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McInteer Sermon Outlines - Peter, 2

Jim Bill McInteer

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II. Peter 1:1-2

I. I never was much in geometry.
A. But I've worked out a success formula.
B. If you follow it, it gives the greatest company
   and blessings of earth.
C. May I explain it?

II. First I deal with a man.
A. Simon Peter
   1. Scholarship debates whether it's Simon or
      Simeon
   2. Only other time used he was opening a door.
   Acts 15:14 "Simeon hath declared he wounded at the first visit.
   3. Names meaning "hearing" and that's significant--he'll listen to you!
   4. Patronym was Peter.
      (a) Jesus gave it
   John 1:42 "They art Simon, the son of Jonas, thou shalt be called.
   Matt. 16:18 "Thou art Peter"
      (b) Rock seems inappropriate for a denier.
      (c) Shows what God can make of a man.
   5. Identifies self as:
      (a) Servant
         (1) Bondman - one who retains permanent
            service
   Matt. 20:20-26 "Whoseever will be great among you"
(2) Most NT and OT writers so identified themselves.

[a] Moses
Deut. 34:5 “So Moses the servant of the Lord died

[b] Joshua
Josh. 24:29 “In the days of Nun, the servant of the Lord died

[c] David
II Sam. 3:18 “By the hand of my servant David I do

[d] Paul
Rom. 1:1 “A servant of Jesus Christ, called to be

[e] James
James 1:1 “A servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ

[f] Jude
Jude 1:1 “Jude the servant of Jesus Christ, the brother

(3) Slave is one possessed by God.
(4) "ever at his disposal
(5) "one whose Master's word was his law - as God is ours.
(6) Slave one ever in service--no holidays

(b) Apostle
(1) Highest office
(2) Humility & Authority both his
(3) Thus Peter fully identifies self - not hiding.

(c) All supported by Christ
B. What would I say of my relationship with God?

II. I identify "them",
   A. Them
      1. You can be equal to apostle in many ways.
      2. No Master race.
      3. No superiority among Christians
      4. Faith same whether apostle or smallest Christian

B. Share Same Faith
   1. Yours by being "obtained"
      (a) By lot
      (b) God started it all
      (c) This trust in God common lot--yet not by desert!
         [We didn't invent Gospel--God did.]
   2. Faith is precious
      (a) Not only in origin but
      (b) In results obtained

   3. Came via righteousness of God and our Savior.
      (a) Rt. = fairness, justice
      (b) God adopted own method of justification
      (c) Shares divinity of Jesus

III. I want to identify what he wants for you.
    A. Grace & Peace
1. Not a barren formula
2. Grace pardons:
   Peace gives calms in storms of life
3. Nothing more precious.

B. Comes thru knowledge of God
1. Word for knowledge shows deep acquaintance
2. It's precise and correct
3. It's more than facts, it's having understanding and being able to correlate.
4. It's full and accurate information
5. Knowledge is sphere and element in which action takes place.
6. We need a deep acquaintance with Christ.

Wheaton, Illinois 12-1-74

Christian Communications Class, Harding 1-30-75
I KNOW A PLACE WITHOUT ENERGY SHORTAGES
II Peter 1:3-4

I. I live in a world of shortages.
A. Sent card to Gov. Dunn that 20th CC reduced energy bill 20%.
B. Street lights in Franklin have sacks over them. Music Row is 1/2 lit - (not literally)
C. Ran out of time and money in Christmas shopping.
D. We run out of funds here before we meet all needs.

II. I know spot without energy shortages. 2 Peter 1:3-4 "According to his divine...

A. Facts apparent.
1. There is an abundance of Divine Power
   (a) According—seeing that. It's a positive fact.
   (b) Peter's personality leads him to plunge to heart of subject - no waiting.
   (c) His refers to Jesus
   (d) It gives to us every sufficiency. There is no buck passing.
   (e) The all is inclusive:
      (1) Scripture
      (2) Example
2. The Divine Call is an appeal to Holy Living.
   (a) If God who is holy calls me I expect him to call me to the challenge of holiness.
   "Be holy as he is holy....
   "Be perfect as your Father....
   James 1:27 "Pure and undefiled religion

   (b) Life and Godliness are two cited end results.
   (1) 1st in God and he shares
   Acts 3:12 "As tho by our own power or h.
   (2) it gradually comes.
   (3) We share some of Jesus' goodness here where today we live - we share his glory afterward.
   (4) Life in the Lord is not pointless.
   Col. 3:10 "And have put on the new man.

3. The Christ who calls also enables.
   v.-3 "Thro the knowledge of him that....
   (a) It's the realization of God's abiding presence - the fruit of which is reverence and trust.
(b) Jesus is attractive - we delightedly come to him.
(c) He who calls definitely enables
(d) Without him I would be nothing.
(e) In Him I'm more than conqueror
I John 5:14 "This is the confidence that we have
(f) Christ's love not powerless
(g) Glory = majesty of God
virtue = activity of God

4. He Gave Promises
v-4 "Whereby are given unto us ex....
(a) Exceeding - Great - Precious.
(b) Emphasis on thing promised rather than act of promising.
(c) He may not give us what we like but he gives us what is best and what we need for life and godliness.
(d) Do we share what He's done for us with others? Is your life making you feel like sharing?
(e) God keeps His promises
2 Cor. 7:1 "Having these promises...let us cleave
1 Kings 8:56 "Blessed be the Love that hath. Rest...
Then hath not flesh nor word of all the good promises"
5. We are to escape corruption
   (a) Escape = safety sought by flight.
   (b) If we've escaped lust do not dominate
   (c) In lust corruption has its roots
   (d) Dominance sin has over us is in accordance to delight we have in it.
   (e) If we escape we decisively turn our backs on evil.
   (f) Do we daily look more like God?
   "There is no such thing as a worldly Christian, there is only a worldly devil." 
   (g) Are you on the escape route?

B. Are these facts yours:
1. There is abundance of Divine Power
2. The Divine Call is an appeal to Holy Living
3. The Christ who calls also enables
4. He gave Promises
5. There is an escape route.

Signed: L.R. [Signature]
Date: 12-15-74
People cannot stand people who are different, especially when the difference suggests to their uneasy conscience that they are in the presence of someone who is morally superior. History is filled with stories of the suffering of men and women who were sincerely nonconformists.

Shakespeare gives this very explanation for the tragedy which overtook Othello. The villain, Iago, had his own defense for what he did. He exclaimed, "He has a daily beauty which maketh me ugly." So Othello had to be destroyed.

"God, the Disturber" – By Alan Walker – Page 61
PREPARATION OF STEWARDS
2 Pet. 1:3-4 "According as his divine power has made..."

I. What's involved in preparation?
A. Impartation of know-how.
B. A need for a service.
C. Communication of duties.
D. Supervision of efforts.
E. Inspiration of a task performed.
F. Rewards for so doing.

II. I believe all this is for you as a servant, steward, slave of God.
2 Pet. 1