) Titus not named -- why?
   d) Know little about some of these but they wanted to help.
   e) Safety in numbers--we all need helpers--3 from Europe, 4 Asia, Catholic, Gentiles as he goes to Jews at Jerusalem.
   f) Luke never mentions himself--but us, we.
   g) But the devil is never far away.
   h) Do you pray for God's protection, can you change your plans and not your faith?
   i) Wonder how Paul knew of assassin's plot?
   j) We each may be but a blimp on screen of life.

B. After days of unleaven bread (just so you'd know when this was), come the seven historic days at Troas (place of earlier vision).
1. Two days vs. five days--our slow trip (Acts 16:11-12).
2. With few details we are covering 12 months.
3. Hurry to get to Jerusalem, why 7 days at Troas?
4. Remember Paul had no private ship! *No Art for God*
5. He is at gateway to Europe and Asia so the Lord lets us see something very important, a sample of Sunday service.
6. Seven blessed days without persecution for me to see a peaceful Sunday.
7. We are going to see the first recording of a regular Sunday service.

III. That Worship Assembly at Troas--do we duplicate?

Acts 20:7 "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his preaching until midnight."

A. Calmly (and) as though it was the regular procedure, disciples came together (unity) first day.

1. First time we meet a new day--first day of week.
a) Introduced first day for first time, first time mentioned.

Rev. 1:10

b) Three institutions sanctioned by Paul.
   1) First day of week.
   2) Usage of Lord's Supper.
   3) Gospel preaching.

c) Supper was not on Tuesday, wedding Saturday night.

d) If people worked as hard to get away from first day as to obey the gospel, we'd have more converts.

e) We need only one passage to establish a matter and first day only here is more than any other day.

f) Sabbatarians used to say, "We'll give $10,000 for any verse that commands Christians to remember first day and keep it holy." Counter charge "We'll give $10,000 for any verse that tells Christians to remember the Sabbath and keep it holy."

g) Every first day makes in common place some argue—say the same about giving?
h) The following description is from Justin Martyr in his second apology directed to Pius, and he wrote, "On the day which is called Sunday all Christians who dwell either in town or country came together to one place. The memoirs of the apostles and the writings of the prophets are read for a certain time and then the president of the meeting when the reader has stopped makes a discourse in which he instructs and exhorts the people to the imitation of the good deeds of which they've heard. They all rise up together and address prayers to God and when prayers are ended, the bread, wine and water are brought, and the president to the best of his ability, offers up both prayers and thanksgiving and the people assent saying "amen." Then the distribution of bread and wine over which thanksgiving has been offered is made to all present and all partake of it. He adds that the elements are carried to the absent by the deacons and that (cont'd)
h) cont'd)
collections are made for poor widows and orphans, sick and prisoners.

i) See attached card.

j) Exodus 20:8 "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy."
Acts 20:7 "Upon the first day of the week" -- it means evry first day.

k) Didache, second century, "But every first day do ye gather yourselves together to break bread and give thanks?"

l) And Paul preached to them.

B. Some incidentals about that first day of all subsequent first days.

1. They also assembled at night time.
   a) Lots of Christian slaves--worked Sunday, off at night.
   b) Paul spoke until midnight.
   c) Supper first however.
   d) Jewish or Roman time.
   e) NEB: Saturday night eight times in New Testament and they say Sunday every time except here and used Saturday night.
2. Note they gathered—Miller has this:
"In passive voice" means subject received the action initiated by another (Matt. 2:4). The assembly thus was by the command of another. Someone (Divine) other than disciples initiated the call. It was not just an incidental action, but initiated by the Lord.

3. I grant "day" is not in text.


5. Every sermon not until midnight.

6. Used unleaven bread—they had the Agape love feasts.

7. Supper shows the resurrection of Jesus.

8. Pleny to Emperor Trajan, 112 AD, "It was their habit on a fixed day to assemble before daylight and sing. After this was done their custom was to depart and meet again to take food but ordinary any harmless food."

9. Didache, second century, "But every Lord's day do we gather yourselves together, break bread and give thanks."
C. Many lights.
1. See what they were doing on third story.
2. Nothing hidden--like goat in Masonic Lodge, and telegraphy by handshake.
3. Three times I love you at elder's house in Decatur.
4. Eat flesh and drink blood charges of cannibalism.

D. Eutychus event (name means fortunate).
1. Young man--youth at services.
2. Sat in window.
3. Got sleepy and tried to stay awake.
   a) Fell into a deep sleep.
   b) Sunk down with sleep.
   c) Tried to stay awake.
   d) Sleepiness a dangerous thing.
   e) Over borne by weariness.
4. Service may have interruptions.
5. "Quiet in church so won't wake those who are sleeping."

E. Paul's long sermon no sermonette.
1. Wise rule to follow. Prolong only here - medical term.
2. Many last words to be said.
3. Blame boy or Paul.

F. Fell--dead (Luke said this).
1. Paul fell on him (which fall killed?)
2. Life in him.
3. No little comfort.

4. Embraced -- not "I told you not to sit in that window."

G. Broke bread and eaten.

1. Not supper, but meet Paul's hunger after work.

2. Who ate? Paul or Eutychus (to show he's alive).

Branson, MO 10/14/09

Neely's Bend C/C 10/18/09

(A.M.)

Heritage C/C 10/18/09
Vers. 9,10. -- Sleepy Eutychus. Explain precisely what happened. The window was a lattice opening, and, for the sake of air to the crowded room, the lattices were put aside. How crowded the house was is intimated by the presence of some people in this third story. There they would be sure to feel oppressed by the heat of the house. Eutychus may have fallen into the street, but it is more likely that he fell into hard paved courtyard. For a similar fall, see the account of the death of Ahaziah, King of Israel (2 Kings i.2,17). The word that is translated "young man" implies that Eutychus was quite a youth and not likely to be very directly interested in St. Paul's address. He very probably was a child of the house where the meeting was held.

The Acts of the Apostles
Pulpit Commentary -- pg. 164
A feeling of oppression and anxiety at this time rested on the apostle—he felt that his missionary labours were almost done, and this gave a peculiar urgency and tenderness and pathos to his preachings. They had the characteristics of "last utterances" and "farewells."

These people would not let St. Paul go; they kept him talking all night. He was compelled to respond to such love, and to pour forth his best treasures of knowledge and experience for their help. Trust and love still make the highest demands on our teachers demands sometimes so great that ministers feel overwhelmed with the tremendous responsibility. Nothing draws out the best in a man like trusting him and loving him. Money can never buy a man's best; duty can never compel a man's best; love can always win a man's best, just as a pure love makes a man noble, and a babe's love calls a mother to sublime self-denials.
i) The early church met upon the first day of the week to break bread and that under the direction of inspired men. No, the pope did not change the day of worship from the sabbath to Sunday! Justin Martyr, who was born in 100 A.D. four years after the death of John the apostle, states that Christians were observing the first day of the week from the very beginning of the church.

"Upon the day called Sunday all who live in cities or in the country gather together unto one place and the memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read... Then we all rise and pray...and when our prayer is ended, bread and wine and water are brought and the president in like manner offers prayers and thanksgiving according to his ability and the people assent saying Amen; and there is a distribution to each and a participation of that over which thanks has been given and to those who are absent a portion is sent by the deacons... Sunday is the day on which we all..."
hold our common assembly, because it is the day on which...Jesus Christ our Saviour...arose from the dead." Expositor's Bible, Vol.5, p. 494.

The church at Troas met on the first day of the week to break bread and fifty years later the historian points out that it was still the practice of the early church. No, the pope did not change the day of worship from the sabbath to Sunday. Christians were eating the Lord's supper on the first day of the week hundreds of years before there was a Catholic on earth.

Firm Foundation Improved Lesson Series - 1959
No doubt Luke's mention of the torches at this point is deliberate, indicating that they were partly responsible for Eutychus's sleepiness. But apart from that he had probably put in a hard day's work, and it was getting on for midnight.

Acts 20:9f. Was Eutychus really dead or not?

The point apparently is that Luke says that Eutychus "was taken up dead" (Acts 20:10), whereas in the following verse Paul says: "Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him." In this respect the incident is parallel to that of Jairus's daughter, for the messenger said to Jairus, "Your daughter is dead" (Luke 8:49), whereas our Lord said: "She is not dead but sleeping" (verse 52). I have expressed my mind on the question of Eutychus elsewhere (The Book of the Acts, p. 408), as follows: "No wonder then that he was 'taken up dead', as Luke says, 'implying apparently that, as a physician, he had satisfied himself on the point' (Ramsay, St. Paul the Traveller, p. 290f.).

The treatment which Paul gave the youth—similar to that given in similar circumstances by Elijah and Elisha in the O.T. (1 Kings 17:21; 2 Kings 4:34f.)—suggests artificial respiration. But Paul's words, as he bade the people stop making a fuss, 'for his life is in him' (verse 10), should not be pressed to mean that he was not actually dead for a brief space of time in the strict sense of the word. Luke probably intends us to understand that his life returned to him when Paul embraced him. But it may have been a few hours before Eutychus recovered consciousness." But one should not dogmatize, still less condemn out of hand the alternative interpretation, which is accepted by N.E.B., as earlier by the "Twentieth Century" version and those of Weymouth, Goodspeed and Phillips.

Acts 20:11. It has been said that Acts 20:11 refers to Paul's partaking of a private meal, as all the verbs in this verse are singular. Is this the right interpretation?

The presence of the definite article in the phrase "had broken the bread" (R.V.) points back to the phrase "to break bread" in verse 7. The natural inference is that Paul's act in verse 11 represents the fulfilment of the purpose expressed in verse 7. I suggest that in verse 11 the words "had broken the bread" refer to the Lord's Supper, while the following words "and eaten" refer to a fellowship meal. The verbs in this verse are all participles except the last one, "departed"; as Paul is the subject of the whole sentence they must all be grammatically singular, but that by no means excludes our understanding that Paul broke the bread and ate in fellowship with all the Christians who were present.

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1 See p. 45.

--F.F. Bruce

Answers to Questions
"WHAT MAKES THE ACTION WHERE THE ACTION IS?"

Acts 20:24

Ribbon on nose - don't know where - won 1st place.

I. Sometimes words are hard to define.
   A. "Body by Fisher" overseas becomes "Corpse by Fisher".
   B. Chevy’s Nova becomes "No Go"

1. Hardly either term compliments their product and pleases none but Ford Motor Co.

2) Smoke - announcer man - that's coffee

II. So the word enthusiasm
   A. Dictionary calls it ardent zeal, interest in something or someone

B. It’s GK root "en-theos" = to be filled with God.

1) Kiss on 1st contribution - a will act

2) Drive 1 hand - have an apple

1. Inspired

2) Marine's build men - build meaning, laura

C. However, my approach shall be like the "Happiness is" method--let me show you what makes the action where the action is by Biblical case studies.

1. Astronaut - enjoyed book - fact couldn't put it down.

III. I shall use 2 passages.

A. Acts 20:24 "But none of these things

1. Tasker says this is only speech we are sure Luke heard--Holy Spirit told him of rest.

what he was - what he advised
2. He speaks to Ephesian elders. He tells characteristics of his work:
   (a) Honest zeal
   (b) Urgent Faithfulness—no seeker of popularity or public approval
   (c) Harmony of character to back his speech.
   (d) Had loving sympathy
   (e) Used indefatigable evangelism
       (1) Publicly
       (2) House to house
       (3) City
       (4) Province
   (f) Maintained his independence
   (g) Employed insight—recipe—how much water
   (h) Incorporated wisdom

3. There were other things that marked his work:
   (a) Spoke fearlessly—ponder neither man's fears or favors.
   (b) Obviously unselfish—work was not for his own end but for others.
   (c) Warned of dangers.
   (d) Faced future gallantly

4. About Paul we could say
   (a) Had the credentials—herald—spoke with authority.
   (b) Saw his job bigger than the moment it was for eternity, not time.
(c) Appealed to Holy Writ as the only standard of truth and only arbiter that is competent.
(d) Resists all...
Col. 3:1 "If ye be risen with Christ
(e) Bore his message with firmness
(f) Employed in-perseverance
   (1) Not weary in well doing
(g) Sought to encourage all...
(h) His life was in the Son
Acts 4:12 "Neither is there salvation
5. Paul had such a driving compulsion his life was nothing, but getting the job done was.
   (a) His life an expendable force.
   (b) Luther has he started to Worms said "I will go thither tho there should be devils on every house top."
   (c) He knew if he succeeded he would bless mankind--so he did it with joy
B. Eph. 5:18 "Be not drunk with wine, where
1. You've got to fill a man with something.
   (a) Heathen uses wine
   (b) Christian filled with spirit
2. Note total capacity employed--fill!
   (a) Wine is peculiar expression of the old life.
   (1) Spirit is the New
(b) Wine as intoxicant causes us to fear due to loss of control

(1) More Spirit more self-governed and more fruits of Spirit.

(c) Wine leads to waste, riot (Luke 15:13) "wasted his sub. in riot.

(1) Spirit salvages all the good

(d) Wine gives satisfaction—but is a mocker (Prov. 20:1). Gives false freedom from fear, anxiety

(1) Spirit quenches thirst

(e) Wine brings temporary joy (Esther 1:10)

(1) Spirit everlasting (Gal. 5:22)

(f) Wine causes you to attract attention

(1) Spirit does via good behavior and words.

4. Life must be left open for the Spirit to constantly and repeatedly fill.

5. Are you filled?

Cir. is nothing and uncircum

Eph. 2:22 "In whom ye also are builded
Jn. 14:16-17 "And I will pray the Father
Eph. 3:16 "That he would grant you acc.
Rom. 8:9 "Nor if any man have not the Irish: 2:1 don't dig up garden, guns— they did—
Bridget, plant the spuds
No. Any College fool, 11-3-68
THE FLOCK, THE SHEPHERDS, THE PRICE
Acts 20:28

I. Some spots take your breath.
   A. Stones of the Appalachian Way.
   B. Grand Canyon
   C. Constitution of U.S.A.
   D. Sea of Galilee.

II. Some words so powerful you virtually pause & bow.
   Our text.
   Acts 20:28 "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and
   A. God uses great men.
      1. Overseers.
         a.) Same word as bishop.
         b.) No separation of office in N.T. times - no papal
             or ecclesiastical order.
         c.) V. 17 called elders.
         d.) Note plurality, yet nothing about odd no.
   2. What does it mean?
      a.) GK term in 1 Cor. 12:28 for administrator - one
          who pilots a ship or governs a people.
      b.) See that things done in others is right.
   3. What do they do?
      a.) 1st they engage in constant introspection.
          (1) 1st look to yourselves.
          (2) Personal goodness is a primary qualification for
              spiritual usefulness.
          (3) I get calls about our members not being what
              they should.
          (4) Self vigilance.
          (5) Garden walls painted black to absorb heat to
              bless trees. So elders make themselves a double
benefit to others.

b.) Feed the church.
   (1) Means tend.
   (2) Have to be c. sheep & meet their needs.
   (3) Must know them.
   (4) Bruce, "an elders lay charge to care for people
   (5) Means feed (teach), guide, protect.
   (6) Took time to be c. Paul.
   (7) Paul openly loved them.

4. How'd they get to be elders - via Holy Spirit.
   a.) He gave qualifications & they meet them.
   b.) Elder only so long as he does.
   c.) Dynamics of selection not detailed - Oster.
   d.) Word controls the bishop - not vice versa - he
      can't change on letter.
   e.) Always we must meet the Spirit's terms.

B. God has a great church.
   1. He calls its flock & Church of God.
      a.) Lit. church of the Lord.
      b.) It's God's own.
      1 Jn. 1:7 "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the
         c.) One of 10 references where Jesus is spoken of
            as God - Coffman.
   2. He states its price!
      a.) Society of priceless value.
      b.) Produce of Christ's vicarious sacrifice.
      c.) Nothing else so expensive.
      d.) Had He not died, it never would have been.
      e.) Via blood atonement.
      f.) Greater the cost, the greater the value.
g.) Blood means life.
h.) Church is vital.
3. Obtained - is to rescue from destruction.
4. Ransom price His blood. Don't press word purchase but from whom? - rather, shows acquiring, getting for one's own.
5. Note it involves:
   a. Church is God's
   b. Purchased by Jesus' blood
   c. Ruled by Holy Spirit.
6. Committed to elders is Christ's most precious treasure.
   a.) How could elders lightly esteem that which cost Jesus His blood.

Sheet End 7-11-82-
I. Here is a sermon that has everything.
   A. Longest in Acts to believer.
   B. Farewell to Ephesus after his 3 year stay—longest Paul was anywhere.
   C. Courageously cites the negative and beautifully embraces the positive.
   D. Has emotion galore.
   E. Ends with a Scripture never seen before and gives sole citation of Jesus' words outside the gospels.
      1. It is powerfully current and apropos.
      2. It truly reforms life if we will adopt it—so let's get to it.

II. Paul closes a great lesson.
   A. With instructions to "Watch."
      1. Walker calls it "sleepless alertness."
      2. Every sheep receives the attention of one shepherd.
      3. Note emphasis on the individual.
      4. Ever vigilant even to tears.
      5. 2 types of church enemies—within and without.
   B. Ceased not to warn.
      1. Sadly they did not heed the warning.
      2. Fell—candle stick removed.
      3. Admonition includes advice and warning.
      4. He believed there was a place for negative preaching.
      5. Who is to expose the wolf—elders, preacher, editors?
C. Did it night & day with tears.
1. Means continuously.
2. Worked in the day and taught at night.
3. Society needs our constant and earnest tearful attention.

III. As Paul Moves On Initiates a New Chapter for Ephesus.
A. Seen in "and now"--in the absence of an apostle men are placed in the care of the Word.
B. The Commendation
1. Commend--to entrust.
2. Word of His grace--we'll study more but now see the preserving power of the gospel.
   a) Great terms: grace, build up, inheritance, sanctified--all in this commendation.
   b) Gospel gets its authority from Jesus--His word.
   c) It's to gospel to which Paul directs the elders.
   d) This the sure way to avoid apostacy.
   e) Paul teaches himself out of Ephesian job.
3. Commendation passages

Acts 14:23
I Peter 4:19
Rom. 14:14
Eph. 3:20
Phil. 4:19
Col. 1:11
I Thess. 3:13
4. Commendation is a mark of leadership because it recognizes that God calls us to specific task that can be finished.

C. Word of His grace--God.
  1. God is the ultimate--He is known & reached by His word.
  2. Word powerful--theories of men are not.
  3. Amazing profitability in the study of His word.
  4. Be ever conscious of this power.
  5. Aren't all problems related to neglect of His word?
  6. Note how Scripture helped these:
     Moses--Deut. 6:6-9
     17:18-20
     Joshua--Jos. 1:7-8
     David--Ps. 1:1-2
     119:97
     Josiah--II Kings 23:1-2
     Ezra--Neh. 8:1-8
     9:3
     Paul--Acts 20:32

D. Of His Grace
  1. Do we all we can in loving obedience--it's still a gift.
  2. Paul uses grace 100X in his writings.
  3. Used like word gospel (v-24).

E. Its Contribution.
  1. Able to build you up.
     a) Gospel is equal to the task.
     b) Salvation is ever upbuilding--never stops the good it does to you.
c) Built by plan and by slow degrees.

2. Give an inheritance.
   a) Includes entire church.
   b) Inheritance 3X in Ephesians.

3. Associates the Sanctified.
   a) One way to identify the church.
   b) Progressive process.
   c) Thus the gospel ever leads.

IV. Now a strong personal statement and an offered example.

A. Coveted no man's silver, gold, apparel.
   1. Nothing corrupts religion quicker than emoluments--Coffman.
   2. Self-seekers have a heyday.
   3. Covetousness is idolatry.

B. These hands ministered to me and to others the necessities.
   1. He often referred to his hands.

Acts 13:16
21:40
26:1
26:29

2. Gave feel of independency.
3. The more ignorant the people the more they pamper the priest--(Thomas)
4. Too much dependance leads to being abused and to human prejudices.
5. Supported himself and helped other preachers.
6. See corporate nature of church.
7. He's no dreamy philosopher but an active energetic philanthropist.
   (Walker)
C. He's an example.
1. Show you all things.
   a) He's a model to believers.
   b) Offers self as an example of universal imitation.
   c) Exemplified all things by his own conduct.
D. So laboring--support weak.
1. Work for your living--it raises a man above the need of another's property.
2. It also trains us to respect the value of another's property.
3. Our industry enriches society--laziness impoverishes.
4. Support--help--means to lay hold of opposite so as to assert.
5. Weak
   a) Physical or spiritual.
   b) Christianity helps.
   c) Greatest satisfaction not in realms of rewards but realms of service.
   d) Good news includes bodies and souls.
   e) Help the weak: body (sick); mind (scrupulous); spirit (downcast and sinful).
   f) End of all living is giving not getting.
V. That Priceless Fragment as Arnot calls it.
A. Remember the Words of Jesus.
1. Nowhere else is this quote found but by Paul.
2. Christianity is a philanthropic religion.
3. Some words of Jesus in Rev.--but not this quote.

B. More Blessed to Give Than Receive
1. He who dies with most toys is false.
2. Jesus the supreme giver--power, life, testimony.
3. "More" shows we can receive also.
4. God's greatest desire is to give.
5. He loves the cheerful giver because that's exactly what He is.
6. Christ knows giving better than anyone else.
7. He constantly continues to give.
8. As we look at our own lives we see how much he continually has to forgive us.
9. All actions of life are either receptive or impartive.
10. To constantly gain and not give makes us a slave of selfishness.
11. Cicero--"men resemble the gods in nothing so much as in doing good to their fellow creatures."
12. Our egocentric natures are incredibly anxious to dethrone God in our lives.
13. Give because He did and said so for us.

Beltline, Decatur, AL (BC) - 2/7/99
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COMMITMENT TO GOD
Acts 20:32-38

I. It is the end of a great speech.
A. Paul to the Ephesian elders at Miletus.
B. Only one Luke records he made to Christians.

II. Words in Conclusion.
A. The commendation.

V. 32 "And now brethren I commend you to God
1. To God.
   (a) It was his brothers of whom he spoke.
   (b) He wants them c God.
   (c) Commend folk to divine direction & influence - do we?
   (d) Henry, "Look up with eye of faith that God may look down c eye of favor."
   (e) Is everything you want within the scope of God's giving - or do we go outside His influence via actions?
   (f) After all, he's shortly to be separated forever from these brethren, so naturally he wants God nigh. Don't we?

1 Pet. 4:19 "Commit the keeping of their souls to him in
2. Secondly, to the Word of His grace.
   (a) What is this?
      (1) Jesus - Jn. 1.
      (2) Gospel.
   James 1:21 "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and super
   (b) Word is the channel of the blessings of God to us
   (c) Note effect of word.
      (1) Builds up - if accepted & obeyed.
((a)) It edifies.
((b)) Most advanced Christians — these were elders — are capable of growth.
((c)) Teachers are to commit the truth to others.
((d)) Desire sincere milk of the word.

(2) Gives an inheritance.
((a)) It's for the sanctified.
((b)) Note its location.

Eph. 1:18 "The riches of the glory of the in. in the saints
Eph. 5:5 "For this we know...hath any in. in the Kingdom
((c)) It's people — Heaven is folks.
((d)) It's clean people — unsanctified would never be happy there Eph. 5:25-27.

(d) Obvious lessons:
(1) Observe precepts.
   Live on promises of word.
(2) Salvation is in 3 stages: receive, build, inherit all growth.
(3) Keep your eye on your inheritance lest the prize slip away. Guard as a sacred deposit.

B. The Personal Example.
1. W/o Covetousness.
Acts 20:33 "I have coveted no man's silver, or gold
((a)) Served w/o material reward.
((b)) Material wealth never his earthly aim.
((c)) His a total dedication.
2. These hands ministered unto my necessities.
((a)) Paul sometimes reduced to necessities.
(b) What a world that would let Paul be poor.
(c) Less encouragement from men, more that has come from the Lord.
3. Also "to them that were with me."
(a) Supported others as well as self.
(b) You take care - others will let you do the work.
4. I have showed you all things.
(a) In Paul's last days he was giving. Age today
(b) Show = example - He did things to encourage others.
(c) Ought = duty.
(d) Weak remembered.
Eph. 4:28 "Let him labor working with his hands the t
(e) Also Jesus' word "It is more blessed" --
(1) Only place in SS Ch. recorded.
(2) John said world couldn't contain books if all written.
(3) Do we give or get?
C. Parted at the Water.
1. Spoke then prayed - can we at end of each
   speech we make to few or multitudes.
2. Kneel c reverence due.
3. All prayed (V. 36).
5. Kissed him - tense shows repeatedly done.
6. Sorrow - at some point in our life dearest of
   bonds must be broken, closest relationship dissolved.
7. Accompanied him to ship - we can go to water's
edge but finally must go alone. Such a lovely thoughtful gesture - sometimes seldom followed by elders.

F. We need the tender touch. [Handwritten: Hand End 1-11-76]

Smithville Rotary Club 1-27-76
Young Jeffrey, who'd just been given a huge German Shepherd for his birthday, looked at the big dog in awe for a few seconds before he turned to his father and asked, "Is he for me, or am I for him?" — Rough Notes, 2-73.
I. There comes the last of everything, even
the world.  
A. Remember your last: 
   1. Year in school 
   2. Last day of vacation. 
   3. Last time you saw a dear one. 
B. This has to do with the last
   Ephesus prayer meeting. 
   1. Paul had called for the Ephesus
      elders to meet him at Miletus. 
   2. Great things said: 
      a) Know type of man I've been 
         from first day I saw you (V-18). 
      b) Kept back nothing profitable 
         (V-20), taught publicly from 
         house to house. 
      c) Message: repentance toward 
         God and faith toward Lord 
         Jesus Christ (V-21). 
      d) Go to Jerusalem knowing the 
         things that shall befall me; 
         bonds, afflictions (V-22-23). 
      e) None moves me, finish course 
         with joy, testify by gospel and 
         grace of God (V-24). 
      f) See my face no more, pure 
         from blood (V-26). 
      g) Declare whole counsel (V-27).
h) Take heed unto yourselves.
i) Church purchased with blood (V-28).
j) Commend you to God...word of his grace, build you up, give inheritance (V-32).

C. When he had spoken (V-36).
1. Wonderful things happened.
2. Scene of great emotion.
3. Let's see what happened.

(Do we understand - let again)

II. The Last Prayer Meeting
A. He kneeled down.
1. There in the sands of the harbor.
2. Oster one of the great emotional scenes.
   a) Joseph and his brothers.
   b) David and love for Saul.
   c) Jesus weeping over dead Lazarus.

Acts 7:60 "Stephen kneeled down and cried."
Acts 9:40 "Peter put them all forth and kneeled."
Acts 21:5 "Tyre, disciples, wives, children kneeled down on shore."
Lu: 22:41 "Jesus kneeled down and prayed."
Mark 15:19 "They smote him, spit, bowed knees and worshipped him."
B. Prayed with them all (v-36).
1. Never together again to pray.
2. We would at grandpa's and read Psalm 121.
3. You will come to last prayer—
with regrets? forgiveness? need?
4. Not one word of that prayer meeting recorded, McGarver said. So broken by emotions, such a depth of grief no word could measure it.

C. Something monumental was occurring.
1. There comes a time when apostles all gone.
2. They appointed no hierarchy or successors.
3. Care of churches left to elders.

1 Peter 5:2

4. They would be responsible to God.
5. They must be entrusted to word of God's grace.
6. They must recall the words of Jesus.
7. Follow apostolic example:
proclaim word, be humble, encounter opposition, provide physical help and meet emotional needs. (Ferguson)
8. Thus "prayed with them all."
D. Wept sore.
1. This was loud even as the praying.
2. Not afraid to express emotions.
3. Like wailing (Matt. 2:18).
4. Loud sounds of sobbing.

E. Fell on Paul's neck and kissed him.
1. Repeatedly kissed him.
2. Tense—kept on kissing.
3. Kissed tenderly again and again.

F. Sorrowing most of all.
1. Words he spoke - see him no more—thus great anguish of mind.
2. Paul knew their gratitude and esteem for him.
3. Did some regret they had not done more for him?
4. Paul knew:
   a) He'd spoke fearlessly.
   b) Lived independently.
   c) Future dark, but faced it gallantly.
   d) Had reminded them of their duty.
   e) Preached "the gospel of the grace of God" and "the kingdom" - same message.

5. "See" - to observe carefully.
   a) End has come.
   b) Do they meet again?

1 Tim. 1:3
follow one another in love
West 7th Street C/C - 10/1/05 (A.m.)
Oh, to Be 6 Again

A MAN asked his wife, “If you could have anything in the world for one day, what would you want?”

“I’d love to be 6 again,” he heard her say. On the morning of her birthday, he got her up bright and early, and they headed off to the amusement park. They rode the Death Slide, Screaming Loop and the Wall of Fear, while dining on the park’s finest junk food.

Then they stopped for Big Macs, fries and chocolate shakes for lunch and topped off the day with a movie, popcorn and candy.

When they finally got home and collapsed into bed, he leaned over and lovingly asked, “Well, dear, what was it like being 6 again?”

She opened one eye incredulously and replied, “That’s what this was about? I meant I wanted to be a size 6 again!”

The moral of this story is: If
The Inventive Generation

Life is a series of collisions with the future.

José Ortega y Gasset

Once, at the University of California, a student got up to say that it was impossible for people of Ronald Reagan’s generation to understand the next generation of young people. “You grew up in a different world,” the student said. “Today we have television, jet planes, space travel, nuclear energy, computers...”

When the student paused for breath, Ronnie said, “You’re right. We didn’t have those things when we were young. We invented them.”

Nancy Reagan with William Novak
My Turn: The Memoirs of Nancy Reagan
Submitted by Tonette Holle
Profile of a Prime-Timer

Life before sixty is nothing but a warm-up.

Bill Hinson

We true prime-timers were here before the Pill, the population explosion and disposable diapers. We were here before we were called "senior citizens."

We were here before TV, penicillin, polio shots, antibiotics and open-heart surgery. Before frozen food, nylon, Xerox, radar, fluorescent lights, credit cards, ballpoint pens, Frisbees and fiber optics.

For us, time-sharing meant togetherness, not computers or condos. Coeds never wore jeans. Girls wore Peter Pan collars. We were here before panty hose and drip-dry clothes, before icemakers and dishwashers, clothes dryers, freezers and electric blankets. Before men wore long hair and earrings and before women wore tuxedos.

We were here before Ann Landers, Grandma Moses and the Kinsey Report. We were here before facelifts, tummy tucks, liposuction and hair transplants. We thought cleavage was what butchers did. We were here before sex
changes. Before Viagra, we just made do with what we had.

We were here before computers. A mouse pad was where the mice hung out. To log-on was to add wood to fire. A chip was a piece of wood. Hardware meant hardware, and software wasn’t even a word. A hard drive was a long, grueling journey. A CD was something you invested in. Windows were for looking out of. A virus was a flu bug that people caught. Backing up was what you hoped never happened to your toilet, especially when you had company.

We were here before vitamins, Jeeps, pizza, Cheerios, instant coffee, decaffeinated anything, light anything and McDonald’s. We thought fast food was what you ate during Lent. If we had been asked to explain VCR, CIA, NATO, UFO, PMS, GNP, MBA, BMW, SDI, NFL, PSA and ATM, we’d have said “alphabet soup.”

We prime-timers are a hardy bunch when you think of how our world has changed, all we have learned and the adjustments we have made. I’m pretty proud of us.

Let’s keep in touch. Just e-mail me, send a fax, leave a message on my answering machine or call me on my cell phone. If I don’t answer, tell my voicemail you called—after the beep, leave your name, your number and a brief message, and I’ll get back to you as soon as I can. If you need me quickly, call my pager. If all else fails, come on over to my house, take a seat in one of the rockers on my porch and we’ll visit the old-fashioned way—face to face and in person—and let the rest of the world go by.

Nardi Reeder Campion
I. The sermon is over.
A. If you'd been there, how would you have reacted
B. Isn't it proper to see how they did?
1. Surely the HS approved.
2. Did you ever turn to Acts 20:36-38 as the qualification of elders?

II. I want, as an elder, a man who:
A. Prays.

V. 36 "And when he had thus spoken, he kneeled down:
1. We don't know one word of the prayer!
2. Was it too emotional to record?
   Early Chr. knelt.
   Acts 7:60 "And he kneeled down, and cried with
   Lu. 22:41 "And he was withdrawn from them about
   Acts 21:5 "And when we had accomplished those
   Rom. 11:4 "But what saith the answer of God unto
   Phil. 2:10 "That at the name of Jesus every knee
   Eph. 3:14 "For this cause I bow my knees unto the
B. Feels.

V. 37 "And they all wept sore, & fell on Paul's neck:
1. Wept.
   (a) Much.
   (b) Freely.
   (c) Aloud.
   (d) Abundantly.
   (e) Loud Lamentations - all above are various
      translations.
   (f) Bothers one to see men cry.
(g) Deeper still, when men of faith cry it cuts.
(h) Tenderness & sympathy are not inconsistent c
    highest state of grace.

2. Kissed.
   (a) Fell on neck.
       (1) Folded in arms.
       (2) Bound closely to ea. other.
   (b) Kissed.
       (1) Again & again.
       (2) Repetitious.
       (3) Don't be indifferent to one another.
       (4) As long as stones of the church are bound
           together by strong mortar, we can withstand
           attack from without.

   a.) Gloom of uncertain future.
   b.) Paul knew their weakness, his lot, & their
       responsibility.
   c.) Never see him again.
   d.) No Biblical statement he ever returned to Eph.
   e.) When Chr. & preachers separate its tender time
   f.) True religion makes the heart tender.
   g.) Leave ea. other in love.
   h.) Was our ministry selfish or for their benefit.

C. Accompanies.
1. They fed flock - literally they were among them
2. They knew them.
3. They brot him to the ship.
4. We follow not the folk back to Ephesus but the
   receding vessel.
5. May be brokenhearted but carry on!

Shift End 11-20-77
WE NEED SOME EARLY DISCIPLES
Acts 21:16

1. The occasion of the story.
   A. 3rd missionary journey is over.
      1. 3400 miles covered.
      2. Paul's 5th entry to Jerusalem.
      3. Agabus prophesy delivered at Caesarea thus causing this last stop to have a sorrowful termination.
   4. Paul arrives at Pentacost time--approx. AD58.
      a. City always crowded at that time--remember Acts 2.
   5. Paul had the bounty of the Gentile churches still with him and that was yet to be distributed to churches there.

B. Enters Mnason.
   1. Of him we know little. Shortest Bible biography

2. Translations vary.
   a. Did he accompany or was he already in Jerusalem?
   3. Was he a man of means having both property in Cyprus and Jerusalem?
   4. Did he now abide in the latter?
   5. Of him we know two things:
      a. Early (or old) disciple. 
      (1) Converted early in the history of the church and now a veteran—with almost
Do we recall when we became Christians? Have we won our pins here?

b. He was hospitable—the whole party lodged with him—he used what he had to the glory of God.

II. How much do we know about each other?

A. Could we say this much about whom we do know?

B. Do you not appreciate Mason?

III. Today we need early disciples.

A. Much is implied in this statement.

1. There is a courage to be found; a stoutness of heart to be exercised.

2. Let me tell you of some I know.


b. Wallace Hart drove 495 miles from Yafflefax Nova Scotia in Volkswagon to Caribou meeting. Stopped in Houlton, Me. —50 mile south to see his closest preacher brother. He's a Texan—been in Canada 6 years—just starting.

c. At Houlton, Me. is Gene Armstrong. He's from Mineral Wells, Tex. Lives out in country. Raised $1500 to move 4 families from Texas to Houlton.
Among them--his parents. His dad is 56 years old. "What will he do?" "Oh, he has enough money to get here and live a few weeks until he can find something" he said with full assurance. If he can't find anything I have a friend who will let him cut pulp wood this winter--he'll just become a laborer if need be to help us preach!" He told me of the loneliness that was his when the sponsoring Texas elder flew back home--left him standing all alone--"but it was alright after a day."

d. David Pauls led our prayer at the house--13 yrs old. His folk have preached 4 years at Fredricksbury--have only 4 members. Must leave--no building. Brother Pauls in his 50's never preached where elders church so small. David said "Thank thee for thy goodness--the food set before us--protect us on our journey." He leaves home as a freshman to enter Great Lakes.

e. E.R. Davis--holds MA degree. Trained as a farmer and school teacher--yet 14 yrs. preaching in New England--Danforth and Caribou. Goes now to Torrington, Conn.--no church, no building, all it has to offer is a need. He's contractor, janitor, preacher, elder--has to do everything it seems.
(1) With him are some great young men in service, who are fully faithful.
3. Yes I met some early disciples—why can't we be such? 
4. Could we be 1st to stand for Christ in our family? 
   Flag flew at half mast in Memphis.
5. Can we "birth a movement?" 
6. Suppose we are scattered—what then?
B. "With whom we should lodge."

1. Is there any degree of hospitality in us?
2. Can't buy your way into heaven. Yes, we must give but that doesn't excuse us from the need of personal service.

C. May God give us Mnasons!

3. Mnason still a disciple—not resenting "now fangled" ideas. Subject 11:2 to scriptures.
   De 8:31" If ye continue in My word then 4. By hospitality he wrote his name forever in sacred writ.
I. Nothing can be more precious than liberty and freedom.

II. Wherever it exists a high price has been paid for it, be it in any sphere.
A. Government
B. Work—sexual harrassment.
C. Church & all Christianity.
   1. I wear no man's yoke.
   2. I care not for man's domination.
   3. Free under God to my own master I stand or fall.

III. Do I have the right, in matters of judgement, peace, harmony, to do what I feel is correct regardless of opposition?
A. One passage that not only fascinates but puzzles has ever been intriguing to me.
B. To answer every question—I cannot.
C. McGarvey "This I confess to be the most difficult passage in Acts to fully understand and to reconcile with the teaching of Paul on the subject of the Mosaic law."
D. It's this passage in Acts 21 that we study, searching for the principles of liberty—hear it—quote Acts 21:17-26.

IV. First I want you to see the Reception because this involves liberties.
A. "And"—an important continuation.
   1. Just in from a visit with Mnason.
      a) He could remember the earliest days of the church.
b) Maybe a Hellenist—Gentile Christians were welcomed by him—this a liberty!
c) From Cyprus—Entertained Paul.
d) Early step in transition.

2. We come to the last 5 years of Paul's life.
3. Traveling evangelist efforts about to close.

B. "We"
1. Last use til 27:1.
2. One week after arrival Paul's life threatened 3X.
3. Liberty to be his companion.

C. Jerusalem.
1. Feast time—many there.
2. Primary purpose to bring collected funds—but they do not mention it—(Liberty to tell or not)—Felix hears it elsewhere.

Acts 24:17
3. Comes at end of 3rd missionary journey—3400 miles over.
4. 5th Jerusalem visit since Damascus.
5. Door of his ministry to fully move is slammed shut.

D. Brethren
1. Paul needed this company.
2. None of 12 there.

E. Received us gladly.
1. Warmly welcomed.
2. Went in with us—all of one mind—so important.
F. Paul--James--Elders meet.
1. Next day--they alone hear report.
2. James
   a) Lord's brother.
   b) Spokesman for church.
   c) Apostle? Not one of 12.

Acts 15:13
   d) None of 12 there?
   e) James prominent, pillar.

Acts 12:17
Gal. 2:9

3. Salutation--with a kiss?
4. Declared (rehearsed 1 by 1)
   a) Recount step by step.
   b) Gave full report.
5. What God wrought.
   a) Gave God full credit for all achievements.
   b) Do we doubt prayer fulfillment of outsiders?
   c) Particular = in minute detail.
   d) Paul only the instrument God used to glorify His Son.
   a) See the unity of the church.
   b) Hear their Hallelujah shouts.

G. They praise & introduce a problem--
   (comes with growth).
1. See
   a) Close observation.
   b) Reflect & ponder.
2. Brother
   a) Highest title in early church.
   b) Brother here different from 1st time.
Acts 15:4
Acts 15:22

   a) Paul did not demand circumcision of his converts.
   b) Did not teach neglect of law.
   c) Change comes hard.

H. Stage is set for Problem Solving.

V. The Problem Presented

A. They are informed of Thee.
   1. Jerusalem brethren troubled about exaggerated rumors about Paul's attitude toward the law.
   2. This anxiety immediately expressed.
   3. Paul told he's under criticism.

B. You Teach Jews Among Gentiles to Forsake Moses.
   1. Moses was setting.
   2. Christianity was rising.
   3. Transition always difficult.
   4. Lit. apostacy from Moses.

C. Don't Circumcise Your Children
   1. Yet Jewish Scrp. never said this or sacred customs were the basis for acquiring God's righteousness.
   2. Paul opposed all theories & forms of works & that righteousness based on these.
3. Did circumcise Timothy, did not Titus.  

Acts 16:3  
D. Don't walk in Customs.  
1. If saved by faith without works of the law, naturally abandon the ceremonial law.  
2. Saved by grace, in Christ, without righteousness of law.  
3. He is a victim of misunderstanding and slander.  
4. But not his business to attack law.  
5. Did show it as not essential to salvation.  
6. He had laid the ground work to abandon all Jewish customs.  
7. But he was charitable.  

1 Cor. 7:18 "Is any man called being circum."  
E. Multitude must come together.  
1. We do not want saints divided.  
2. Pacify the multitude.  
3. Party spirit must not exist.  

VI. The Solution Offered.  
A. With problem they presented way to correct it.  
1. Right or wrong way it is still proper to follow this.  
2. To criticize and offer no solution is not fair.  
B. This We Say  
1. Something must defuse the rumor.  
2. Deed will refute the slander.
C. 4 Men & Their Vow

1. James advised to share the purification ceremony of 4 men who had taken the Nazarite vow—and be in the temple.

2. Numbers 6
   a) Defile by touching dead body.
   b) Lasted 7 days, the defilement.
   c) 7th day shave head, offer 2 doves or pigeons, a year old male lamb, a ram, loaf & cakes, drink offering.

3. Purify Thyself
   a) See NIV.
   b) Place thyself under a vow.
   c) Earlier had a vow.

Acts 18:18

4. Pay for Others
   a) Not uncommon for rich to do this.
   b) Lit. spend money over them.
   c) Expensive.
   d) Where’d he get money—travel fund?

5. Shave heads & burn hair.

Nu. 6:18

6. Nothing, walk orderly, keep the law.
   a) Show him a good Jew & good Christian.

1 Cor. 9:20 "Unto the Jew I became as a Jew"
   b) They knew charges were false.

7. Changes nothing with the Gentiles.
   a) Peter to men uncircumcised.

Acts 11:3
   b) What we wrote still stands.
VII. Solution Applied.
A. Next day Paul Did It.
B. Took the men--4 times in 4 days for each man?
C. Purified himself.
   1. What he did was not a required ceremonial and did not conflict with what he wrote.
   2. None of this relates to our salvation.
   3. "Apparently his view at this point was that Jews who preferred to follow the law could do so provided it did not interfere with their Christian duty & it was not bound on Gentiles as Christian doctrine." (Allen)
   4. Not hypocritical nor did he sin unintentionally.
   5. Matter of indifference to him.
   6. God gave a transitional period.

Acts 15:2
D. He's in the Temple.
   1. Needed to see him there.
   2. Shows you are not an enemy of Moses.
   3. It would take more than verbal assurance to convince the myriads.
   4. Living as a Jew in Jerusalem involved more than living as a Jew in Gentile world.
   5. Combats apostacy from Moses.
   6. When principle not at stake, Paul lived normally as a Jew, to Jews he became a Jew.
VIII. What Does All This Say to Us?

A. Paul was wrong?
   1. Contrary to Gal. 2:3-5.
   2. Can I tell an apostle he was wrong? Peter was.
   3. Action makes church zealous for Moses.
   4. He's in error, so is James.
   5. Implies God had 2 plans--one Jewish, one Gentile.
   6. Judaism had such a hold, God had to destroy Temple to get rid of it.
   7. Though sincere he yielded too much.
   8. Too much value placed on externals.
   9. Coffman "simply do not dare to offer a dogmatic answer."
   10. "It is extremely difficult to account for the conduct of James, the elders & Paul--there seems to be something in this transition which we do not fully understand.
   11. Paul had the fullest of confidence in James.
   12. We sit in judgement on him.

B. But He Proved Something--Liberty in Christ.
   1. Yield in cases which do not concern principle.
   2. Love leads to acquire.
1 Cor. 9:20
4. Church accepted this—no reprimand as in Peter's case.
5. Final "NO" did come.

Rom. 14:1
15:13

6. Shows conciliatory genius of Christianity.
7. What he did was for the good of others, not himself.
8. "He who does not strive to harmonize social discords, calm social feuds, and heal social divisions has not the true love within him." (Thomas)
9. Even apostles are growing. "Our inquiry into Paul's teaching on the subject must have separate reference to what he had taught before this time, and what he taught subsequently." (McGarvey)

Rom. 14:1–6
10. Some are matters of duty,
    Some are matters of indifference.
    (Ibid)

Collegeside Church, Cookeville, TN - 11/10/96
Churches, in Ephesians, Colossians, and especially in Hebrews. In the last-named epistle, written during his imprisonment in Rome, he exhibited the utter inefficiency of animal sacrifices; the sacrifice of Christ, once for all, as the only sufficient sin-offering; and the abrogation of the Aaronic priesthood by that of Christ, who was now the only high priest and mediator between God and man. After these developments, he could not, for any earthly consideration, have repeated the transaction with the Nazarites; for it would have been to insult the great High Priest over the house of God, by presenting before a human priest an offering which could not take away sin, and which would proclaim the insufficiency of the blood of the atonement. We conclude, therefore, that the procedure described in the text was inconsistent with the truth as finally developed by the apostles, but not with so much of it as was then understood by Paul. This conclusion presents but another proof that the Holy Spirit, in leading the apostles "into all the truth," did so by a gradual development running through a series of years.
I. It is with great price that we enjoy two freedoms: One in Christ to obey his gospel and secondly one in America to tell his story.
   A. Both are expensive.
      1. The death of Christians.
      2. The death of American soldiers.
   B. We do well to thank God frequently for it and to tell our children the price paid.

II. The Lord forewarned of the price.
Mark 13:9-11  READ THIS
   A. Renan described a Pauline event.
      1. Note card.
      2. Paul personified this gift in his speech.
   B. Pulpit Commentary words.
   C. He was fulfilling his destiny.
Acts 22:1-21
   D. Do we have a vision for today?
James 4:17 "To him therefore that knoweth."

III. Let's review Paul's speech as Hackett and Adult Quarterly present it.
   A. Brothers and fathers.
      1. Respectful address.
2. Fathers—rulers in the crowd.

B. Listen to my defense.
   1. "Defense" Greek for apology.
   2. Answer to accusations.

Acts 21:28

C. Spoke in Hebrew, Aramaic
   1. Jews loved this language.
   2. "The sound of the holy tongue in
      the holy place fell like a calm on
      troubled waters." (Howson)
   3. Quiet when they heard it.

D. I am a Jew.
   1. Not an Egyptian.
   2. Not a foreigner.
   3. City of Tarsus in Cilicia.

E. Ft. of Gamaliel
   1. Tarsus had a great university.
   2. He took advantage of it.
   3. Later sent to Jerusalem for
      training.
   4. Educated in ways of the father.
   5. Not taught by heathen teachers.
   6. Gamaliel
      a) Seven Jewish teachers given
         title of Rabban—he was one of
         them.
      b) Rab - teacher.
      c) Rabbi - my teacher.
      d) Rabban - our teacher, the
         highest class. (Vincent)
F. Being zealous for God as you.
Gal. 1:13-14
1. Was a time when he felt just like they do now.
2. Yet something happened to him.

G. I persecuted this way unto death.
1. As they would put him to death now he once did same.
2. He was responsible for their persecution.

H. The High Priest does bear witness.
1. He may have been in Paul's audience.
2. He told of letters he had.
3. Persecuted "the way."

I. Suddenly at noon the light.
1. Used to be like these people but this changed him.
2. Changed form persecutor to persecuted.
3. Change not for fame but in response to heaven.

J. Saul, Saul
1. He needed to know who said this.
2. Thus to lead his audience.

K. I am Jesus.
1. Surely folk new of his crucifixion.
2. Resurrection?
3. None believed it, but allowed Paul to tell it.
4. First of two dangerous hurales to cross.

L. Told of his conversion.

M. V-18 "Lord they know that I .."
   1. Know of his zeal.
   2. Stephen martyred.

N. I will send thee unto Gentiles.
   1. Both brethren and Jess resisted him.
   2. Gentile—second hurale.
   3. This they could not take.

O. They gave him audience to this word.
   1. Infuriated them.
   2. Could not accept as fellow heir.

Eph. 3:6

P. Away with such a fellow.
   1. Not fit to live.
   2. Put him to death.
   3. Threw off their garments—dust into air.
   4. Farrar card.
   5. All done in name of religion.

Q. Examine by scourging.
   1. Roman could not understand Hebrew so beat the truth out of him in his language.
   2. Supposed Paul guilty of something bad.
   3. Tie him with thongs.
a) Stretched him out for the thongs, ready for the whip.
b) Tie him to a post and get to bare back.

4. Lawful to scourge a Roman.
   a) Stopped the captain.
   b) Saved Paul.
   c) Knew government protection.

IV. Such the price paid for our liberty.
It is impossible not to see a fulfillment of this promise in St. Paul's apology delivered from the castle stairs at Jerusalem to an infuriated and bloodthirsty mob. A Jewish riot had something terrific in it, something dreaded even by iron-minded Romans. The features all contorted with passion, the large eyes starting out of their sockets, the savage grinding of the teeth, the fierce cries, the wild throwing of handfuls of dust into the air, the tossing and waving of their garments with an unbridled violence, gave a demoniac aspect to such rioters. (Renan, p. 524).

--Teacher's Annual Lesson Commentary on Uniform Bible Lessons for the churches of Christ - 1950

Lesson IX - May 28, 1950    pg. 136-137
Paul Addresses the People

His Hebrew speech, his thoroughly Jewish attitude, his high-minded earnestness, his splendid courage seem to have wrought to some extent upon his volatile and mobile hearers. But he could not stop there. He had a further message to deliver, and it must be delivered at Jerusalem, the mother church, not only of the circumcision, but of the whole Gentile world. That message was that Christ was to be preached to the Gentiles, and that Jews and Gentiles were to be henceforth one in Christ. And that message he delivered with chains on his arms, from the midst of a Roman cohort, to the angry crowd beneath him, having obviously one single purpose—to speak the truth, and to do his duty both to God and man... As it is the apology enables us to enumerate the great apostle's virtues as combining in an extraordinary in an
extraordinary degree, courage, gentleness, calmness, vigour, wisdom, eloquence, and a passionate zeal for the glory of Christ and for the salvation of men. (Pulpit Commentary)

Then began one of the most odious and despicable spectacles which the world can witness, the spectacle of an oriental mob, hideous with impotent rage, howling, yelling, cursing, gnashing their teeth, flinging about their arms, waving and tossing their blue and red robes, casting dust in the air by handfuls, with all the furious gesticulations of an uncontrolled fanaticism." (Farrar)
THE THIRD PARTY

Acts 22:6-16

I. When I use the expression "The Third Party," what comes to your mind?
   A. A business transaction that is an added appendage that keeps it from being a partnership.
   B. An election where there is a difference between Republicans and Democrats?
   C. A divorce--was he or she seeing someone else?

II. Or was it a blessed spiritual experience?
   A. Parents and grandparents taught me God's birth.
   B. A preacher or Sunday School teacher got me to see a great truth as J.P. Sanders did me on the vicarious sufferings of Jesus.
   C. Or perhaps "Brother, I baptised me."

III. All of this is very important as it shows in some vital way individually you had something to do in the kingdom business.
   A. Be thankful you are used--either known or unknown by what you said or wrote.
   B. Pray as you begin your day that you will be that third person of holy influence.
IV. I know no better way to show this than in the conversion of Saul.
A. It's told three times and we may lift parts of all.
B. In the main we will go to Acts 22: 6-16.

V. Acts 22:6-16
A. Paul is on his way to Damascus.
   1. Oldest city in the world?
   2. 130 miles north of Jerusalem.
   3. Capitol of Syria.
   4. Ever in the news.
   5. Armed with letters of destruction.
   7. Fire ever in his belly for any cause he thought right.
      a) Gamaliel teacher.
      b) Hebrew of Hebrews.
      c) Pharisee.

Acts 8:3  "As for Saul he made havoc of the church..."
      d) Haling = dragging.

Acts 9:1  "And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings..."

B. Saul went to H.P.
   1. If he found any of "the way."
   2. Whether men or women.
C. While on his journey.
   1. Remember his purpose.

Acts 26:10 (Read)

2. I have lived in all good conscience.
3. Note his authority was from chief priests—authoritative men can be wrong. Also from elders (Acts 22:5) same as Sanhedrin.
4. This shows the power of the court—(as we had abortion made legal).

D. Looking for those of the way.
E. Saul had a traveling company.
F. The Light
   1. Suddenly
   2. From heaven
   3. Great (it was Jesus to appear).
   4. About noon—yet brighter than the sun because it was the Son—Acts 26:13.
   5. Son of Righteousness as seen in the transfiguration and on Patmos.
   6. Saul fell to the ground.
   7. Blinded
   8. Others fell to ground—Acts 26:11, afraid—verse 9, heard voice but didn't understand.

G. The Voice

1. Didn't say Christ, Messiah.
2. But Jesus of Nazareth.
3. Now he knows the despised Nazarene is divine.
4. He was not then persecuting an imposter—he is real.
5. To persecute a disciple is to persecute Jesus—thus third party: you, saint, Jesus!
6. Kick against the goads is to hurt one's self.
7. V-10, what shall I do Lord—no more important question.
   a) "If Saul strikes the disciples in Damascus, Christ feels the blows in heaven." (Johnson)
   b) As we treat the poorest disciple, we do Jesus.

H. The Instruction

Acts 26:16 "But rise, and stand upon thy feet..."

1. Read through Verse 18.
2. Apostle has to be a witness (Acts 1:21-26), (I Cor. 9:1-2).

Acts 9:6 "What shall I do Lord?"

3. What ever Jesus said must be done.
4. There are things "appointed" and one must not take them lightly.

I. Enter Third Party
   1. From announcement of Great Commission to Ascension, Jesus did not directly tell me what to do.
   2. Rather it goes to preacher and teacher to do it—no wonder the world and the devil hate such.
   3. Illustrated in Philip and the eunuch, Cornelius, Saul.

J. Paul's wait.
   1. Three days
   2. No eating or drinking
   3. In sorrow and in prayer
   4. Ananias prepared

Acts 9:12-13
9:17-18 "Received sight, was baptized."

Acts 22:13-14
V-16 "And now why tarriest thou?"

VI. He had to see Jesus to be an apostle and a preacher to tell him what to do to be saved.

Rom. 10:17
A. Not forgiven when:
   1. He saw the light.
   2. Heard the voice.
   3. Asked the question.
4. Met Ananias (though he never mentions Ananias in his writings--this keeps the preacher humble though useful.

5. Not when he believed or repented or fasted.

B. But when he was baptized, took food and was strengthened.
1. He arose and went to the water.
2. It was not brought to him.
3. Baptism is a washing.

Titus 3:5
Heb. 10:22

C. He duplicated the day of Pentecost folk.
1. Not visions
2. Not miracles
3. Not voices
4. Not hearing voices
5. Not praying
6. Not repeating confession
7. But baptism into Christ

D. Third Party vital
1. Another man teaches him.
2. A man baptizes him.
3. God uses men.

E. Lipscomb wrote
1. Another man, a non-believer led Paul into Damascus.
2. A man who was a believer baptized him.

3. "God uses men, both good and evil, in carrying out his purposes, and to object to a plan of the Lord because it requires the office of a third person arises from a lack of confidence in God's ability to have the person where and when he needs him. It betrays a distrust in God's power to do his work in his own chosen way."

4. Go and be that third person.

Centerville C/C Worship Service - 11/05/06
WATER BAPTISM AND MAN’S SALVATION
Acts 22:12-16

I. I was startled by a W. B. West statement, “One of the hottest issues today is baptism.”
   A. Perhaps this is one of the most distinctive things about the church.
   1. Baptism being immersion.
   2. Baptism being for adults.
   3. Baptism being essential.
   B. Baptism is an act that separates us from some modern procedures.
      1. As surely as it separates us from sin—
      2. It also separates us from the “faith only” procedures of some personal work teams.

II. Leo Rosten’s “Religion in America” was a compilation of multiple religious bodies’ beliefs. All “baptized”: not in the same way, not the same aged people, not for the same purpose, but evidently a firm belief that something about baptism was biblical.
   A. Can we see the Bible truth?
   B. Need we be ashamed of our faith?

III. Note some passages.
   A. Mk. 16:16 “He that believeth and is baptized shall
      1. Jesus spoke it.
      2. He joined believe & baptism, followed it with salvation.
      3. Why now “is not baptized”?
         (a) In this passage do 2 things to be saved—one thing to be lost.
         (b) If your car won’t start, need I lecture you on
the dangers of a slick road?
B. Acts 2:38 "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and
1. Pentecost,
2. Pricked hearts because they'd killed Jesus.
3. Cry, "Men & br., what shall we do"
   Great concern.
4. Reply: "Unto the remission of sins"
   Goodspeed, "In order to have your sins forgiven".
5. Repent & be baptized = sins forgiven.
6. Believe & be baptized = saved.
7. Different? Why coordinate conjunction "and" -
   joining words of equal value.
C. 1 Pet. 3:21 "The like figure whereunto even bapti
1. Noah saved from the flood, but Philip Morrison
   points out saved by the flood from sinful world.
2. Relation: baptism saves us.
D. Acts 22:16 "And now why tarriest thou? arise, an
1. Believe and be baptized.
2. Repent & be baptized.
3. Baptism saves.
E. Read some more scriptures.
   Gal. 3:26-27 "For ye are all the children of God
   Jn. 3:3-5 "Jesus answered and said unto him, Ve
   Rom. 6:1-6 "What shall we say then? Shall we co
   Acts 2:47 "Praising God, and having favour with
   Matt. 28:19-20 "Go ye therefore, and teach all
   Col. 2:12 "Buried with him in baptism, wherein
F. Statement of:
1. Tertullian.
2. F. F. Bruce.

IV. Is Jesus connected with this?

1 Pet. 1:17 "And if ye call on the Father, who with Matt. 26:28 "For this is my blood of the new testam
Acts 4:12 "Neither is there salvation in any other:
Gal. 3:27 "For as many of you as have been baptiz

1. Not pray, repent, or confess, but baptized into Christ.

Heb. 5:8-9 "Though he were a Son, yet learned
2 Thess. 1:8-9 "In flaming fire taking vengeance

Heb. 10:27-28
TERTULLIAN: Baptism itself is a bodily act, because we are immersed in water, but it has a spiritual effect, because we are set free from sins. ("On Baptism 7")

There is no difference whether one is washed in the sea or in a pool, in a river or a fountain, in a reservoir or a tub, nor is there any distinction between those whom John dipped in the Jordan and those whom Peter dipped in the Tiber, unless that eunuch whom Philip dipped in the chance water found on their journey obtained more or less of salvation. (Ibid. 4)

"Early Christians Speak" - By Everett Ferguson - Page 45

BAPTISM

Do you feel able to join in the words, "I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins"; and if so, how do you interpret them?

I have no option but to acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins, for the New Testament knows but one Christian baptism (Eph. 4:5), and Peter on the day of Pentecost described Christian baptism as being "for the remission of...sins" (Acts 2:38). I remember, too, how Paul at his conversion was commanded: "Rise and be baptized, and wash away your sins" (Acts 22:16). I do not recognize any dispensational frontier after the descent of the Spirit at Pentecost which would give baptism a different significance in the early apostolic age from that which it came to bear later. I interpret the words in question in the light of the
fact that what is true of the reality symbolized is often predicated of the symbol itself: in baptism, part of the spiritual reality which is thus outwardly symbolized is the removal of the believer's sins.

"Answers to Questions" – By F. F. Bruce – Page 154

To put on Christ by being baptized into Him is more the design of baptism than the remission of sins, because it is a greater and far more reaching relation than the remission of sins. It embraces all blessings in Christ Jesus, including remission of sins, because it is a greater and more far reaching relation than the remission of sins. It embraces all blessings in Christ Jesus including the remission of sins. Then to single out one fruit while ignoring the tree that produces this and other fruits is contrary to reason, science and common sense and ignores the authority of God.

David Lipscomb
Why be baptized?

Because of Conscience

"God's patience waited in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 3:20-21).

Baptism saves us. This is a fact. It is clearly stated. An inspired apostle made the statement. We must accept as truth that baptism saves us.

More specifically, baptism in water saves us. The connection here is clear. Our salvation by baptism corresponds to the salvation of Noah and his family "through water." Not that the two salvations are alike in all respects, but water is prominent in each case and is the point of similarity that prompted the comparison. In Noah's case the water, which was destroying most people, was an element in saving a few from destruction. In our case water is an element in saving us from destruction, for we are baptized in it.

But water is not the only — nor even the most important — element in baptism. If it were, then baptism would be merely physical, accomplishing nothing more than "a removal of dirt from the body." And this, Peter clearly states, is not the object of
baptism. It is not through cleansing of the body that baptism saves us.

Rather, baptism saves us as an appeal to God for a clear conscience. There is something involved here which is far deeper and more personal than outward washing of the body ever could be. Your conscience is your most intimate self. It is where you really live — your "heart of hearts." Here is where you apply the test of principles learned against actions contemplated. If you decide a thing is right and then do it, you have a "clear conscience" in that thing.

The person who is baptized because he has decided this is the right thing to do is acting conscientiously, and in this process baptism saves him.

So far we have quoted only from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible. Other versions present different readings of the phrase about the conscience, notably the King James Version: "the answer of a good conscience toward God." The two translations, though different, are not contradictory. Both recognize the absolute necessity of involving the heart, or the mind, in baptism.

Any important decision is developed through a sort of question-and-answer process. Baptism is no exception. If I learn about baptism, that it is commanded and that it saves me, and I question myself as to what I will do about it, the answer, if I act of a good conscience, will be positive. I will be baptized. My decision will be made on the basis of what my conscience tells me is right. This is "the answer of a good conscience."

At the same time I will recognize penitently that I have often violated the urgings of my conscience in the past, perhaps even regarding this very matter. Through baptism I will be appealing to God for forgiveness, for approval, for a clean record in his sight — thus for a clear conscience.

Further emphasis on the conscience-felt side of baptism is given by the concluding phrase of our text: "through the resurrection of Jesus Christ." If Christ had not been resurrected, baptism would be a useless ceremony, vain and good for nothing. But through faith in this fundamental fact of the Christian religion and the hope it offers of your own resurrection, in being baptized as an act "to God," you may joyfully receive as your own the wonderful assurance that baptism saves you.
I. I've heard some strange things said about conscience.
A. Paul - Acts 23:1 "Men & br. I have
   1. Yet stoned Stephen.
   2. Letters to Damascus.
   3. Tried to destroy Chr.
   4. He circumcised Timothy and did not
circumcise Titus.
B. My cons. is as good as new - never used.
C. I don't want one - it's a liability - it
never stops me, just keeps me from
enjoying sin.
D. Huck Finn, "Takes up more room than
   all the rest of a person's insides.
   1. Every one not an imbecile has a sense
   of right or wrong.
   2. We all feel the pang of cons.
E. Man is governed by above, from without
   and from within.
F. The spirit of man is the candle of the
   Lord. Prov. 20:27

II. Con. Functions
A. All con. says is that it is wrong to do
   wrong - Hudson.
B. What is wrong must be found elsewhere.
C. Conscience is the conscienteness a man
   has of himself in relation to the
standard of right which he recognizes. It is at once a judgment of his conformity or otherwise to that standard, and a corresponding feeling of approbation or disapprobation.

1. "Con. is what your mother told you before you were 5."

2. At first we were spanked for doing wrong - then we spank ourselves.

3. But one said the shelters of childhood become the prisons of maturity.

4. Con. is not an information booth to which you may turn & get the last word (a) Liebman, "Peace of Mind" - We must learn to trust our consciences just as we learn to trust our eyes, nerves, digestion." Wrong.

III. 4 types

A. Rationalized cons.
   1. Explain all away.
   2. All's relative.
   3. Skp., "There is nothing either good or bad but thinking makes it so."
   4. He has no principle but expediency.

B. Childish con.
   1. All he learned as child still holds.
   2. Mom or Dad the standard.
   3. Most ideals are negative.
   4. Dr. say tho people whose cons. does not bother them do not develop neurotic troubles.
C. Superstitious cons.
   1. Always feels guilty.
   2. Work in the church to pay for their sins
D. Christian cons.
   1. It's ever growing.
   2. It's Bible guided.
   3. It's based on love.
   4. He ever seeks to follow the Lord.

IV. Ways to develop Consc. and herein do I exercise.

Acts 24:16 "Have a con. void of off.
I Cor. 8:7 "C. being weak is defiled
I Tim. 4:2 "Their c. seared as c a hot
I Tim. 1:19 "Holding faith & a good consc. shipwreck unf.
I Tim. 1:5 "A good cons. & of a faith
I Tim. 3:9 Mystery of the faith in a pure

Now the end of the com, is charity out of a

A. Ck. your standards by the word of God.
   Acts 24:16 and herein do I exercise
   1. Work at keeping it clear.
   2. Keep it up-to-date.
      (a) Abortion.
      (b) Work on Sunday - electricity, hosp., funeral home.

B. Cleanse your consc.
   1. If you've wronged one, make it right.
   2. Confess sin to God.
      Heb. 9:11-14
C. Be honest & sincere.
1. Remember Jesus & woman.
   John 8:9 "Being convicted by their own
2. Baptism.
   I Pet. 3:21 the ans. of a good con.
3. Paul
   I Tim. 1:5 "Now the end of the Comm.
   (a) Skspeare spoke of a cons. as "wide
      as hell".

Mick End 1-17-71
I. This story has everything!
   A. Assassins, plots, spies, intrigue, conspiracy, Rome, Judaism, centurians, spearmen—right hand grabbers, horses, secrecy, night marches.
   B. Above all Promises & Providence.

II. A Story of Contrasts
   A. A night in the Castle--Jerusalem
      1. Pull apart.
      2. "Lord stood by him".
      3. Most opportune for Paul had night to think about dire predictions made in v-11; encouragement came at right time.
      4. Chapter of work completed--Jerusalem done & finished.
   B. A Day With Evil
      1. God said, "Rome".
      2. 40 men said "die here."
      3. We'll see who wins--God or evil men.
      4. Already Paul beginning his Roman journey but didn't know it.
      5. Earlier Paul said wanted to go to Rome (Acts 19:21)--be careful what you pray for--may get it!
      6. Night God made his promise--next day men their threats--God always a step ahead of foes.

III. The Conspiracy.
   A. 40 men bound with a curse.
      1. Devotion of anything to destruction.
      2. Yet had a waffling way to weasel out. Think they did die as Platt???
B. Neither drink or eat til Paul killed.
   1. If fail devoted themselves to destruction.
   2. Small group determined to get Paul.
      a) Usually small groups stir up trouble.
      b) Young men can turn the tide against them.
      c) Some go to great trouble to hinder the Kingdom.
   3. Kill Paul
      a) Second effort.
      b) Crowd could gain nothing legally so resort to murder.
   4. 40 men to chief priests & elders.
      a) Sounds like Judas' journey.
      b) Thomas said conspiracy was malignant, determined, strong, cunning.
      c) Only here is conspiracy in NT.
      d) No shame to admit murderous plot to religious leaders and got no rebuke from them.
         (1) Expected a favorable hearing.
         (2) High ecclesiastics fell in with plot.
         (3) What we do in name of religion!
         (4) What kind of evaluation did they have of the priests to ask them to join such a plot?
         (5) He should have holiness to the Lord on forehead.
(6) What does this say about the religious climate?

5. Relayed how they would kill Paul with priest with pretense brought him down.

B. But the Plot Was Overheard!
1. Paul's sister's son.
   a) Only reference to Paul's family except in Romans 16:7, 11.
   b) All we know about "boy" is he discovered plot and sought to stop it.
   c) Youth is powerful!
   d) Had courage to take first step.
2. Heard and acted--see faith and providence.
   a) Providence works simply, unexpectedly, naturally.
   b) God has great resources.
   c) Not always the same method--Peter set free by an angel; Paul by a nephew, an accident.
   d) Note purpose of God and responsibility of man go hand in hand.
   (1) Had assurance of safety yet needed to provide own means.
   (2) Decrees of God do not conflict with duty.
   (3) Nothing intended to slacken human zeal.
   (4) Divinely assured of safety yet he was not relieved of
duty to look out for own life--so Paul acted on information he had.

(5) Danger is nothing in the eyes of God--only furthers his work.
(6) He who won't help himself can't expect God to.
(7) If we do not use power we have why should God do anything?

3. Enter Centurian, Chief Captain, Nephew.
   a) Trusted centurian--Coffman said he didn't.
   b) Always in good light.
   c) Paul the Prisoner.

Eph. 3:1
4:1
Philemon 1

9
d) 5 years of this.

4. Took him by the hand.
   a) Young? Child?
   b) Out of earshot?
   c) Big men make easy of access.
   d) Weak instrument for a great work.

5. Tell no man.
   a) Dismissed with charge of secrecy.
   b) Must learn to keep counsel.
   c) Secrets hard to keep.
IV. The Deliverance

A. Two centurians

B. 200 soldiers--470 escort Paul.
   1. Don't underestimate the enemy.
   2. Note length to which Rome would go to administer justice.
   3. Not going to allow men to take law into their own hand.
   4. Priest support conspiracy--Rome opposes out of sense of duty.
   5. Caesarea--60 miles--Antipatris--46 miles.

C. 70 horsemen.

D. 200 spearmen.
   1. Otherwise unknown.
   2. Lit. right hand graspers.

E. Third hour.
   1. 9 PM.
   2. Move with dispatch.
   3. Acted with speed and authority.
   4. At last minute God delivers.
   5. 3 hours after sunset--cooler.

F. Beasts
   1. When one gets tired, ride another.
   3. Relay and luggage.

G. Set Paul On One.
   1. Paul no condition to march--rode.
   2. Treated like a gentlemen.
   3. Didn't want an uncondemned Roman citizen killed.

Holden Ave., Newport, AR (AM) - 11/30/94
Joelton Church - 7/2/95 (BC)
Silver Point, TN (BC) - 8/23/95
Robinson & Center, Conway, AR (BC) 9/17/95
I LISTENED; WHAT DID I LEARN?
Acts 24:10-16

I. I'm ever curious as to what people learned from a sermon.
   A. Blanche Montgomery could not see to read, but knew the Bible as she listened.
   B. I'm told lectures are the poorest means--then why did God choose the "foolishness of preaching?"

II. Let's listen to a short sermon of Paul's and write down what we can learn.
   A. It's Acts 24:10-16 as he speaks to the governor.
   B. Read Acts 24:10-16

III. Things I Learned:
   A. He had a respect for civil authority.
      1. Waited until called on to speak.
      2. Accepted challenge--neither ignorant, arrogant, or entertained.
      3. Though he served King Jesus he still had respect for Caesar.
      4. Note truth was a cheerful thing to him--all this in V.10.
   B. Reviewed his deeds that were above reproach (V.11,12).
C. States his guilt lessens and ready to defend such (V.13).

D. States his "guilt."

V.14 "But this I confess unto thee."

1. There was a reason he was arrested--it was not an imagined thing.

2. Way - name of his religion.

3. Not a sect, a part, a division, a denomination.

4. Serious religious matters; he's serving God.

5. Accepts testimony of heaven, law and prophets.

6. He did not dream it up--no new movement, but one long promised.

7. Long established - "witten."

E. What I believe and practice does something to one's character.

1. Hope toward God.

2. This I share with others--just ask them if God has a part in their lives!

3. Pivots on resurrection of just and unjust.

4. God will decide which camp I'm destined for.

5. Thus there is more to living than just meat, bread, shelter of today.
6. I'm raised to experience something beyond the grave.

F. This behooves me to live in recognition of conscience.
   1. There then is a reason for my actions.
   2. Note I've done this in a small confine of time.

IV. He continues his speech.
   A. Does no harm to cite the benevolences he has initiated.
      1. Read V.17.
      2. Thus consistent helpfulness not a troublemaker.
      3. Came to the temple for a sacred purpose (V.18).
   B. If I am so bad why are they not here to accuse me? Does their absence not weaken their case (thus a little psychology injected!)
   C. I admit I taught the resurrection and that basically is the only charge.

V. Let's analyze everything we hear.
FLATTERY VS. DIPLOMACY

Acts 24:10-23

I. We hear two words used often and the question comes: Do they mean the same thing?
   A. Those words are flattery and diplomacy.
   B. How would you define them?
      1. Flattery is saying nice things about a person or program and not really meaning it.
         a) You say it to feather your own nest.
         b) You may be insincere.
         c) Contrast--seeing your face time stands still vs. seeing your face would stop a clock.
      2. Diplomacy- you meaningfully say nice things.
         a) You want to encourage wellness.
         b) You hope for a favorable avoidance of conflict and hurt.

C. One of the best examples of both flattery and diplomacy is the Caesarea trial of Paul and the speeches of Paul and Tertullus (Acts 24:1-23).
   1. Let's study in view of contrasting the speeches.
   2. Which one was sincere?
II. The Caesarea, Tertullus Trial
   A. Tertullus' speech.
      2. He comes to inform the governor of the chartes against Paul.
      3. He brings the recitation of the charges against Paul.
      4. In so doing he butters up Tertullus.
         a) By him they enjoy great quietness.
         b) Very worthy deeds are done to this nation by thy providence. (Another translation says "evils are corrected for").
         c) You are good for the whole nation.
         d) "Noble" Felix
         e) We give thanks.
         f) I'm not tedious.
         g) I pray thee hear of thy clemency a few words.
         h) We've found (just need you to OK) that this man is pestilent, mover of sedition or insurrected, Jews throughout the world.
         i) He's the ring leader of a sect.
         j) Jesus the Nazarene.
         k) Profanes the temple.
         l) We have already judged it via our law.
m) Lysias interrupted with great violence.

n) Commanded accusers to come before thee (really a waste of time).

o) You are asked to take knowledge of these things.

p) All the Jews say Amen—"these things are so."

B. Now Paul's Speech

1. I know you have been a Judge for many years. (Solid fact whether capable or incapable).

2. I cheerfully speak. (Know that he is speaking before a bad man however).

3. He answers three charges.
   a) I am a pestilent fellow (as he is the instigator of sedition everywhere).
   b) Ring leader of a sect.
   c) Profaned the temple.

4. First two charges civic, third religioua.

5. He expresses confidence that his long tenure as a Judge means something.

6. Also his willingness to submit his case to one man.

7. He reminds Felix it was only 12 days ago he came to Jerusalem.
8. Left Jerusalem 5 days ago and one day in jail thus little time to stir up trouble.
9. Denied any temple confession and no proof to the contrary.

Acts 25:11

11. Without proof they could not condemn him.
12. Some church truth.
   a) It's the way.
   b) He serves God of the Father.
   c) Did not reject the God of Israel.
   d) Worshipped same God they did.
   e) Believed the Word.
   f) Word "sect" not then a bad word (Acts 26:5) straitest sect.
   g) Sect in Greek= choice, those who chose to follow different course from others.
   h) Those gravitated to an erroneous position.
   i) Church not false sect, but fulfillment of law and prophecy.
   j) Hope of resurrection of all.
   k) All could agree with this.
   l) Being from Nazareth no proof of error--as all looked for the Messiah.
Acts 23:1
26:9-11

m) Paul always honest.

Acts 23:1
26:9-11

n) All sustained by the Scriptures

o) Enemy of his people?? -- No
   he came with alms.

p) Went into temple to be helpful.
   They saw him with Trophimus
   and concluded that Paul
   brought him into temple.

Acts 21:28-29

13. Then he asked where are the
    witnesses requested?

C. Felix's Part

Acts 23:29

1. Should have released Paul.
2. Kept him to hopefully get a bribe.
3. Hoped to gain favor of Jews.

IV. Things To Be Learned

A. Matthew 10:16  Be wise as serpents.
B. Absence of proof makes theory
   valueless.
C. Prove all by the Scriptures.
D. Prove position by words and deeds.
E. Be aware of love of money.
COURAGE IS HAVING TO SAY I'M SORRY
Acts 26:9-15

I. Some words stick in your throat.
A. "I'm sorry."
B. "I've sinned."
C. "I was wrong, you were right."
D. "I was mistaken."

II. It takes courage & honesty to do it--but one of the reasons you love Paul was because he could do it.
A. He tells Agrippa the story of his conversion.
B. He tells Agrippa of his mistake.

III. Paul Admittance of Error.
Acts 26:9 "I verily that with myself that I ought to do
A. What causes error
   1. Thinking with myself.
      a.) Think Christ - not self.
      b.) We ask too often, "What does this do to me?"
          or "My dad was not baptized."
   2. Opposing Jesus.
      a.) Worst kind of sin.
      b.) Can't be neutral.
Ps. 2:5 "Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, c
      b.) Can't be neutral.
Matt. 21:30 "And he came to the second, and said lik
Matt. 25:18 "But he that had received one went and c
   c.) Your duty to oppose Jesus?
3. Listening to misguided friends.
V. 10 "Having received authority from the chief priests
V. 12 "I went to Dam. c authority & comm. from the
   a.) Hi Priest was Pres. of Sanhedrin.
   b.) Made himself tool of H. P.
B. Error Leads to Action.
V. 10 "Many of the saints did I shut up in prison, havi
V. 10 "When they were put to death, I gave my voice
V. 11 "I punished them oft in every synagogue, and ca
V. 11 "I compelled them to blaspheme; and being exce
V. 11 "I persecuted them unto strange cities."

1. Note his actions.
   a.) Imprisoned.
   b.) Killed.
   c.) Punished.
   d.) Blasphemed.
   e.) Persecuted.
   (1) Says he was "mad" (admits it in V. 11 & denies it in V. 25).
   (2) Oddly when he was mad none that he was;
       when he was in right mind all that him crazy!

2. Do we have the right to tamper c the consciences of others.

3. Those imprisoned he called saints.
   a) Calls them saints before Agrippa, thus glory to church.
   b) Didn't in Jerusalem speech - no, he tailored it to fit audiences.

4. Showed no mercy to women.

5. How many were killed beside Stephen?
   a.) Cast vote - lit. - cast down my pebble - black for guilt.
   b.) Was he member of Sanhedrin.

6. Heb. tells of punishments.

   (a) Tried to get them - not successful.
(b) Didn't want to make them martyrs - only apostates.
(c) A forced conscience is a great burden.
(d) Blaspheme a verb of imperfect tense - either expresses continued or incomplete action.

IV. We face our error for a purpose.
A. To change.
B. To ask others to join us in the change.
   1. Paul once felt as Jews do but hopes they will change their minds even as he has.
   2. Since he'd once been a persecuter he could understand their frame of mind.
C. To admit our ignorance.
   1. Man can be most conscientious even when engage in enormous wickedness.
   2. Scott, "No more violent principle in the world than a misformed conscience.
   3. M. Henry, "We can confidently believe we are right when we are wrong."

West End 1-15-78
MEET JESUS
Acts 26:12-15

I. We under strange circumstances may come eyeball to eyeball with Jesus.
   A. A book.
   B. A service.
   C. A conversation.
   D. Paul did on Damascus Rd.

II. Man on a Mission.
Acts 26:12 "Whereupon as I went to Damascus with...
   A. You have a lot of comfort in some supports of error.
      1. With authority.
         a.) Others think I'm right.
         b.) My preacher said.
      2. With Commission.
         a.) Others want it done.
         b.) This is what my folks have done for years.
      3. Chief Priest.
         a.) Religious leaders can't be wrong.
         b.) Do you know more than these good men?
   B. What driving force moves me?

III. The 3 Things of the Road.
   A. Light.
      V. 13 "At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light!
      1. Noontime would enhance the brightness of heaven's light.
      2. Light - brighter than sun.
         Light - enveloped whole company.
         Whole co. fell to earth.
B. Voice.

V. 14 "I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying
1. Heb. of Hebrews as seen by speaking to Paul in
   that language.
2. It was voice of Jesus.

C. Questions & Answers.

1. Saul, Saul why persecutest.
   a.) We stifle conviction by throwing ourselves into
      opposition.
   Jer. 1:7 "But the Lord said unto me, Say not, I am a
   Ezek. 2:1 "And he said unto me, Son of man, stand up
   2:3 "And he said unto me, Son of man, I send thee
   2. It is hard for thee--
      a.) Ox kicks goads to own hurt.
      b.) Fruitless to resist superior power.
      c.) Even in Heaven Lord did not disdain using
         heathen proverb.
      d.) Sometimes the other fellow gets to us more than
         we want to admit as Stephen got to Paul.
3. Who art thou, Lord.
   a.) Paul had never thought of being a preacher or
      meeting Jesus till this.
4. I am Jesus.
   a.) Paul thought Jesus was buried & stolen out of grave
   b.) Every eye will see & tongue confess.

Mark 16:1-2:3 78
FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT
Acts 26:12-18

I. An unusual situation brought forth a great speech.
   A. Paul was tried before Festus at Caesarea.
   B. He appealed to Caesar.
Acts 25:12 "Hast thou appealed unto C? Unto
   C. Agrippa & Bernice came to Caesarea.
   1. V. 14 "Festus declared Paul's cause.
      (a) Felix left him in bonds.
      (b) Jews wanted him killed.
      (c) "Brot none accusations as I supposed" - V. 18.
      (d) "But had certain qts. --- of one Jesus - dead
          alive" - V. 19.
      (e) He appealed to Caesar.
   2. Agrippa agrees to "hear the man".
   D. On the morrow - what a day!
      1. Ag. & Bern. came c great pomp.
      2. Entered place of hearing.
      3. Principal men of city there.
      4. Festus commanded Paul to be brought forth.
      5. "I found he had committed nothing worthy of
death". V. 25
      6. I need "somewhat to write" - V. 26
         Unreasonable to send prisoner & not signify the
         crimes" - V. 27
      7. Ag., "Thou art permitted to speak.
         Acts 26:1
         Conviction of 20 yrs.
II. Part of Paul's speech.
A. He told his conversion to Christ.
   1. 3x in Acts – 9, 22, 26.
   3. Damascus – 140 miles from Jer.
   4. Letters from chief priest – traveled at hi noon – not done unless you were really pressing.
   5. Light.
      (a) From Heaven.
      (b) Great light – noon – above sun in brilliance.
      (c) Above brightness of sun.
      (d) Shone.
      (e) Shining about me.
      (f) Shining on those that journey c me.
      (g) Fell to earth – God knocked him down before he could rise.
      (a) Voice in Heb. –
      (b) Why persecutest thou me.
      (c) Hard to kick against pricks.
         (1) Hard – not difficult but painful RSV It hurts you to kick.
         (2) Ox kicked hurt self.
         (3) Fighting against Christ brings greater ruin.
         (4) Terry Johnson Oct. 72 20th CC in building we heed God's natural laws – must also moral. MARILYN MONROE #1-A.
      (d) Rise – for commission.
         (1) Ezek. did (Ezek. 2:1)
         (2) Minister & Witness.
B. Paul's Purpose - Apostle - One Sent.
   1. Was protected from Jew & Gentile.
   2. 5 point program.
   3. Method of achieving.

C. 5 Point Program.
   1. Open eyes.
      (a) To Truth.
      (b) Paul had no q.t. of Jesus claim.
      (c) Blind to existence of God,
           Worth of human soul.
           Aim of life.
           Solemnity of death & judgment.
           8 yr. old picture of death #2.
           Beauty of holiness.
      (d) Don't tell Paul Jesus is dead - he's seen the light.
      (e) In Christ we see things never saw before.
      (f) Walk toward light - there are no shadows.

2. Turn from Darkness to Light.
   (a) You have the right to turn - it's not forced.
       India's Constitution #3
   (b) W/o Christ is moral darkness.
   (c) Fear abounds.
   (d) The ascended Jesus is here describing His work on earth.
   (e) Darkness of superstition & idolatry laid aside
       Col. 1:13 "Who hath delivered us from the power
       Jer. 1:7 "Whatsoever I comm. thee thou shalt sp.

3. Turn from Satan to God.
   (a) I'm in his power - it's death.
(b) With sin & ignorance he binds.
   Lincoln Card #4
(c) Motel Gethsemane - with all modern comforts
   #5.

4. Receive forgiveness of sins.
   (a) Via truth preached.
   (b) Reinstall into sonship.
   (c) Power to forgive exclusively God's.
      Lu. 5:21 Blessed , who can forgive sin!
   (d) Kaj Munk Story #6. Buried alone?

5. Inheritance.
   (a) Sanctified - Place #44/v4
      1 Pet. 1:16 "Be ye holy for I am holy
   (b) From this vision he never retreated.
      D. Thru Faith in Jesus.

1. No other way.

Rom. 5:1 "Therefore being justified by f.

2. Preaching a
   Ministry of Illumination
   Conversion
   Deliverance
   Remission
   Inheritance

6th & Izard Church, Little Rock, 10-22-72
West End 11-12-72, 11-19-72
Shady Acres Church, Siloam, Mo. 3-27-73
Mid-South Training Series, Memphis 3-21-73
Columbus Ave. Church, Haco, Texas 4-2-74
Maryville, Tenn. Church 4-22-74
Elisabeth Kübler-Ross tells of an eight-year-old boy who was dying from an inoperable brain tumor. The child expressed his feelings about dying in the pictures he drew. One picture in particular showed his feeling of helplessness. In the background of his picture were a house, sunshine, trees, and grass. In the foreground he drew an army tank. In front of the barrel of the tank was a tiny figure with a stop sign in his hand.

E. Stanley Jones gives this illustration of the priority of Christian witnessing: "When the Constitution of India was being debated, the question of 'the right to profess, practice and propagate one's faith is guaranteed' was up. Many Hindus gagged over 'propagate.' But a Hindu arose and said, 'To propagate one's faith is an integral part of the Christian's faith, so if you do not give the Corinthians the right to propagate you do not give them the right to profess and practice, for they cannot profess and practice if they do not propagate.'" As Dr. Jones goes on to point out, this Hindu showed more insight into the true nature of Christian faith than many Christians do. The very nature of our faith demands that we make every effort to com-
One of Abraham Lincoln's neighbors saw him lugging his two small sons down the street. Both boys—Willie and Tad—were bawling loudly. The neighbor asked, "Why Mr. Lincoln, what's the matter?" Lincoln answered, "Just what's the matter with the whole world. I've got three walnuts and each wants two."
Gerald Kennedy tells of a motel near the famous shrine at Lourdes, France. The motel is called "Gethsemane," an appropriate title for a motel near a religious shrine. Like many motels the Gethsemane motel has a sign reading "with all modern comforts." This is a parable on the religion of many people. We want a religion with Gethsemane and Calvary for Jesus, but we want our own experience to include all the comforts and conveniences of a self-centered life.

FIRST CORINTHIANS FOR TODAY
Robert J. Dean
pg. 52-53

Kaj Munk, a Danish minister who was executed by the Nazis for aiding the Jews, wrote this just before he died. "Yes, perhaps it is all a mistake, this business about Christianity. Sometimes it really looks to me like that. Perhaps all this talk about God and Jesus Christ and the salvation of men is just a collection of fairy tales. And I am a minister. Perhaps this is a mistake too. Perhaps a mistake to preach love and forgiveness in a hate-torn world, to rescue those who are in need, to teach the children to comfort the lonely and the dying. But if it is, after all, a mistake, then it is a beautiful mistake. If Christianity should
turn out, after all, to be true, then unbelief will have been a very ugly mistake."

"Ask Me to Dance"
Bruce Larson
Page 33
CALLED FOR A PURPOSE
Acts 26:16-18

1. Did you ever see anything run away?
   A. A car?
   B. A horse?
   C. A child - one teen-ager tried to but every time she tried the phone would ring.

II. Purposeless existence; aimless living is pitiful.
   (Quotation from "Down To Earth")
   -build big to the big; then 7th rev. (rev. 7th rev.)
   1. Built by God - the same rev. (rev. 7th rev.)
   2. Built by God - 7th rev. (noble) - 20 one
   3. Purpose - one, goal, direction - end noarchy
   4. Their speed - order, discipline
   "I have appeared to thee for a purpose"
   A. Rise & stand.
      1. When I receive a commission I need to know I've got one.
      2. Dignity demanded - rise & stand.
      3. Bodily position important - (Ezra 3) - he's on knees & gets others there.
   B. "I have appeared to thee for a purpose"
      1. 1st see the authority of Jesus.
      2. He has the authority to call & send.
      3. He must be the motivation of our life - not ego, money, duty, expectation.
   C. Purpose was 4 fold.
      1. To make thee a minister.
2. To make thee a witness.
   a.) Both those things thou hast seen.
      (1) Can only tell what we know & see.
      (2) Harkness clip.
   b.) Of things in the which I will appear unto thee.
      (1) Mind open to new truth.
3. To deliver thee from the people & from the Gentiles.
   a.) Clip from Nelson.
4. To send thee now to the Gentiles.
   a.) Now denotes present time.
   b.) Now identifies when God wants action.

IV. The Resultant Benefit of My Calling.

V. 18 "To open their eyes, & to turn them from darkness.

A. Let's list the condensed benefits of Christianity.
1. Opens eyes.
   a.) Condensation of all the sayings of Christ to him in one short sentence.
   b.) Christ doesn't blindfold - he lets men see.
2. Turn from darkness to light.
3. Turn from the power of Satan to God.
   a.) Satan tries to keep people in the dark.
   b.) Called ruler of the darkness of this world.
4. Receive the forgiveness of sins.
   a.) Remission of sins is the principle blessing of salv. & the gospel.
   b.) This is the only blessing that finally matters.
   c.) Education on sex editorial.
5. Receive inheritance.

Ps. 128:1 "Blessed is everyone that feareth the Lord; t
Ps. 144:15 "Happy is that people, that is in such a ca 
B. Possible by Heaven's Method "Sanctified by faith 
that is in me."
1. We see: 
(a) Man's condition. 
(b) Power of grace to give liberty. 
(c) Instrument for it all - faith. 
2. Campbell, "Sanctified by the faith respecting 
one."
3. Remission is possible by faith regarding Christ.
WHEN A PREACHER SPOKE TO ROYALTY
Acts 26:18-20

I. What's the most prestigious audience you ever heard give ear to a gospel preacher?
A. Massive opportunities via TV.
B. Madelyn Murray on radio.
C. Campbell spoke to Congress.
D. Paul addressed Royalty.
   1. Agrippa story.
   2. Though Paul spoke to great & small without difference.
   3. Sad for Agrippa—way was at his finger tips if only he'd accept it.
   4. There could be no doubt Paul targeted him.
      a) Addressed by name 3X (2,19,27)
      b) By title 6X (2,7,13,19,26,27)

II. As Paul concluded his speech he states his life's purpose: v-18 "To open their (Gentile) eyes.
A. Open their eyes.
   1. Salvation embraces the enlightening of the mind of man.
   2. It will result in renewing of life.
   3. Arnot says true understanding and right direction go together as men turn.
   4. Spiritual illumination.
      a) Blindness belongs to sinners.
      b) Restoration of character belongs to Christianity.
      c) Endless faith in Christ who restores.
B. Turn From Darkness to Light
1. To the filthy in his filthiness the prospect of being exposed to light is dreadful.
2. Darkness is the symbol of sin and ignorance.
3. Light the symbol of truth and holiness.

C. From power of Satan to God.
1. This shows authority of Satan.
2. Man knows his tyranny.
3. He enslaves with lust, worldliness, prejudice, superstition.
4. Manumit the slave.
5. God the rightful owner.

D. Receive Forgiveness of Sins
1. Conversion gives 1st pardon, then an inheritance.
2. Gift removes from the believer what he deserves and bestows upon him the deserts of the Redeemer.
3. Christ takes your position and you obtain His.
4. No human being is forgiven and left an outcast.
5. No human is admitted to the inheritance unforgiven.
6. This forgiveness is Divine.
7. Sins are cancelled, forgotten, drown, separated as far as the East is from the West.

E. Inheritance among them that are sanctified.
1. Heaven awaits the holy and here
the holy repent for Heaven.
2. Eternal blessedness the legitimate
possession.
3. Set aside for God.
4. Like "lot"—allotment in promised
land—each his portion.

F. How? By faith that is in me.
1. Faith is the hand that appropriates
the holiness of Christ.
2. Highest good comes by the simplest
method.
   a) "Me"—not creeds, priests,
opinions, human wisdom.
   b) It is influential as led to control
of life.
   c) Fact Paul was not disobedient
shows how necessary obedience
is—primary & continuing.

G. Not Disobedient
1. Obedience is a mark of conversion.
2. It recognizes authority.
3. When you disobey you are saying
"God you don't know what is best
for me."
4. You say "I don't trust you."
5. It is proof of love.

Jn. 14:15  If ye love me, keep my com.
Jn. 14:21  He that hath my com. it keep's

III. So Paul Went Preaching!
A. To Small & Great.
B. Showing & Declaring.
   1. Resurrection (v-23).
2. None other thing than Moses—v.22
3. His declaring (imperfect) meant continually.

C. Many Areas
2. Not in chronological sequence.
3. Began with those nearest then moved on.
5. All can tell the sweet story.
6. Emphasis is that a former persecutor preached the gospel.
7. Seems he intentionally put Gentiles last in list.

IV. His Message
A. That they should repent.
1. No doubt about its necessity.
2. Laurin says this costs you something—not almost (v-28) but altogether (v-29) except bonds.
3. With renewed mind comes renewed life.
4. Man must respond to will of God.
5. Repentance marks a moral and religious orientation to a new way of life. (Kistemaker)
6. Repentance is an inward turning or change.
7. Followed by outward expression as one turns to a new life of good deeds.
8. Paul's epistles do not often mention repentance but he strongly preached its necessity and having a worthy performance. (Oster)

B. Turn to God
   1. Salvation is a matter of right direction.
   2. God opposite from way man is going.
   3. An "about face" in life.
   4. Turn results of open eyes.
   5. Turn--margin--conversion.

C. Do Works Meet for Repentance.
   1. All leads to rectitude of conduct.
   2. Turn from sin to service.

V. Summary
   A. By divine help he carried out his mission (v-22).
   B. He was impartial--small and great--no distinction of persons.
   C. Went strictly by Scripture in fact "no other things"--no new doctrine.
   D. He preached Repentance, Turn to God, and Perform works or deeds worthy of repentance.

Hendersonville (Cuban Mission Forum) - 9/19/97
What an amazing statement! Certainly, I realize that evangelism might be defined in a broader way than most of our readership would do so.

And I understand that much of this outreach is happening outside the United States. But it is also beginning to happen here at a progressive rate. We are presently in the greatest movement of evangelism in world history.

But I am afraid that many of us don’t know that the harvest around us is plentiful. We are assuming that people are closed and the gospel is not in season because it wasn’t a few years ago. Many churches have stopped evangelistic efforts because they didn’t work in the past. But times have changed. We must again behold the fields that are ripe unto harvest.

If a huge movement of God is happening in our world where people are opening up to the gospel like never before, I don’t want us to be inside our church buildings talking to ourselves and assuming the message is out of season. This could be the greatest time for world evangelization that will exist in your lifetime. Don’t miss it. ‘I know there were believers who didn’t go to Red Square because we didn’t plan it. It wasn’t our deal. But I went to Red Square because it was God’s deal. It didn’t have to be my plan. I just found a few people and put in a good word for Jesus.

Some prayers are slow in coming. But God is faithful, even if it takes twenty years.

Milton Jones is the preaching minister of the Northwest church of Christ in Seattle, Washington, and a professor of evangelism and homiletics at Puget Sound Christian College.
LIFE HAS NO RICHER PURPOSE
Acts 26:22-23

1. All of us are sobered by "What are we accomplishing?"
   A. List our achievements.
   B. What's our monument.
   C. What's our record of remembrance.

II. I want to give you Paul's - let's follow him.
Acts 26:22-23 "Having therefore obtained help of God...
A. We see features.
   1. With God as partner he continued steadfastly.
      a.) 2 things - God's guidance & man's faithfulness
          most needed today.
      b.) He depended upon God for aid - the Lord saw
          him thru it. Gail Patterson at Cory's illness
          said, "We've called upon the Lord for strength.'
      c.) Paul's enemies knew God helped him. So did
          Balak.
      Num. 22:1-6 "And the children of Israel set forward,
      d.) Man can't achieve w/o God's guidance.
      Ps. 16:10 "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; ne
      e.) Word help = assistance by a companion. One
          who comes from w/out to help another.
      f.) Only time this word for help used in N.T. It's
          help a friend gives an inferior ally.
      g.) Note Paul continued - we must not falter or be
          spasmodic. He was obedient to the end - few
          are.
      h.) Continue = stand, hold ground.
   2. He witnessed to both great & small.
      a.) Did ans. many questions.
b.) God's message for everybody.
c.) Gospel unites – one foretold & others proclaimed.
d.) Pray for all preachers & a catholic outreach.

a.) Double truth – true to revelation & true to the correct interpretation of it.
b.) He preached no doctrine that did not agree with Scriptures. 

c.) Said nothing but what Moses did.

4. Declared the heart of the gospel of Jesus.
a.) He is the Christ.
b.) He did suffer.
(1) Do we see glory & not suffering?
(2) No gospel w/o the cross.
c.) 1st to rise.

Col. 1:18 "And he is the head of the body, the church.
1 Cor. 15:20 "But now is Christ risen from the dead, &
(1) Jesus rose from power of death – Lazarus died again.
d.) Shew light to people.
e.) Universal – also to Gentiles.

The End 2-12-78
In the early stirrings of our history, an old man arose in the Constitutional Assembly and commanded the respect of the colleagues. Benjamin Franklin said, "Mr. Chairman, if a sparrow cannot fall without the God of heaven realizing it, is it likely that a nation can arise without His aid?" I move, Mr. Chairman," he added, "that we began these proceedings each morning with solemn prayer.


Elton Trueblood's book called *The Company of the Committed*, from which we earlier noted the principle concerning hypocrisy, there is a wealth of thought on our subject. At this point one statement may be of particular help:

A Christian is a person who confesses that, amidst the manifold and confusing voices heard in the world there is one Voice which supremely wins his full assent, uniting all his powers, intellectual and emotional, into a single pattern of self-giving. That Voice is Jesus Christ . . . Once the Christian has made this primary commitment, he still has perplexities, but he begins to know the joy of being used for a mighty purpose, by which his little life is dignified.

(over)
There are three things that God wants us to do. I think these three things sum up the whole Christian religion. First, and foremost, we must learn to live the gospel of Christ, our Savior; second, to teach others by the way we live--by example and by preaching the gospel to all the people in the world as we have opportunity and ability. And third, relieve human suffering wherever we may find it, caring for the sick, the aged, the orphaned, the widows, the lonely. In doing this, we follow a simple motto, a simple principle: "where the Bible speaks we speak, where the Bible is silent we are silent." The Biblical basis for the restoration of the Christian faith is simply this--that the New Testament is the Christian faith, written in words that will live forever, the power of God unto
Salvation, and our task is to learn and do what is written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Jesus believed in the brotherhood of man, under the fatherhood of God—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one body of God's children, united in heart, and working together in love and loyalty in Christ.

CLIMAX OF A GREAT SERMON
Acts 26:24-32

I. Sermons end in various ways.
   A. By the clock.
   B. By logical conclusions.
   C. By interruptions.

Acts 2
   3. Fulfillment of prophecies.
   4. Resurrection of Jesus.
   5. Vision changed his course in life.

II. I should like to tell you the conclusion of Paul's last Palestine sermon.
A. Festus Interrupts.

V. 24 "And as he thus spake for himself"
1. We will see two reactions from 2 men of different backgrounds to this sermon.
2. Festus called Paul mad (Lit. "Turning the head")
   (a) Jesus family did same to Him.
   Mark 3:21 "And when his friends heard of it, they
   (b) Strange to call Chr. enthusiasm madness.
   (c) Not habitual but temporary madness.
   (d) Religion has many aspirations casted.
   (e) Paul had no common sense.
   (f) Festus thot since he did not understand, no one did.
   (g) He does acknowledge Paul to be a scholar.
3. Paul denies madness that was earlier admitted
   (a) I am not mad.
   2 Tim. 1:7 "For God hath not given us the spirit of
   (1) Note the bold confidence.

"fear bad of power- love- second mind"
(b) Most noble Festus.
   (i) Mad men do not call men their names & cite their honors.
   (c) Speak for words of truth & soberness.
       (1) Sober truth is right - idiom.
       (2) We need to make our appeal to truth (Scriptur & reason (soberness).

Eph. 5:14 "Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest."
(3) Word has 2 roots - "safe" & "mind" thus ideal balance of thought which never flu to extremes.

B. Paul turns to Agrippa.
Acts 26:26 "For the King knoweth of these things, but
1. Our ignorance & our knowledge exposes degrees of our sin.
2. Agrippa knew.
   (a) An expert.
   (b) Had training & advantage over Festus.
   (c) Festus would think Paul made - Agrippa would understand.
3. Agrippa's on trial - not Paul.
4. Dilemma for Agrippa - he'll lose either Festus, or Jews, or soul, (Remember Agrippa had professed the Jewish religion).
5. Nothing done in a corner - all open.
C. Paul Presses Agrippa.
V. 27 "King A. believest thou the prophets? I know
1. He had every advantage to know.
2. Paul stated he did.
3. Agrippa ans.
V. 28 "Then A. said unto Paul, Almost thou persuad
a.) Many views for words - almost - "in a little
time".
b.) Was he sarcastic.
c.) When religion goes to the cutting edge, we
turn from it.
d.) We often have our most serious words taken
lightly.
e.) When we can get out no other way we smile
ourselves out of it.
f.) Not easy to make me a Chr. - do you think
you can lightly make me one?
g.) Few words - short time - easy method make
me a Chr., ?
h.) When on abstracts no agreement but when
mention the real name Jesus fire flew.
i.) World's gone after Jesus.
Jn. 12:19 "The Pharisees therefore said among ther
j.) Chr. never used unfavorably.
4. Paul wanted all to be Chr.
V. 29 "I would to God that not only thou but also all
a.) You can be just a Christian.
b.) Agrippa had everything yet possessed nothing-
  opposite for Paul.
c.) What better wish for your best friend than to
  be a Chr.
d.) Chr. grants unspeakable happiness.
e.) Grace enuf in Christ for everybody to share.
f.) Wants them to be comforted not persecuted Christians. Few can stand prosperity - especially in others.
g.) However, Agrippa meant it Paul took his ans. seriously.
h.) If Agrippa was a nobody, he'd have become a Chr.
I Cor. 1:26 "For ye see your calling, brethren, how
James 4:17 "Therefore to him that knoweth to do go
Jn. 3:19 "And this is the condemnation, that light is
i.) Wants all to be Chr. Enuf grace of Christ for all.
III. Paul Acquitted.
A. Different reactions to gospel.
1. Neither man won.
2. Both said Paul innocent.
3. Willing to let him go - not willing to take him in
4. Many let Jesus alone but never move to feel His love.
5. They raise no hand to help or hurt.
6. King is one bound - the prisoner is set free.
7. 5 defenses of Paul - all end in his favor.
B. History judges Paul "acquitted" - what about Festus & Jews relative to Messiah?
West End 2-17-78
I. Several years ago, Perry M. Smith, an international lecturer on effective leadership, a retired Air Force Major General, former Commandant of the National War College in Management Your Business presented his "Twenty Guidelines for Leadership."

II. Prior to his valuable points, 2,000 years ago the apostle Paul gave powerful emphasis to his position on leadership—even in a most unusual place and manner, a prisoner, a preacher, aboard a storm-tossed ship in the Mediterranean Sea.

III. I want you to see (the apostle was not at sea) when he literally lived all 20 of General Smith's 20 key fundamental principles of leadership—my manual—Acts 27.

A. About leadership, Harry Truman said "You know what makes leadership? It's the ability to get men to do what they don't want to do and like it."

B. E.M. Kelly said, "Remember the difference between a boss/and a leader. A boss says, "Go" and a leader says, "Let's go."
C. Shakespeare in Twelfth Night "Be not afraid of greatness; some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them."

IV. Let's go to Acts 27 and see the Pauline application of Smith's "20 Guidelines for Greatness." With a Jewish prisoner, in a Roman and the Egyptian boat with an Italian centurian in a boiling sea, we will behold these 20 guidelines - Acts 27.

A. People at the top make a difference.
   1. He can permanently affect an organization.
   2. He can establish a strategic vision.
   3. He can implement strategies.
   4. He can dramatically affect the future.
   5. See Paul do all this.

B. Twenty Guidelines - Acts 27
   1. "Leaders must subordinate their ambitions and egos to the goals of the unit or institution that they lead."

   Acts 27:1 Forces of great power around Paul and he accepts the challenge.
2. "A leader should rarely be a problem solver."

Acts 27:2 Paul inherits the occasion.

3. "Trust is vital"

Acts 27:3 Paul is shown trust.

4. "A leader must have stamina."


5. "Leaders should be introspective."
   (Look at yourself--where we made mistakes, turn folk off headed down wrong path).

Acts 27:4-5 Paul knew contrary winds.

6. "Leaders must be open-minded."

Acts 27:6 This course was not Paul's best judgment as he evaluated it.

7. "A leader must manage time well and use it effectively."

Acts 27:9 Paul was aware of time spent.

8. "A leader should be a good teacher and communicator."

Acts 27:10 Courteously suggests damage to lading and lives.

9. "Leaders must be visible and approachable."

Acts 27:11 Made his point, over-ridden.

10. "A leader must have technical competence."

11. "A leader must be a motivator."


12. "A leader must not condone incompetence."

Acts 27:20  They gave up hope.

13. "Leaders should be reliable."

Acts 27:21  You should have listened.

14. "Leaders must take care of their people." [Haley Card]


15. "Leaders should establish and maintain high standards of dignity."

Acts 27:23  I am a servant of God. Gen. Schwarzkopf "the most important aspect of leadership is character, ethics, integrity, morality and value. In the 1980's greed was the character failure of Wall Street. Leaders should be chosen on the basis of their upstanding moral character. Real leaders hold themselves to higher values than others. Leaders must accept responsibility and in doing so will be respected."
16. "Leaders should have a sense of humor."

Acts 27:26  Don't know which island and it won't be "Italy."

17. "Leaders must know how to run meetings."

Acts 27:30  Won't accept diversions.

18. Leaders must be decisive, but patiently decisive.

Acts 27:31  Must stay in the ship.

19. "Leaders should exude integrity."

Acts 27:33-34  "The qualities of honesty, energy, frugality, integrity are more necessary than ever today, and there's no success without them. They are so often urged that they have become commonplace, but they are really more prized than ever. Any good fortune that comes by such methods is deserved and admirable." - Marshall Field

20. Leaders must provide vision.

Acts 27:41-44  They escaped all safe to land--even said (Acts 28:6) a god.

V. Let's apply proper principles and lead men safely to land.
Write it on your wall. We all need reminders to help us keep thinking right. Alex Haley used to keep a picture in his office of a turtle on a fence post to remind him that everybody needed the help of others. As incentive, people put up awards they've won, inspirational posters, or letters they've received. Find something that will work for you and put it on your wall.

--John C. Maxwell
The 21 Indispensable Qualities of a Leader
pg. 93-94

[Handwritten note: Leadership]
IN LIFE'S JOURNEY WE'VE MANY ASSOCIATES
Acts 27:1-3

1. Life does not allow us to lay long at anchor - we sail.

Acts 27:1 "And when it was determined that we should
A. For us, life a voyage.
1. It's Paul's last journey.
2. It covers AD 60-63.
3. The captivity of Jerusalem & Caesarea ends - Rome begins.
   a.) We see Paul turn from Jews to Rome.
   b.) The Kingdom truly goes to Gentiles.
   c.) No voyage ever held such results for mankind as this one.
   d.) Word goes forth from Jerusalem to ends of earth (Arnot).
4. Fulfills:
   Acts 23:11 "And the night following the Lord stood by
   Romans 1:9-10 "For God is my witness, whom I serve
   Rom. 15:30-32 "Now I beseech you, brethren, for the
   a.) Suppose he ever thought of going as a prisoner?
   b.) Did he complain because he did?
   c.) McGarvey, "Paul's dream about to be realized by providential combination of circumstances."
   d.) His innocence established: "This man might have been set at liberty -- Acts 26:34.

5. Interpreter's Bible calls it the "most dramatic piece of writing in whole book."
B. We sail into Italy. *From Caesarea *
1. It bears the testing of most searching nautical details.
2. Sad some look only for flaws.
3. Evidently late August when left Caesarea.
4. Life's journey is by land & by sea.

11. In Life's Journey We've Many Associates.
A. Certain other Prisoners.
   1. Really bad guys? Bound for anywhere in games of death?
   2. Not told who they were or their crimes.
   3. "Our preacher's on his way c several other prisoners."
4. Some of life's associates we do not choose - they are given us because we sail.
B. Julius.
   1) Communicator between Emp & Field Armys
   2) Control The com missariat &
   3) Convey prisoners
   1. Paul goes to another centurian
   2. We ever have controls over us - Bahamas to get away from it all" - yet who keep the golf course - maybe he wants to get away here! Select corp
   3. This man had care of others also
   4. Cohort 1/10th part of legion of 6000.
   5. Italians were home soldiers, thus more loyal.
   6. Most all centurians in good light in Scrp.
   7. He was captain of soldiers.
C. "We."
   2. Paul had much protection: Dr. - Police - Friend
   3. 1st we see Acts 21:18.
D. Aristarchus.
   1. Earlier went to Jerusalem.
Acts 20:4 "And there accompanied him into Asia Sope
   2. Good Friend. Made self slave to help out
Paul?
Col. 4:10 "Aristarchus my fellow prisoner saluteth you.

3. We'll also see friends in Sidon.
4. Thus fellow travelers:
   a.) Captains (those who have a right to command).
   b.) Soldiers (those in whose power we stand).
   c.) Sailors (those whose duty it is to care for our safety).
   d.) Paul (who can enlighten us).
   e.) Luke (who can heal us).
   f.) Aristarchus (who can befriend us).
   g.) Saints (who can refresh us).
   h.) Prisoners (who can suffer with us).

III. The 1st Leg of the Journey.
   A. Entered ship of Adramyttium. Imp. Sea part of Mysia
      1. This ship had no plans for Rome.
      2. They expected to transfer.
      3. Ships did not book passages to destinations as planes do.
      4. Adramyttium – city of Lycia. S.E. Troas
      5. N.W. Turkey – south of Assos.
      6. It's a world of all nations: Romans, Macedonians, Alexandrians, Hebrews, etc.
      7. We cannot stand clear of each other.

B. Sailed by Asia later (not yet).

C. Next day at Sidon:
   1. Sailed northward instead of west.
   2. Sometimes can't go directly to goal.
   3. Sidon 1st stop Skilled workers in glass & dye
      a.) Wicked - now had gospel. City of artists & scholars, espec. math, astronomy, center of wealth.
b.) Like Tyre.
c.) Made almost 70 miles.
d.) Usually sailed at night to use stars to guide.

D. Pause that Refreshes.

1. Julius gave Paul shore leave.
2. Courteously entreated, give him liberty to go.
   a.) Why did he treat Paul so kindly?
   b.) Does association c. Paul inspire respect?
3. Went to friends to Refresh.
   a.) Relief after 2 years of animosity at Caesarea.
   b.) Friends truly refresh us. Jn 15:14-15
   c.) Did Chr. call themselves "Friends."

3 Jn. 14: Our F's can be more than the A. by name?
   d.) Arnot, "Wherever there is a disciple, a missionary has a friend."
   e.) Do I grant relief to loved ones?

West End 1-10-82
Tulsa Area Teacher Training Series 4-2-82
IT TAKES MORE THAN CHANGING SHIPS TO CHANGE EVENTS Acts 27:4-6

I. For none is life stationary - "We launch from hence" Acts 27:4.
A. As Thomas says this globe's a ship, crowded with passengers, passing thru storms of life.
B. We have a great many contemporaries.
   1. All social forces of the age are on that vessel.
   2. Labor, war, commerce, police, theology, medicine, literature sailed c Paul.
   3. With some we are accidentally thrown.
   4. Tares & wheat are together & one day will be separated.
C. Severe trials are common to all.
   1. Stuff of which we are made causes us to react as we do: fear or calm.
   2. We may try many means, some serious & some superficial to meet the threat of our times.
II. Paul's voyage.
A. Sailed under Cyprus.
   1. Sailed under its eastern end & around its panhandle before going West.
   2. Kept near for safety.
   3. West bound vessel sailed northward as a rule, then east of Cyprus, then West along coast of Asia Minor leaving Cyprus to the South.
   4. Our journey may not be direct but it must be purposeful - do we know where we are going.
B. The Winds Were Contrary.
   1. Expect it.
2. It isn't that we don't sail - we make adjustments.
3. All our journey cannot be in safety - Sept. 14 - Nov. 11 a dangerous time to sail. We may have little choice as to time selection.
4. We find the stage often set c "the winds are contrary."
5. A fool can sail a boat if all winds are favorable.

C. We Came to Myra.

1. Suppose Paul thought of all those churches as he sailed by Asia.
2. Cilicia & Pamphylia.
   a.) Cilicia had its chief city, Tarsus - Paul's home. Acts 15:23 "And they wrote letters by them after this;
   (1) Cause never prospered here as in other places.
   (2) Do I make it harder or easier.
3. Myra.
   a.) Port of Lycia.
   b.) Capital of province.
   c.) Took about 15 days to make it.
   d.) Could have gone overland to Rome from here.

D. Ship of Alexandria - he put us therein.

1. Egyptian seaport.
2. We all depend on others.
3. Big ship - accommodate 276 folk.
4. Estimated 10 or 11 tons.
E. Why change Ships?
1. It's bigger?
2. Faster?
3. Better in wind?
4. All centurians favorably reported.
5. 2nd of 3 ships used.
6. Burton Coffman - a different ship like so many
   things of life does not solve the problem.
7. Identify our problem.
   a.) Wind, not ships.
   b.) Don't make superficial move.

West End 1-17-82
Teachers-Elders Luncheon, Tulsa Area
Teacher Training Series 4-6-82
FUTURE FLYING

Flying will be much safer in the 1990s. Planes then will carry more sophisticated collision-avoidance systems, wind shear detectors and microwave landing systems. Navigation accuracy and ground-air communications will be significantly improved, too. Under research: Smart sensors for wing surfaces that analyze air conditions. — Inside R & D.

HABIT

Habit is a cable. We weave a thread of it every day, and at last we cannot break it. — THOMAS MANN.

HEALTH

Health is certainly more valuable than money, because it is by health that money is procured. — SAMUEL JOHNSON.

HONESTY

I have not observed men's honesty to increase with their riches. — THOMAS JEFFERSON.
DURING LIFE'S TRIP YOU'LL GET CONFLICTING ADVICE Acts 27:7-12

1. Do you know many associates that willfully want to destroy you, your business, or your congregation?
   A. Enemies of this nature are usually apparent & hopefully few - but you've got them spotted.
   B. What about friends? Haven't you lots of them?
      1. Do they want to destroy?
      2. Do they ever vary in voiced opinions - even among those trying to reach some goal?
      3. Does this bother?
      4. How do you react when you know you are right, but you are overruled & dire consequences come?
   C. Our story today projects this problem.

II. Second Leg of Journey.
   A. Acts 27:1-11 is 1st.
   B. Changed Ships at Myra & now ready for Rome via sea.
   C. The journey starts - let's make it.

III. Events of Leg II.
   A. Slow sailing for many days.
      1. We are north.
      2. Avoid Rhodes & its danger.
      3. Sail south now.
   B. Cnidus - harbor on either side.
      1. 130 miles from Myra.
      2. Located on rocky peninsula in province of Caria.
      3. It's between Rhodes & Coos.
      4. Could have made it in 24 hrs. - took many days.
      5. Trouble already brewing.

C. Sailed under Crete.
1. Island.
   a.) 20 x 12 miles (Balch).
       170 x 40 miles (Thomas).
   b.) 60 miles so. of Greece.
   c.) Varied width 30 to 7 miles.
   d.) Mts. 8000'.
   e.) Equidistant from Europe, Asia, Africa.
   f.) Inhabited from Earliest times.
   g.) Epimenides 600 BC always liars, evil beasts of prey, lazy gluttons (Titus 1:2).

2. Titus send to ordain elders.
   Titus 1:4-9

3. Christian there at time of voyage? Paul made no effort to contact.

4. Fair Havens.
   a.) Ships stop at every station.
   b.) To South & middle section.
   c.) Near Lasea.
   d.) Much time spent - Fast past.
      (1) Day of Atonement.
      (2) Oct. 5 AD 59.
      (3) Arrive late Sept. & wait til then?
      (4) Late year for fast - earlier in 57 & 63.

IV. The Conflicting Conference.
A. Many involved.
1. Paul.
2. Julius.
3. Owner.
   (a) Majority rule?
   (b) Who was this?
   (c) Majority always right?

B. Paul spoke.

V. 10 "Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be

2. "I perceive."
   a.) Born of experience, not of inspiration.
   b.) Not a sailor professionally, but a traveler.

2 Cor. 11:25-26 "Thrice was I beaten with rods, once;

3. Concerned for lives & lading; cargo & colleague
4. Amazing how much non-professionals know.
   a.) Mothers & Dads for Kids.
   b.) They seem to have advanced info.
   c.) Older folk for younger.

5. He put his judgement up against Capt.

C. Advice Rejected.

1. Centurian evaluated & took the master & owner word.

2. Why?
   a.) He's a professional.
   b.) Fair Haven not a good spot.
   c.) Cargo to unload & money to collect???
   d.) Where the convenience of people is concerned.
      almost any danger will be risked by some in
      order to attain something more desirable or
      more comfortable situation. - Coffman.
   e.) Phenice invites.

(J) Western end.
(2) Just 32 miles – can make it by dawn.
3. Note Paul tried to avert the danger. He used all his common sense. Do we “take care.”

V. Now apply. Why not continue?
A. How do you feel when your advice is spurned?
B. How do you feel when you are carried along & can't reject it? You are thus endangered.
C. It takes awhile to appreciate others - ever thank your mother?
D. What will you do the next time around - listen or ignore?
E. Are you shaken by many counsellors - some true & some false? Do you quit thinking? Do you stop advising - didn't listen last time - pull out your own chestnuts.
F. Do we follow false more readily than true?
G. When bad advice is taken & strong winds come, are we resilient enuf to devise another plan?

West End 1-31-82
WHEN THE SOUTH WIND BLOWS SOFTLY--WATCH OUT!

Acts 27:13-15

I. By every plausible reason we should make it.
   A. Fair Haven too open to East, thus not good to winter in.
   B. Phoenix is ideal as it has a protected harbor.
   C. It's on our same island - less than 40 miles - do it in 1 day or night.
   D. Owner of ship who has more to lose than we all says do it.
   E. Just one objector: Paul, the prisoner:
      1.) I'd think he would want to stay out as long as possible - not quickly to Rome.
      2.) What does he know about sailing as we compare him to captain; My Mom to Dr. Sprock!

II. And just at the decision time, needing an advantageous wind, quickly the "south wind blew softly."
   A. That's our "Amen" - "Purpose obtained."

V. 13 "And when the south wind blew softly, supposi
   1. We've come so far w/o incident - oh, a little delay of many days, we should have made in 1 - and -
   2. We do continue to hug the coastline as tho we have not the greatest confidence.
   3. But look at that breeze - didn't I tell you!!
   4. The wind has changed in our favor - and Oct. can't be all bad.
   5. Paul spoke in V. 10 of "injury" - it was word used of a loss at sea - real nautical term, but don't let that fool you - he really doesn't know
what he's saying.
B. Examine this verse.
1. "Supposing" – means it seemed, or appeared to blow softly.
2. 2 "theys" of verse.
   a.) Responsibility of the sailing on them – not Paul.
   b.) Paul could not bear the responsibility for conduct of these who went against his judgement.
   c.) Lots of "we's" in chapter, but none in V. 13.
3. Close to Crete.
   a.) Under it – 170 x 40 miles size island.
   b.) Didn't trust selves?
   c.) Round Cape Matala w/o trouble.
   d.) Charted course across Gulf of Messara to Phoenix – only 17 miles – 2 hrs. out!

III. But we've a wind change!
A. But not long after.
   1. Sometimes it takes awhile to appreciate the advice of others.
   2. For other occasions it comes quite quickly home to roost.
B. Forces in fury come against us.
   1. Mighty.
   2. Powerful.
   3. "Could not bear up."
   4. Did I cause this by not heeding advice?
C. The Euroclydon.
   1. Tempestuous.
   2. Whirling motion of cloud & sea caused by meeting of opposite currents. (At Cape Crete's shore
suddenly turns North!)
3. Same word for Typhoon.
4. Euroclydon.
   (a) From 2 words – East wind and wave.
   (b) Some things so historic they have names from winds to wild oats – you aren’t going to beat
       the system or defy history. You are not an exception.
   (c) Wind beat down on them from 7000’ Mt. Ida.
D. Caught.
   1. Took hold like a monster.
   2. Blew down lit.
   3. To throw, dash, rush a word used in earlier verse.
   4. Caught = seized violently!
   5. "Couldn’t bear" – lit. "not able to look it in the eye" – painted eyes on ships sometime.
E. Let her drive.
   2. Lost protection of shore they’d been hugging.
IV. That Soft Wind that becomes a Typhoon.
A. All that glitters is not gold.
B. Lulls can be preludes to storms.
C. 1st favorable wind does not mean you’ve always made the right choice & a favorable journey is
   granted.
D. South winds that blow softly can fool you with their smoothness, with;
   1. Youth.
   2. Time.
3. Health.
4. Property.
E. The slightest circumstantial evidence not sufficient for life's case.
FEEL THE FURY OF THE STORM
Acts 27:16-20

1. I looked at wedding pictures of the Dunlaps at Longview, TX.
   1. Predictions: Some one
      A. Everything's perfect.
      B. When will the storm come?
      1. If we live, it will!
      2. How will I take being tempest tossed?
      3. What will I do during the progress of the storm?

II. The Euroclydon Blew.
   A. The Ships Caught as by a Monster.
   B. We are powerless to resist & change - can we ride out the storm? Will we be swamped or saved? What will be my tempest experiences?

III. Here's how Paul & Partners did.
   A. We let her drive.
      1. Can't stop it.
      2. Won't curse it.
      3. Going to ride it.
   B. Ran under certain island - Claudia.
      1. Note Luke's "certain" - he's still what he was.
      2. Claudia,
         a.) Ran under lee.
         b.) Drove southeasterly for about 25 miles.
         c.) Claudia southwest of Crete, other name Guada.
         d.) Don't know why they didn't stop. couldn't?
            No harbor?
         e.) Tried to keep bearing as to where they were as long as possible. That's maintaining "fight" as long as you can.
   C. Brought in the Dinghy: "We had much work to
1. The Boat.
   a.) Small boat for landing, safety in wreck, move the ship head around.
   b.) Usually tow it.
   c.) Now water logged - but may need it later so bring it in even c difficulty.
   d.) Be judicious as to what you toss away - need it later.

2. Deck the dinghy.
   a.) "We had much work" - we managed.
   b.) The "we" comes back. Luke helped do it.
   c.) Will you help hoist the dinghys of life - even c much difficulty.

D. They used helps, undergirding the ship.
   1. Nautical term for brace & what they did was hard for us to know.
   2. I could read you many explanations but who knows how these professional folk handled that emergency.
   3. I remember the cable at Locust Grove - why there? Who tightened it? When?
   4. Did cables go around, or across deck, or how?
   5. Process called frapping the ship.
   6. Note the they - some things you are not qualified to do - I can lift a dinghy but I can't frap a ship.

E. Fear of Quicksands.
   1. Syrtis was great sand land along the coast of Carthage.
2. Don't want to get stuck in the big middle of nowhere.
3. Strike sail.
   a.) Bars could cause ship to be top heavy.
   b.) Lower sail - using only storm sail at lower hoist.
   c.) Lower gear - sail, anchor, rigging whatever & seek as much protection & security as you can get. Take what's available.
4. "Driven" - you've got 500 miles of ocean at 3/4 to 2 miles per hr. to negotiate for 2 weeks!
F. Next day - tempest tossed.
   1. No abatement of storm.
   2. Lighten ship. (People responsible besides what)
      a.) Began to make an ejection - technical term to throw over cargo.
      b.) Get rid of non-essentials. Aunt Lula does.
      c.) It's survival time - "right hand, cut it off."
      d.) Used every precaution they knew.
      e.) Skin for skin - all that a man hath will he give in exchange for his life.
   f.) We heave over life's possessions to spare life.
   Job 2:4. "And Satan answered the Lord, and said, Ski"
3. 3rd day - we helped do it.
G. Neither Sun nor Stars, only Tempest, many days
   1. Lost all guidance systems - couldn't see sun.
   2. Ancient ships had neither sextant or compass - cloudy weather prohibited their finding their way.
   3. We'll all have time of darkness & hunger.
H. All Hope is Taken Away.
1. Some situations get progressively worse.
2. From man's view all hope to be saved is lost.
3. They'd done all they knew to do & nothing was guaranteeing success.
4. Luke progressively leads to seeing no hope.
   a.) Caught in storm.
   b.) Driven off course.
   c.) Cast out personal possessions, eqpt., cargo.
   d.) 3 days of blind riding - 11 to go.
   e.) Didn't know where they were.
   f.) 3 days w/o food.
   g.) Helpless victims in grasp of great sea.

Eph. 2:12 "That at that time ye were w/o Christ, beir
2 Chron. 16:9. "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fr
Heb. 10:9 "He taketh away the 1st that he establish th
West End 2-14-82.
Yellow for Stress: *American Business* reports that sales of canary yellow legal pads are up—and psychologists are prime customers. They claim that the yellow paper may help to relieve stress and anxiety and may have a soothing effect on their clients.

Three elderly women were discussing their lives. One of them said, “I have this problem. Sometimes when I go to the refrigerator I can’t remember whether I’m taking something out or putting it in.”

“That’s nothing,” said another. “I find myself standing at the stairs wondering if I’m going up or if I’ve just come down.”

The third woman said, “Well, I’m thankful I don’t have any such problems,” and she knocked on wood. “Oh, oh,” she said, “there’s someone at the door.”
Excerpts from "Church Heads Work on Differences", The Times-Picayune, Sunday, January 31, 1982, Section 1, page 11.

An international panel of Protestant, Orthodox and Roman Catholic leaders has taken a major step toward resolving some of the theological disagreements that have divided the world's Christian churches for centuries.

...encourages individual churches to recognize differing approaches to baptism, holy communion and ordination.

The intent is to create a more tolerable climate among the churches, enabling them to express Christian unity without insisting on any one form of Christianity as the only true form.

A church that baptizes adults, for example, would continue to do so, but under the principles outlined in Lima it might also recognize the legitimacy of baptizing infants - and accept into membership someone baptized as an infant without insisting on rebaptism.

...thrilled that the group was clearly willing to set aside many private theological opinions in a common search.

I can only speak for myself, but I am not thrilled. The very
FEAR NOT, MATE, IT SHALL BE EVEN AS IT WAS TOLD

Acts 27:21-26

I. How great is the comfort of faithful words.
   A. In time of storm, one man brings hope.
   B. When "all hope that we should be saved was taken away" - we hear "Be of good cheer!"

II. Paul's amazing deck tossing speech.
   A. After long Abstinence, 
      1. Strain removed all desire for food.
      2. Danger gave no time to eat.
      3. All of us have times of darkness & hunger.
   B. Paul stood forth.
      1. Stood forth. But where all could only hear
         a.) If others panicked, he didn't.
         b.) Courage stands bright in a dark hour.
      2. In the midst of them.
         a.) Where I want to be - no hermit.
         b.) Bury me not in Jewish, Catholic, Christian cemetery - not even private family - let me live & die in the "midst of them."
   C. Sirs, ye should have harkened -
      1. Politely (Sirs) told them of their mistake in not listening.
      2. We all meet "I told you so" if we refuse to listen
         a.) Those who read no history are destined to make its mistakes.
         b.) Needed to say this so next time they will listen
         c.) When all hope is gone, we are glad to listen - praise God for His grace & repeated gospel.
d.) We bring much distress on ourselves — "O
Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself."
e.) After wound comes the salve.
f.) Paul the prisoner has ever a chance to have his say.

3. Unusual — you have "gained this harm & loss."

D. Be of Good Cheer. (And now, not but now)

1. Paul had a message of hope — so must we!
2. Why be of cheer?
   a.) No loss.
      1.) Earlier by prediction said loss of much life (27:10).
      2.) Now by inspiration — no loss (27:22).
      3.) Will "gain" by avoiding what would have been detrimental.
3. How do you know? — There stood by me this nite an angel of God. Must give reason for our views
   a.) Inspiration now his.
   b.) Many wicked people are blessed by being in the ca. of the righteous.
   c.) Better to have a Paul aboard executing the will of God than a Jonah fleeing from it.
4. Paul knew who he was. This short sermon
   a.) I am of God. (Summarizes Paul's life
      1.) Honor & obey Him.
      2.) Live like him.
      3.) If we are God's servant, there is a practical consciousness that God claims our absolute being.
   4.) Had these sailors turned to all other type gods...
in vain - Paul knew the true one.

b. I serve God.

1. Do we constantly work for Him.
2. Do we see our high privilege of partnership.
3. You are of great social value as world's preserved for sake of good folk.

E. He relayed a promise.
1. I'll get to appear before Caesar.
2. You too will be safe.
   a. Give = to grant, as a present.
   b. Take heart - there is hope.
3. If your fears are gone, share your confidence with others.
4. Keep up what courage you have even if it's still storming.
5. You'll need something to reflect on for 11 days!

F. I believe God that it shall be even as it was told me.
1. Positive statement of faith.
2. Assurance (blessed) radiated - way Fannie Crosby wrote hymn.
3. We may be shipwrecked, but there will be an island I cannot now see nor do I know which one.

West End, 3-21-82

20th century Christian Breakfast, ACU Lectureship
Training for Service Series, Huntsville, Ala.
Memorial Parkway Church, 3-17-82

2-24-82
I. As we conclude 20 years of work with this congregation, it's only natural my thoughts would be joined to the number 20 - so I decided I'd do this final sermon in these 20 years on it.

A. But what shall I choose as some of the 20's were not exactly inviting.

A. Jabin & Sisera.
   Judges 4:3 "And 20 yrs. he mightily oppressed the

B. Samson.
   Judges 15:20 "And he judged Israel in the days of
   Judges 15:15 Slew 1000 c jawbone of an ass

C. Solomon.
   1 Kings 9:10 "And it came to pass at the end

D. Ezek.
   Ezek. 42:3 "Over against the 20 cubits which

II. But I decided against these as a text & want to use

   A. May I tell the story.
   B. Let me make applications as it advances.

III. The Story of the Shipwreck.

A. It was a fierce storm of 14 days.
   1. Undergirded the ship (v. 17).
      a.) Put "ropes" around it to make it stay together like a tied parcel.
      b.) Ships usually flat - barge like - could break apart.
      c.) God handles the storms; we have to handle the undergirding of the ship. "They used helps" (v. 17)

   2. Strake sail - part of "much work" (v. 16).
3. Lightened ship.
4. Cast out tackling c our own hands.
5. No sun, stars many days - no small tempest - all hope that we should be saved taken away.

B. Paul made a speech (V. 21).
1. Sirs, ye should have harkened.
   (a) Prisoner become the Captain.
   (b) Courageous leader because he is led of God.
   (c) Most of us bring our troubles on ourselves.
   (d) Prisoner who set others free.
   (e) His "I told you so" would now make them more readily believe what he is to say.
2. Be of good cheer. I speak the spiritual (2).
   (a) No loss of life. 
   (1) Paul also prayed while he toiled.
   (2) Prayed for all - not just self.
   (3) Rallied shaking men.
   (b) Will lose ship. 
3. Angel of God stood by me.
   (a) I am of God.
   (1) He believed in God & wished they did.
   (2) Emphasis on God.
   (3) Looks on God as his owner.
   (b) I serve God.
   (1) Wherever we are be faithful.
   (2) Wherever we are witness.
   (3) Can't serve him tho unless you are His.
   (c) God hath given thee all that sail c thee. - will see Caesar.
   (1) God's providence is great.
Acts 19:21 "After I have been there, I must also see Rome.

Acts 23:11 "And the night following the Lord stood by him
(2) Had much opposition to it.

Acts 21:31 "And they went about to kill him

Acts 22:22 "Away with such a fellow from the earth, it is

Acts 23:10 "Fearing lest Paul should have been pulled

Acts 23:14-15 "We have bound ourselves under a great

Acts 25:2-3 "Informed against...laying in wait to kill

Acts 25:24 "Crying that he ought not to live any longer

(3) God bigger than all. God is bigger than all.

(4) Good men are a great blessing to the world.

Satisfaction to know one is a public blessing.


(6) We'd all like to deliver men to God.

(d) I believe God, that it shall be even as He told me.

(1) Faith carries obligations.

Acts 27:31 "Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot

(2) Had to stay in ship even if it was destined to be
    destroyed--God demanded obedience. God demanded obedience.

(3) Not a liberty to just view the promises & sit down. Except-God's demanding!

(e) Sign - a certain Island.

(1) Storms can't stop Him.

(2) As long as God has purposes we last.

(3) Trials can awaken us to heavenly things & our temporary existence on earth.

C. The Sounding.

1. 14th night - at midnite heard a sound that telegraphed a change they could not see.
2. They sounded.
3. 20 fathoms.
   (a) Fathom is 6 ft.
   (b) 120' deep water.
4. Little further, sounded again
   15 fathoms
   (a) Rapid decrease to 90' shows they will soon be at shore.
   (b) Calculated drifted 36 miles in 24 hours.
   (c) Little space = 1/2 hr. (???)
5. Time runs out for all of us. (6)

[Signature]
[Date: 10-3-76]

[Signature]
[Date: 10-16-76]
[Signature]
[Date: 10-24-76]
I. In 1938 H.L. Olmstead said to graduating class, "You will forget what I say but you will never forget my subject—it’s birdnests."
A. Could it be I could say, "You will remember my subject & what I say." I've tried to arrange such.
1. The subject—4 Anchors.
   The 4 points—initials D-L-H-S
II. Bible account of Acts 27.
A. The voyage of Paul to Rome, as a prisoner
1. 14 days after Fair Havens (perhaps—not clear).
2. Driven up and down in Adria—larger than modern Adriatic—sea from Greece to Africa near Malta, and Malta not in present Adriatic.
   Drifting west by north at approximately 36 miles in 24 hr.
3. Storm at sea and at midnight sailors discovered near land. How?
   a. By smell.
   b. Sound of breaker or white line of foam or sound of birds perhaps.
   c. Didn't know where they were so didn't know nature of land—rocky or sandy shore.
4. Sounded—throw down lead into sea.
5. 20 fathoms=120' fathom = extended arms plus width of breast about 6'.
   Then 15 fathom or 90'. So more shallow
6. Cast out 4 anchors from stern—usually bow. But couldn't even risk ships turning. To also put out from bow &
hold rigid would wreck ship.
8. Prayed for the day.

III. OUR TIMES—LONG VOYAGE, CONTINUO STORM
LOOK BACK & SEE NOTHING BUT CLOUDS, BLACKNESS
& DISAPPOINTMENT, CARGO IS OVERTHROWN, NOTHING
LEFT, SURF POUNDING, STORMY OCEAN, DRIFTING
WRECK, STARLESS SKY, ROCKY COAST, DESPAIRING
CREW—YOU PUT OUT & ANCHORS & SAY "NOT A HAIR
SHALL FALL—BE OF GOOD CHEER!" HERE ARE YOUR
ANCHORS:

A. Duty.
1. Don't leave the ship!
Acts 27:31 "Except these abide...ye
a. Note these and ye connection your
example. Chinese clip
2. Christians walked in "the way."
   a. Bell, Mommy clipping, Wellington.

B. Love.
1. Jesus wore a badge—it's love—so must
   we! 1 Jn 3:15 "And a new commandment I
   give you, that ye love one another; even as I
   have loved you, that ye also love one another."
   a. Alligator. Geo. Tech—Wandering Eye
2. Be charitable. Seattle—Collin's Bounty
   b. St. Patrick's
   c. Not Court—stone clip mobile

C. Hope. Beyond the street Shakespeare
1. God—McFarland, families, St. Vitus!
   a. Don't rationalize—like cribbing.
2. Yours is the faith to believe "in the
   morning."

Service.
1. Aesop's fly
   Linden High Sch. 5/6/63
   Portland 6/2/63 15x per min. 1500 day
   Bellvue 6/2/63 1800 50th 3100 5000
The tone of a bell is settled by the quality of the constituent metal, and, if that is wrong in stuff and mixture, you will not get a good bell by putting on a coat of fine paint.

—Rufus Jones. THE MINISTERS MANUAL FOR 1957, p. 160

"Mummy, why don't you look where I'm going?" asked a small boy who had fallen over a stone in the way.

—THE MINISTERS MANUAL FOR 1957, p. 164

An old verger in days before the great War used to display the glories of Winchester Cathedral in the south of England. He was enthusiastic about its history, its beauty, its memories; but best of all he loved to stand upon the cathedral roof and tell the story of the way in which news of Wellington's victory at Waterloo was brought to England. It came by sailing ship, he said, to the south coast and by semaphore was wigwagged overland toward London. In due course the semaphore on the roof of Winchester Cathedral began to spell the message off—W-e-l-l-i-n-g-t-o-n—d-e-f-a-t-e-d—and then the fog closed in, the semaphore no longer could be seen, and the sad news of the incomplete message went on toward London, plunging the country into gloom—"Wellington defeated!". But when the fog broke at last, the semaphore upon the top of Winchester Cathedral was still at work—
Wellington defeated the enemy—and, all the more glorious for the preceding gloom, the wonderful news sped across the land and lifted up the spirits of the people into grateful joy—"Wellington defeated the enemy!"

—THE MINISTERS MANUAL FOR 1957, pp. 150

"What a dust I do make!" —Aesop's fly sitting on the axle of a chariot.

AND THAT

John W. Fuller: A modern child doesn’t even believe that the stork brings the storks.

Total membership of the 8,062 Christian churches in the United States and Canada now stands at 1,930,760.—Year Book report.

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LET’S CONSIDER

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What About the Alligators?

A CERTAIN Hollywood actress is said to have engaged a new maid who seemed capable of coping with any sort of problem. All went well until one evening an admirer sent the actress an alligator. Receiving a phone call which took her out of the house for several hours, she came back to find that the maid had disappeared, leaving a note which read: “Dear Madam: I won’t work in no place where there is alligators in the bathtub. I would have mentioned this before, but I didn’t think the problem would come up.”

We can sympathize with the maid, for unexpected problems have a way of throwing us. We go along nicely with the routine, but the alligators in the bathtub get us down.

---

Don’t Judge by Size!

The most wonderful things in nature are the smallest.

A flea leaps 200 times its length. A man would have to jump 1,200 feet to equal this proportionately.

The housefly takes 440 steps to travel three inches, and does it in a half second—corresponding to a man running 20 miles in a minute.

Turnip seeds, under good conditions, increase their weight 15 times a minute, and in rich soil turnip seeds may increase their weight 15,000 times a day.

There is no force more powerful than a growing squash. A squash 18 days old has been harnessed in such a way that in its growing process it lifted 50 pounds on a lever—19 days later it lifted 5,000 pounds.

—The Uplift.
HOME REMEDY

Not long ago, a New York City judge wrote to the New York Times saying that in the 17 years he had been on the bench not one Chinese-American teen-ager had been brought before him on a juvenile-delinquency charge. The judge queried his colleagues, and they agreed that not one of the city's 10,000 Chinese-American teen-agers, to their knowledge, had ever been haled into court on a depredation, narcotics, speeding, burglary, vandalism, stick-up, purse-snatching or mugging accusation. A check with San Francisco, where there is a large colony of Chinese-Americans, tells the same story. The same holds true in Chicago.

P. H. Chang, Chinese Consul-General in New York City, asked to comment, said: "I have heard this story many times from many judges. I will tell you why I think this is so. Filial piety is a cardinal virtue my people have brought over from the China that was once free. A Chinese child, no matter where he lives, is brought up to recognize that he can not shame his parents. Before a Chinese child makes a move, he stops to think what the reaction of his parents will be. Will they be proud, or will they be ashamed? Above all other things, the Chinese teen-ager is anxious to please his parents."

"Most Chinese-Americans, no matter how wealthy or how poor, maintain a strict family-style home. Meal times are ceremonious affairs, which must be attended by every member of the family. Schooling, the reverence for religion, and decorum plus reverence for the elders, are prime movers in developing the child from infancy."

The amazing record of the Chinese-American youngsters shows that it is in the home that the cure for juvenile delinquency will be found—and in no other place. (From an editorial in the Saturday Evening Post.)

LORD'S DAY
Bible School——9:45 A.M.
Worship———8:30 A.M.
10:45 A.M.
6:30 P.M.

Wednesday
Bible Classes——7:30 P.M.

Thursday
Ladies' Class——10:00 A.M.

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The Cribbers at Work

Stomach-cramping fears of exam time were settling over American campuses this week, bringing with them, inevitably, a full-fledged epidemic of plain and fancy cheating. In the rationalizing temper of these days, students might not call it cheating. At the University of Southern California, anyone who got in on the cribbing called it "The Good Neighbor Policy." At Georgia Tech it was "The Wandering Eye." At the University of Washington in Seattle, a 21-year-old co-ed journalism major argued that, depending on how you did it, it wasn't even cheating. She called it "collaborating.

"Collaboration," she explained, "is where you copy the work of another student. I've done that. Then the... outright cheating. That's when you have notes all out in front of you. I haven't done that."

Whatever they called it, students who try their hand and wits at cheating this month are so numerous, statisticians report, as to make the cheater seem almost the normal college student. A Cornell survey of nearly 3,000 students on eleven campuses posed to be published has revealed that two out of every five college students cheat at least once during their college years, and one out of the two does it more than once. Thirty-six percent of all students sampled in the study thought that "most college students would cheat if they weren't caught."

Campus Rumor: At Northwestern University, William F. Byron, assistant professor of sociology, has queried 1,100 undergraduates on cheating habits and attitudes. Although the tabulation is not yet complete, the campus rumor is that at least half have admitted cheating.

It is on the larger campuses, according to the Cornell studies, that cheating is more likely to occur. At smaller undergraduate colleges like Dartmouth, Harvard, and Wesleyan, the incidence of cheaters was as low as one in twenty. But at such big state institutions as Texas, UCLA, or Michigan, the cheaters increase. Men, the survey discovered, are three times as likely as women to cheat more than once.

Fraternity men at the colleges surveyed, it was found, cheat nearly twice as much as nonfraternity men. Students apparently learn to cheat at the fraternity house, where a boy's livelihood is considered a matter of loyalty.

This leads to such perilous gambits as the "bird dog" effort, said to have been practiced at a Southern school. A dishonest brother sat near a window during an exam and threw out the questions and a blank bluebook to a brother waiting outside. The bird dog hurried to the library, found the answers, and put them in the bluebook. In the postexam confusion, the bird dog slipped into the classroom and handed the exam-taker his book. Unfortunately, the bird dog had typed up the answers, and there were no typewriters in the exam room.

Far more common, among male cheaters, is the transporting of crib notes into the classroom in a pack of cigarettes or even crumpled up in the hand. In Detroit, the established method in true-false tests is the raising or lowering of a pencil to signal right or wrong.

At one California college, a student had a small tape-recording inserted into a fake hearing aid; he switched it on at will during the exam.

Pencil Breaker: A girl's best bet is still women's traditional hiding place, the top of her stocking. If the professor comes over to investigate while a girl is fumbling for her smuggled notes, she is advised to slap his face and walk indignantly out of the exam. One young lady, sure that nobody ever looked at the class bulletin board, brazenly tucked her notes up under the pencil sharpener, and conveniently kept breaking her pencil. Got away with it, too.

To most cheaters, their capers are not really wrong. "It's something like people going 30 in a 25-mile-an-hour zone," says Bill Baker, a junior at the University of Detroit. Donald Delano Wright of Seattle University thinks that "it's like running through a yellow light, or jay-walking. It's one of those rules that seem to be observed only when enforced... Do it unless you get caught."

College officials think that the well-established honor systems curb the cribbing tendency. They also agree, however, that many professors invite trouble by repeating exams or giving true-false quizzes, a cinch for signalers.

The cure? "A crib isn't much help," a Harvard senior pointed out last week, "when the question reads: Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Discuss."

No Role for the Co-ed

At one point in Henry Purcell's opera "Dido and Aeneas," the witches who have succeeded in driving Aeneas from Dido's love sing the gleeful couplet: "Our plot has took, the queen's forsok." The couplet had a quite different meaning last weekend, as the opera was presented by undergraduates of the University of Texas.

The reason: Barbara Louise Smith, 19-year-old Negro co-ed from Pittsburgh, Texas, who had been rehearsing the role of the (historically) wine-skinned queen since last October, was removed on the complaints of two state representatives.

One, Joe Chapman, said he didn't think it was "smart" public relations; the other, Jerry Sadler, bluntly warned he would fight the university's appropriations. Last week, too, armed Ku Klux Klansmen, 150 strong, gathered outside the Student Episcopal Center of the University of Alabama, where a student-faculty forum on academic freedom was being held. There was no violence; a Klan "chaplain" denounced the forum as "socialistic and Communist," and, as other students gathered, the Klansmen filed silently to their cars.
THE HEIGHT OF THE WAVES MEASURES THE
STATURE OF THE MAN
Acts 27:27-32

I. It takes trouble sometime to see how tall we are.
   A. Grandpa's door has the dimension of us all.
   B. God has a standard and the height of the wave can measure the stature of a man.

II. The Storm is Almost Over - the Outcome is forecast
   A. The 14th night.
      1. Strange the way we count heartache - "how long in hospital - 2 wk. last Wed!"
      2. Ship drifted 14 days.
      3. Drifted 480 miles - 36 miles each 24 hrs. = 468 miles in 13 days.
      4. Folk today say that's nautical exactness - it was right!
   B. Driven up & down.
      1. Note just after Paul's good cheer speech things got worse.
      2. Adriatic Sea - not too exacting in location & name compared to today - Ionian Sea.
      3. Midnite - darkness intensifies our burdens.
   C. Deemed near to some country.
      1. What made them so suspicious?
         a.) Couldn't see, could they?
         b.) Heard sound of breakers?
      2. Curious inversion - "some land was drawing near to them" - like Bowling Green sinking in front of Potter's.
      3. Better have more than suspicion - Sounded.
         a.) Did it 2X.
b.) Cast wt. overboard to measure.
c.) Confirm suspicions or reject them by accurate test.

4. 20 - 15 fathoms.
   a.) Fathom 6' - outstretched arms.
   b.) 120' to 90'.

D. Feared Rocks - cast out 4 anchors.
   1. Stern of ship.
      a.) Seldom done.
      b.) Can't always hold.
      c.) Would keep ship from swinging around & presenting a broadside to waves.
      d.) Anchors a break to prow of ship.
      e.) Don't want to run the ship ashore in darkness - need to see where we are going, so stop until you do!
      f.) Hold back from certain destruction: whether it: food, habits like smoking or driving; over indulgence in anything.

2. 4 anchors of life - see Larry Wms. letter.

3. Wish for day. "If ever illens came to thee..."
   a.) Lived in hopes the anchors would hold.
   b.) We can only wait - are not certain of morning light.
   c.) Wished for: a continual action.

E. Shipmen sought escape.
   1. Fleeing in peril.
      a.) Would leave others in lurch.
      b.) Your fate none of my affair.
      c.) Trials test our principles.
d.) Felt every man for himself.
2. Events try our souls – will we stay or run.
3. Selfishness seen:
   a.) Cowardly – flee ship.
   b.) Cunning – under color.
   c.) Cruel – leave all.
4. Fear & selfishness go together.
5. Let down boat.
F. Paul caught it & cautioned.
   1. Spoke to centurians & soldiers.
      a.) This took courage.
      b.) It shows perception.
      c.) Paul became leading spirit on ship – virtually its commander.
      d.) He caught their pretense.
   e.) Promise of God did not release Paul from necessity of due caution & prudence to be exercised.
   f.) Manly to expose.
2. Except these abide – not saved.
   a.) Our work is conditional.
      1.) We must do what we can to reach desired end.
      2.) We must obey directions – hard sometime – stay in a ship destined to sink?
   b.) Our work is cooperative.
      1.) Fulfillment of divine will depends upon proper cooperation of man.
      2.) These (sailors) abide to save ye (soldiers) –
need unity.
3.) We need to be socially conscious of others & thus considerate.
4.) Need the sailors to land the ship - soldiers can't.
5.) Need every hand to take care of forthcoming emergency.
6.) Your staying in the ship is essential to my salvation.
7.) Sailors need for management.

F. Cut Ropes - let her fall.
1. Desert plans fraughted.
2. Cut hawser & let boat drop.
3. Desperate way to stop temptation.
4. Shows great respect for Paul! Now listened to!!
   a.) When your vessel is sinking, don't turn deaf ear to voice of hope.
   b.) Extreme belief in Paul to cut ropes.
   c.) Association c him inspires respect.

West End 2-28-82
CHEER UP! ALWAYS, THE DAY IS COMING ON
Acts 27:33-38

I. Have you ever considered:
   A. How practical Christianity is?
   B. How potent is your influence?
   C. How unusual are the opportunities God puts before you?
   D. (In this lesson we hope to expose you to these truths.)

II. "While the Day was Coming on"
   A. It's more than beautiful language.
   B. It's the certainty of crisis & decision time.
   C. It's the "lull before the storm."

III. Paul's Speech.
   A. He besought them to take meat.
      1. Earnestly interested.
      2. What have you done for someone this week - especially someone who does not deserve your friendliness?
      3. The meat taking shows it's not hopeless. It is not your last meal.
   B. His solicitous attitude.
      1. 14 days w/o food.
      2. "This is for your health."
         a.) Preserve your bodily strength.
         b.) Taking food was for their safety.
         c.) Tomorrow demands much strength - so weak you couldn't make it unless you eat.
         d.) If you know by morning you'll be pressed for strenuous service, get ready for it.
3. Not one hair will fall.
1 Sam. 14:45 "And the people said unto Saul, Shall J
Lu. 21:18 "But there shall not an hair of your head p
4. Thomas, "Men dressed in little brief authority
    may ignore commands to the hurt of self."
5. "Let them eat cake" attitude.
C. His example.
1. Paul ate.
2. He gave thanx.
   a.) This not the Lord's Supper.
   b.) It was a normal occurrence.
3. It was in the presence of all.
   a.) It was publicly seen.
   b.) He prayed in their presence.
   c.) How do we handle it?
D. Projection of his Example.
1. They were all of good cheer.
   a.) As storms advance, some influences are increas
   b.) You can have a calming, uplifting experience.
   c.) One man casting off his fears leads you to be
      able to.
   d.) Food can soothe tempers.
   e.) We have the ability to strike hope in the heart:
      of others.
   f.) Moral majesty gives confidence.
2. They also took some meat.
   a.) We can energize others.
   b.) They will live a little.
   c.) Example of one man is infectious.
d.) Your example can encourage others.
3. 276 affected — the RSV says 76.
E. Lightened ship — that would make it go further up on shore when they made their drive.
IV. Chr. is Practical, Potent, Unusual in Opportunity.
West End 3-7-82
ON LIFE'S VOYAGE, THERE MAY COME AN UNCHARTED LAND

Acts 27:39-41

I. Jerry Masterson, Orange, TX, was here to tell of his 1983 plans to enter Ph.D. program at Vandy.
A. "But there may be further needs to clarify."
B. "As yet, by some things I'm uncertain."
C. The unexpected, unknown, uncharted enters the life of all of us. It did our precious 276. We want to see the story.

II. From Acts 27:39-41, we see:
A. And when it was day:
1. It's the point of termination.
2. Licenses is over - this is the time for a prescribe action. It would have a plan? exercise it!!!
3. We move from nite (27:27) thru dawn (33) to day (39).
4. Did Paul have a conference as to what to do?
5. When our time runs out, are we prepared to take action?

B. Know not the Land:
1. Saw land, but didn't know where they were.
2. We face same - but they gave it the benefit of the doubt that it was more friendly than the sea.
3. But God knew where they were! They'd sailed almost due West to Melita - could not have done better had they been able to see!
4. He who, from zone to zone "I don't know what I'll do" Guides thru the boundless sky thy certain flight In the long way that I must tread alone - will lead my steps on right
Will lead my steps aright.

C. Creek c a shore.
   1. Certain bay c a beach.
   2. Today called St. Paul's Bay at Malta.
   3. God had kept His promise.

D. Beaching the Ship.
   1. Thrust ship on to shore.
      a.) Ramsay says it drew 18 feet of water.
      b.) It took some planned maneuver.
   2. Cut anchors - took up.
      a.) At Stern.
      b.) 1st of 3 maneuvers to facilitate landing: cast off anchors, untie rudder, hoist small foresail.
      c.) Anchor no longer needed, so get rid of them.
   3. Loose rudder bands. 
      a.) Plural - had two rudders.
      b.) Large steering oars - usually one on each side.
      c.) Raised & lashed to deck - now lowered for usage.

4. Hoist mainsail.
   a.) Used nautical terms to beach, to drive out, to run ashore.
   b.) Wanted as much speed as possible.

5. Place where 2 seas met.
   a.) Where 2 currents met - so does mud.
   b.) Lit. "falling foul of a two sea place" - like neck of land.
   c.) Couldn't see reef.
   d.) Bottom of bay communicated c sea outside & they didn't know it.
e.) Life has its skuttling little surprises.


a.) Nature cares nothing for distinctions among men: Christians & heathens both suffer in a storm. 

b.) God told them the ship to be destroyed — suppose they expected this method?

c.) Prow stuck, waves beat the stern — about to break in two.

d.) Like them, a little in advance of the beach is a bank of tenacious clay — produced by the disintegration of a peculiar rock.

e.) Jammed fast — unmovable lit.

7. Thus plans go awry — have we an alternate one?

West End 3-14-82
I recall a farmer who drove into our village one day. Following along behind his wagon trotted a very tired dog. Friends at the local grocery chided the farmer for the poor condition of the dog. The weary farmer replied: "The dog is not tired out following me, but by his zigzagging. There is not a gate or hole in a fence he did not run in and explore. That is what tuckered him out."

So it is with us. Convictions are costly, but they have the power to keep us on a straight course. Our zigzagging needs some backbone.
ALL SAFE ASHORE
Acts 27:42-44

I. It's the final morning of the voyage.
A. Ship stuck fast in the sand. At all times on
1. Stern broke up. Voyage we are close to terminal,
2. Bow held together - long enuf for all to safely
reach the shore.
3. We are interested in how it happened.
B. Surely all of us want to complete our voyage safel

II. Paul amid Conflicting Concerns.
A. The man who started as a prisoner is ending as the
most noted man aboard.
B. When it seemed some might swim out & escape,
"the soldier's counsel was to kill the prisoners"
(V. 42.) This says several things:
1. They had to assume complete responsibilities for
their prisoners - if they escaped, the guard took
the prisoners place.
2. Our debt of gratitude can quickly be forgotten.
a.) Tho they owed their safety to Paul, they are
now ready to kill him.
3. Military life has a brutalizing tendency in some.
Solzhenitsyn, "A society with no other scale but
the legal one is not quite worthy of man."
4. Crowds cheers can suddenly turn to let's kill;
Hosannas to Crucify Him. (Lesser of 2 evils Clip
5. Sometimes after multiple narrow escapes & the
possible thrill of making it, we suddenly face
unexpected destruction - all the more agonizing
because we are almost home! (Queen Eliz. quc
what's worse? Ignorance or apathy? I don't know. I don't
care
C. Sailors who had their escape boat cut out from under them spoke not a word - forgive Paul & now see he's right?
D. Julius spoke in his behalf: "Kept them from their purpose."

1. Some things demand risk.
2. Everything he's seen in Paul unscorces the right of trust.
3. Some responsibilities we must take on ourselves.
4. Some remember and show gratitude.
   a.) Paul knew when to sail.
   b.) Paul knew what to do in emergencies.
   c.) Paul had a God who took care of him.
5. We see the benefit and favorable impression of a godly life.
6. Remember when Paul could not avoid a situation, he mastered it - Julius appreciate such a man.

III. The Escape Become Possible.

A. Two Methods.
1. Those who could swim, did.
2. Those who couldn't got boards & broken pieces of the ship.
3. This says several things:
   a.) Even the wrecked ship can be salvaged in part for an effective service.
   b.) Man needs to use what he has - for some it's arms, for others it's boards. Human effort necessary. Theodore Roosevelt later added, "The things that will destroy America are prosperity-at-any-price, safety-first instead
of duty-first, the love of soft living and the get-rich-quick theory of life."
("Turning Point" - Compiled by Roger Elwood, Pg. 158, "Whatever Became of the Pilgrim/Puritan Dream?" by LeRoy Lawson)

II. Whatever Became of the Pilgrim/Puritan Dream? (1) Turning Point (Compiled by Roger Elwood, Pg. 158, Whatever Became of the Pilgrim/Puritan Dream? by LeRoy Lawson)

III. Whatever Became of the Pilgrim/Puritan Dream? (1) Turning Point (Compiled by Roger Elwood, Pg. 158, Whatever Became of the Pilgrim/Puritan Dream? by LeRoy Lawson)

C. This was Paul's 4th wreck.
2 Cor. 11:25 "Thrice was I beaten with rods, once I
(Wendell Eubank, Paragould song leader, couldn't swim. Handle came off motor while boat in middle of Black river, threw him out. Never wore life jacket but had it on that day-thrown down stream in fast current while boat circled wildly the other way. Floated a mile & caught a tree limb.)

D. Grateful for a piece of boat - all things temporal & material we can sacrifice for life itself, however.

B. "And so it came to pass, that they escaped all safe to land" (V. 44).
1. Not one was lost.
2. All Paul prayed for and stayed in the ship were safe.
3. All saved by God - not sea divinity.

"Leave that old played-out Jewish myth," said Lenin. "Man himself is God and needs no father in heaven to rule his destiny."
("Still the Trumpet Sounds" - By J. Wallace Hamilton - Pg. 145)

George Washington, 1st Inaugural Address, "No people can be bound to acknowledge &
adore the Invisible Hand which conducts the affairs of man more than these of the United States. Every step by which we have advanced to the character of an independent nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency."

4. God's Word proven true - you can depend on it.
5. Luke closes chapter in a matter of fact way - so certain is God to fulfill all He said.

Mar 6, 1882
Queen Elizabeth was the occupant of a mighty throne, the resources of half Europe were at her command, nobles and grandees were her attendants; yet in that dread hour she was so overwhelmed with horror and dismay, that she died with the frantic and despairing exclamation on her lips, "Millions of worlds for an inch of time!" Voltaire was a man of genius, and the whole intellect of France did homage to his will; yet that great apostle of infidelity, hardened as he was, evinced such furious and despairing rage in his last moments, that even his physicians retired, declaring the death of the wicked too terrible to be witnessed!

_Death_

"Lectures on Hebrews" - By Joseph Augustus Seiss - page 116
HONORS EXTENDED
Acts 28:7-10

I. Honors – word revered.
   A. Graduate c honors.
   B. Honor c présence.
   C. Plaques & statues.

II. Let's look at Bible honors.
   A. They may come from Pagans. (Acts 28:7-10).
      1. 3 months spent on Malta.
         a.) Rest.
         b.) W/o controversy.
         a.) 2 inscriptions have been found using this exact
             Maltese title, thus puts critics to shame.
         b.) Luke the most accurate of historians & reports
             accurately local color.
         c.) Distinguished hospitality to prisoner – 3 days c
             him.
         d.) 3rd incidence of unusual kindness extended
             while on this long voyage.
      3. His father had fever & bloody flux.
         a.) Can get Malta fever today in USA by drinking
             infected milk.
         b.) Paul saw opportunity – entered – prayed – hand:
             healed.
         c.) Competent medical witness to Paul's cure – Dr. Luke!
      4. One healing brings another.
         a.) Something good – others wanted.
         b.) Best advertisement is service rendered.
c.) Two different terms for "healing", one supernatural & the other by medicine?
Honored us - Luke had a part.
d.) Doesn't say used Jesus' name, but I imagine he got the credit. Don't read the absence of such as an insult to Jesus.

5. Who honored us c many honors.
a.) Because of Kindness shown they received honor:
b.) As Paul saw opportunity, natives saw need of gratitude.
c.) No man ever loses extending a servant of Christ a kindness.
d.) Heathen stimulated to action via kindness show them.
e.) Paul grateful for his reception & showed it.
f.) Do we leave folk c grateful memories & loving hearts?
g.) Do we leave in our wake happiness & spiritual joys?
h.) Vergil, "Justice when she forsook the earth left her last footprint among the simple country folk."
i.) Word sometimes for honors = medical fee - but doubt their taking pay.

Mk. 10:8 "And they twain shall be one flesh; so then

j.) They did put material gifts aboard - lost all via wreck but via Paul were provided for by the islanders on next leg of journey.

6. Thomas points out some things about Christianity
3.
a.) Supernatural - do we talk of it any more or has humanism taken us over? Remember "when the world by wisdom knew not God---" Also "cut out of the mt. w/o hands."
b.) Restorative - to health & physical betterment - also moral in removing sin.
c.) Universal - no respect of persons - healed all who came.

B. Substance.
Prov. 3:9 "Honor the Lord c thy subst.
1. Earthly substance necessary for use of our bodies but we are asked to make a greater usage of it than serving outward man.
2. Honor God with it - 1st!
3. Make no use of increase until he's 1st honored.
   a.) He needs nothing of our hands.
   b.) Yet He wants us to give back part of all He gives us.
   c.) Hardship on us - no, we rec. it all from Him 1st of all.
   d.) Tenant farmer all my life.
   e.) Can we make a better use of our wealth than as directed by God?
4. Let it be liberal.
5. It shows our faith in His providence & promise - our love - our gratitude.
6. To neglect is to rob Him of rent He requires of tenants.
7. He assures us we won't be losers.
4.

a.) He has sun, wind, rain, creatures, health at His fingertips.

b.) We are no gainer by withholding.

8. Liberality opens Heaven's windows.

Mal. 3:10-12 "Bring ye all the tithes into the storeho
1. Introduction
   Every Speaker has a mouth
2. Thank you for Minutes of Your Time-Clip
3. Thank you for Wives Present.
   1. Good cry - System, husband
   2. Good looking Sec - so long as he's efficient.
   3. Bank Loans - Have everything hasn't paid for
   4. Wife knows I'm in dinner? Answer about it is the morning.
   5. Remember Birthday? How can I when we're older.
4. IRS let's begin when you claim depreciation is on.
5. Intelligent Staff & Friends
   1. Cigarettes - Fire Damage - Need for arson.
   2. Xmas Card - Small - Just to say a little gift is on.
6. Part I best get to subject
   1. New born - rush up stairs to change the subject.
   2. Throw down pole - can't get waited on.

II. My Subject - Goals & Guppies
   Read Acts 28:13-15
   A. These verses suggest two things for me pertinent to this moment.
      1. Goals
      2. Guppies
   B. Shall we see both?
III. Life Needs Goals.
V-14 "And so we went toward Rome!"

A. God (Rome) - A Dream
2) 19:21 Paul "I must see Rome" 
   23:11 Lord "So you must witness at Jer" 
   25:12 Festus "To Caesar you shall go" 
   27:4 Angel "You must stand before Caesar"

b) No 
   1) Zeke 330 miles

2. Dream coming true - What's Yours?

3. (Cuppies - Little fish - I knew Big ones like-
   Silas, Barnabas, Mark, Luke, etc."
   1) "Where we found the brethren (v-14)"
   2) "When the brethren heard et us (v-15)"
      a) 43 miles - 33 miles
      b) Came to meet us

3. Indifferent
   a) Storm - house blow - let horse - renting
   b) Steve - toys - Skid - I go downhill - he goes up hill

4. Concerned
   a) Gardner - Great - flowers
   b) Lincoln - Daughters - 2 faces
   c) Now when we ?

20th C.C. Dinner, PCC Lectureship, Abilene 2-25-76
youth work. Skid - Dinner notes, "take an end 3-22-76
Harbuck Chapel, 4-24-76"
GOALS AND GUPPIES
Long-Birk Church, Statesville, Ala., Visitation Program
Carnival, Heritage House, Madison, Tenn. 6-30-79
Badwood Church Fellowship Dinner, McMinnville
11-20-79
DIET—American

During his lifetime, the average American will eat 6.2 tons of meat, 897 pounds of fish, 20,932 eggs, 1.2 tons of ice cream, 1,146 pounds of butter and margarine, 1,032 apples, 4.1 tons of potatoes, 968 pounds of coffee, 3.6 tons of sugar, 3.8 tons of wheat, and 2.1 tons of milk and cream. These figures were compiled by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.—Good Reading, 8-75.

31, 1975

Internal Revenue Service

auditor to nervous citizen:

"Let's begin with where you claim depreciation on your wife."

Well...

small, do I have to...

the father.

"Oh, yes," replied the son.

"It's just you, the teacher and...

Grand Island, Neb. Jessie

Crying Helps

First newlywed: "I always feel better after a real good...

Second newlywed: "It gets...

First newlywed: "No, it gets...

Omaha, Neb. Theresa

How Many Did You
Answer?

Check your answers to the crossword on page 14 by the following and see how smart you are, giving yourself 10 points for each correct answer.

Sty.

Yes
EVERY SPEAKER has a mouth, an arrangement rather neat. Sometimes it’s filled with wisdom, sometimes it’s filled with feet.

"Oh, that," said the boy. "That’s the portable TV. I don’t want them to miss Gunsmoke."

Mrs. A.L.

Beatrice, Neb.

Only Half Done

In the rush of last minute Christmas shopping, a woman bought a box of identical greeting cards. Without bothering to read the verse, she hastily signed and addressed all but one of them. Several days after they had been mailed, she came across the one card which hadn’t been sent and looked at the message. She was horrified to read: "This card is just to say. A little gift is on the way."

Beatrice, Neb.

C.L.

He-Ho-Hope?

Santa Claus seems to be the only guy over 30 to inspire confidence in the younger generation.

Chicago, Ill.

George

Never Fails

No matter the number of names on your Christmas card list, the first one you get is from someone you missed.
At a party, a man met a woman whom he hadn't seen in many years. Both were delighted to see each other, and after they had exchanged greetings, the man said, "You haven't changed a bit. You look wonderful."

"Oh, I don't know about that," protested the woman. "Since I saw you last, I've gained twenty-five pounds."

"That may be," said the man gallantly, "but fifteen of them are very becoming to you."

Boss: "Are you sure your wife knows you're bringing me home to dinner?"

Young Man: "Does she know? We argued about it for half an hour this morning."

He: "The doctor warned me a year ago that I must give up smoking or I would become feeble-minded."

She: "Why didn't you, then?"

"Yes," said the scissors grinder happily, "this has been my biggest year. I've never seen things so dull as this."

Husband to wife: "How do you expect me to remember your birthday when you never look any older?"

A problem in math (Answer to problem on page 25): \(7 \div 7 + 7 \times 7 = 56\).
"May I suggest," said Dr. Holmes, "that we have built on a single base, statues of both these men and inscribe the monument: 'To Ether.'"

A housewife frantically woke her husband at 2 A.M. one very windy night.

"Harvey, Harvey, wake up quick! The house is about to blow away!"

"Let it blow," he mumbled as he turned over, "we're renting."

As all the children of a large family scrambled into the back of the family station wagon, one of them called out, "Whose foot am I sitting on?"

"If it has a brown sock," came the reply, "it's mine."
I Thess. 5:18

II. Bible records multiple concerns.
A. Look at some of them.
1. The collection.
   1 Cor. 16:1 "Now concerning the collection
   Money - Olay Aces
   Divide Money - Throw in Air - Sign as a hand"
2. Infirmities.
   2 Cor. 11:30 "Mine infirmities -
   Daily care of churches -
   b) Who, what, where, extended"
3. Evil & Good.
   Rom. 16:19 "Wise unto the good, simple c. evil
   (a) Marlon Brando of Godfather & Last Tango makes
   a moral speech about Indians? As consistent
   as a hog passing an ordinance against squealing!
   (b) Commercial Appeal clip.
   2 Pet. 3:13 - Schoen runs into the stupid
   that's a many cause it is disgusting (interruption)
4. Gratitude.
   1 Thess. 5:18 "In everything give thanks
   for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus, even your
5. Seduction.
1 Jn. 2:26 "Concerning them that seduce
God and uses deceit
Boy under bed - dad remember when you were.

6. Truth.
2 Tim. 2:18 "Who concerning the truth have our
rescued past?
Overthrow faith of some."

Woman's lib: Amen: Some reasoning hymns
Disposition: Bruno: a bland
567-8364 - lost dog

B. Yet there is still a greater concern that should arrest us. (No:)
Eph. 5:32 "This is a great mystery: but I speak
Lu. 24:19 "What things? "Concerning Jesus
Rom. 1:3 "Concerning his Son Jesus Christ: Seed
Acts 24:24 "Felix heard him concerning the faith in
Acts 8:12 "But when they believed Philip preaching
Acts 28:31 "Preaching the K. of God & teaching

1. This 1st concern greatest at all
2. In Rome Jesus said "we got no letters,
neither did any writing folk mention Paul.
3. Sect - every where spoken against.
4. We desire to hear of thee what thou thinkst. 3.
2) Open minds to all discussion - about?
8) Hadst not heard of Paul do we let great events
     go unnoticed?
5. Paul showed chain - for hope of Israel bound
   a) If believe Moses, should Jesus.
   b) Rather endure bondage than forsake hope.
6. On appointed day: (from Am to evening)
   2) Exalted and testified the K. of God.
   6) Persuaded them concerning Jesus.
   8) Based on Law and Prophets - not experiences.
7. Some believed - some believed not.
   a) All preachers have success of failure.
   b) All action based on what we believe.

III. Now are we concerned about Christ & His church.

A. What ways can we express our concern?

1. Our attendance.
   a) Census in meeting.
   b) What do friends think of your not coming?

One note: bound mine, others are looking

2. Our departure.
   (a) Clip from June, Tex.
   Lemon Meringue Pie - what's pie?

3. Our sacrifices.
   (a) Garrison clip.
    Sheet End, 4-1-73
    Laurel Church, Knoxville, 7-7-73
    Main St. Church, Shelbyville, 4-1-73
    Central Church, Decatur, Ala., General Herman 3-41-74
PRESIDENT NIXON's antipathy toward obscenity and pornography is well known. A statement he made in October, 1970, sums up his view succinctly: "So long as I am in the White House, there will be no relaxation of the national effort to eliminate smut from our national life."

Putting that conviction into concrete terms, the President last week asked Congress to narrow the limitation on pornography and to define obscenity more clearly. The goal is clear. Nixon's objective is to obtain a law with the teeth to clamp down on smut peddlers, the purveyors of dirty books, magazines, movies and peep-shows. He is not alone in this quest. There is a strong current of middle-American feeling against the increasing availability of offensive material.

While the issue may be moral to a large degree, there is a factor of constitutional law involved, too. Currently there are three criteria for determining what is obscene: (1) It must be shown that the dominant theme of the material appeals to a prurient interest in sex, (2) it must be established that the material afflicts contemporary community standards relating to description or representation of sexual matters, and (3) it must be proved the matter is utterly without redeeming social value.

It is the third criterion that anti-smut leaders want to modify. The Nixon proposal is to define obscenity as "an explicit representation, or detailed written or verbal description, of an act of sexual intercourse...or violence indicating a sadomasochistic sexual relationship; an explicit, close-up representation of a human genital organ." The new law would bar such material "unless it constitutes a minor portion of the whole product of which it is a part, is reasonably necessary and appropriate to the integrity of the product as a whole to fulfill an artistic, scientific or literary purpose and is not included primarily to stimulate prurient interest."

There is nothing about "redeeming social value" in that approach. It would, for example, make it difficult to exhibit the new motion picture, "Last Tango in Paris," which stars Marlon Brando and has had some critical praise.

CONGRESS MAY BE ready to entertain this tough kind of anti-obscenity legislation. Hundreds of bills have been introduced in the past five years to protect the public from unwanted pornography. The most successful was the 1970 amendment to the Postal Reorganization Act which prohibited the mailing of sexually oriented commercial advertising to people who specified they did not want such material. The law went into effect on Feb. 1, 1971, and by the end of 1972 the Postal Service reported 650,000 persons had put their names on the anti-smut list. (The penalty for the distributor who ignores this list is a $5,000 fine, or five years in

barred new bookstores from opening without the signed approval of 50 percent of the residents within 500 feet. New York Mayor John Lindsay is cracking down on dealers in erotica, and a New York judge just this month caused the closing of the film, "Deep Throat," and raised the possibility of a million-dollar fine against the exhibitor.

On the other side was the 1970 report of the Commission on Obscenity and Pornography established by Congress. Its majority recommended repeal of federal, state and local laws prohibiting the sale, exhibition and distribution of offensive material to consenting adults, and claimed there was no evidence that juvenile delinquency or criminal behavior could be linked to pornography. The Senate, by a 59-to-3 vote, rejected the findings. So did President Nixon.

SO THE STAGE is set for legislative action. But perhaps Congress should hold off for a time. Several important decisions in obscenity cases are expected from the Supreme Court before it recesses in June.

Foremost will be a ruling on whether states and localities should be allowed to determine their own standards for pornography. Others include:

Is the display of sexually oriented films in a commercial theater constitutionally protected?

May the federal government allow interstate shipment of obscene material regardless of whether it is to be sold or used privately by the shipper?

May the government seize obscene material imported for private use?

May a film be seized without a prior adversary hearing?

Do obscene books have constitutional protection when not "pandered" by the seller or sold or shown to juveniles?

CHIEF JUSTICE Warren E. Burger has advocated the community standards approach, and the Burger court is expected to reverse some of the permissiveness of the old Earl Warren court.

The lengths to which the court may go should serve as guidance to Congress on how far it may find it necessary to go.

In any event, it is clear that the country is concerned about the rising flood of pornography, and its effect on the young. The issue is relevant. The question is whether further legislation will be so sought after once the high court has reordered the legal standards.
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO MORALITY IN AMERICA

Interview With Senator John L. McClellan, Senate’s Top Crime Investigator

In these unsettled times, can anything be done to curb wrongdoing—restore a firm sense of values to America? Why is crime so widespread? Would new laws by Congress help? For answers, members of the staff of “U. S. News & World Report” interviewed a senior lawmaker with years of experience probing into many aspects of human behavior.

Q Senator McClellan, as a senior lawmaker who has spent 18 years investigating crime, violence and corruption, what do you think has happened to private and public morality in this country?
A I think there’s a process of decay in progress. I wouldn’t want to say it has such momentum as to cause alarm—I don’t mean that. But I do think there is an erosion of ideals and a deterioration of principles that is producing a moral decay.

Q Why do you think this is happening?
A I don’t know anyone who has the answer to that. Possibly it’s the affluence in our society. When people feel no need—when they seem to be able to get most everything they want—they seem to lose something. There’s often a lack of gratitude—of appreciation—when things come easily. What I’m saying is that, among many, there’s not a wholesome regard or proper reverence for the true values of life any more.

Q Is that failure attributable to parents, schools or—
A I think you have to start in the home. There seems to be a lack of proper respect and discipline in the home. And in the schools today there is certainly a great lack of discipline.
And I think this is also true in the churches. In my judgment, some churches no longer demand a truly high standard of integrity and morality today. They don’t have the same ideals of Christian living that were observed and practiced in the past.

Q Is the constantly rising crime rate a reflection of this situation?
A There’s no question about it.
Q What can be done about this crime rise?
(continued on next page)

Senator John L. McClellan (Dem.), of Arkansas, 77, headed the Senate’s chief investigating committee for 18 years. Widely known as the “McClellan Committee,” it probed labor racketeers, organized crime and many other areas of lawbreaking. A former district attorney and House member, Mr. McClellan has been a Senator since 1943. He now is chairman of the influential Senate Appropriations Committee.
CHAPTER 29 - THE NEXT ONE
Acts 28:30-31

I. At first it seems tragic Acts is not complete - we need chapter 29. Life is lived best when its story is told. It is to be based on the being the blueprint of tomorrow.

A. But he ran out of history. lived in chapters.
B. My diary's only blank pages are tomorrows - how can I write them till I get there!
C. So with Acts - I wish I knew much, but when it closed it was as current as the moment.
D. After all, chapter 29 is ours to write.

II. That's the way I feel on this last Sunday night at West End -- who knows, or perhaps wants to know "what's going to happen".

A. Yet there are obvious straws in the wind. Surely if the past is prologue we can with same accuracy predict the future.
B. It is to be based on the pattern of yesterday being the blueprint of tomorrow.
C. As it was with Paul, may it be with all of us.

III. So what was the manner of Paul as Acts closes?

A. Paul dwelt 2 whole years in his own hired house.
   1. Paul - didn't change, what he always was.
   2. Two whole years.
      a) What time do we all have?
      b) I trust a time of some completion.
      c) Delay of justice not uncommon.
         (1) Paper lost in ship wreck (?)
         (2) Non-appearance of accusers.
         (3) Difficulty of getting witnesses together. (Drummond)
d) Ramsay says Roman law says within 2 years if there are no accusations the prisoner is set free.

3. Hired house.
   a) He had some money, financial ability.
   b) There was an independance allocated him thereby.
   c) Paul still a favorite prisoner.
   d) Ambassador in bonds.

2 Tim. 4:17 "Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me"
Eph. 3:20-21

   e) Best of men not exempt from trials.
Phil. 1:12: "The things which happened unto me"

4. Received all that came to him.
   a) Found a way of service even in prison.
   b) Flag of Christ planted along side Caesar's - a work which still goes forward.
   c) Paul did more for the world through prison, than Caesar on the throne.
   (Scroggie)
   d) Never give up till you go up.
   e) One man was vital to Caesar's court & he was a prisoner.
   f) Welcomed all who came.
   g) Message for all men.

B. Preaching the Kingdom of God & Teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Proclaim Kingdom to various companies.
Phil. 1:12-18
a) Wants reign of God in the human heart.
b) Note connection between Kingdom and Christ.

2. Teach - Lord Jesus Christ.
a) Rarely in Acts full title is given.
b) Roman authorities favorable to Christianity.
c) 2 Tim. not yet written - his farewell one.
d) Kept faith with his promise.

2 Tim. 2:2 "The things that thou hast heard of me"
e) No speculations or organizations but Christ!
f) This is the task of each succeeding generation.
g) After all it's "some acts of some apostles" - J. B. Phillips.

3. Did he preach anywhere else?
a) Released?
b) To Spain?

Rom. 15:22-29

C. With all confidence, no man forbidding him.
1. Right for optimism.
2. Jimmy Moffatt wrote "Hold us together".
3. Apostles gone but work remains.
4. Thomas caught the spirit of Acts:
   evangelism, unity, fellowship, servanthood, faith.
   Opposed he saw: self-satisfaction, division, shortsightedness.
5. We must continue what they started.
6. No man forbidding him - he had the advantage of time.
   a) Luke traced gospel from Jer. to end of earth.
   b) Acts 28 not an abrupt ending but a purpose fulfilled.
IV. Why not then shall we all move to write Chapter 29.
West End - 10/19/86
THAT APPOINTED DAY
Acts 28:23-31

I. As to all, so to Acts came an end. It's wrapped up in that "appointed day." May I tell you the story.

II. In Rome, those who called the church a sect agreed to hear Paul.

A. There came many to him into his lodging.
   1. Work of Christ not done in a corner.
   2. Men are curious - Steward asked me on Plane, "Are you working up a sermon - much meat in Paul?

B. Paul expounded & testified the Kingdom of God.
   1. Something was now here they needed to know.
      (a) Expound.
      (b) Testify.

   2. Jesus unalterably connected c it.

V. 23 "persuaded them concerning Jesus."
   (a) He must be seen.
   (b) Tell of ladies comment on TV show c Teddy.
   (c) Jesus proven both by Moses & prophets - I must use a standard you will accept - Jew would O.

   (d) It takes time - morn till evening.
      (1) We are in eternal rush - young want to be old.
      (2) We want all of life to be an instant pudding.

C. To Your Work a Mixed Reaction.

V. 24 "And some believed, the things which were spo
   1. Always some for & against - name any issue from Ralph Nader to blackbirds to bussing.

   2. Humiliating sometimes to see how little good comes from our presentation of the truth.
3. How will we convert others if we ourselves are not growing.

D. Paul then told them way.
1. As results are predictable so are the reasons that precipitate the results.

V. 25 "Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet.
(a) It was inspired testimony. All Paul offers he draws from the Scriptures as his rule.
(b) Success or failure is measured by a standard - Hear, Understand, See, Perceive, Obey, Bless.
(1) McGarvey said to say soul must be regenerated by HS or that spirit must impart special force to the Word in individual cases does not agree c Isaiah.
(2) Rather, it's ear & eye trouble.
(3) They closed eyes. It was willful unbelief.
(4) Voluntarily they could have opened them.
(5) To see truth & hear it results in salvation via obedience.
(6) Gospel is sufficient.
(7) Gospel sent to all in same words!

E. To Gentiles God Turned.
V. 28 "Be it known therefore unto you that the salvation that God offers - main thrust of the Gospel!
2. It's planned by God, executed by God, worthy of God.
3. God said Gentiles would hear - go in optimism of faith.
4. End of exclusiveness - no longer just Jews.
5. God gives man an opportunity.
Jn. 7:17 "If any man will do his will, he shall know e
6. Belief is blessed; disbelief damns.
7. Hear means obey.

III. Jews Depart, Paul Kept Preaching.
V. 29 "And when he had said these words the Jews de
A. Jews depart.
1. Last Jewish rejection.
Jn. 1:11 "He came unto his own, and his own receive
2. Earlier had not committed themselves - now must do so. We all reach the point of no neutrality!
3. Hope for some success - be prepared for some failure.

B. Paul's 2 Years.
1. God's providence at work.
2. Prisoner 4 or 5 yrs.
Eph. 6:20 "For which I am an ambassador in bonds: th
3. Mob would have killed Paul in Palestine now Rome protects him.
4. All of us find ourselves under some limitations - Paul was a prisoner.
5. Man's credit lies not so much in what he does but what he overcomes to do what he does.
6. Paul unchecked - also found listeners to encourage him.

C. Paul's Declaration.
"He received all that came in unto him
1. He Preached the Kingdom.
(a) So ends account of one of the greatest works world's ever seen.
(b) Luke tho omits much - never said; i.e.; Paul an author.
(c) God wants to rule in the hearts of men.

2. Taught concerning Jesus.
(a) Lord = sole potentate.
(b) Jesus = Savior.
(c) Christ = Messiah, appointed, anointed.
(d) Paul made known the things of Jesus - what better can we do?

3. Did it c confidence & liberty.
(a) Unhindered - this one of last words of Acts, must have stirred Luke to gratitude as liberty of our nation should us.
(b) Some gave lives but gospel didn't die.
(c) Acts closes optimistically tho there is more we wish we knew.
(d) Paul spoke c confidence - if you doubt, you've had it.

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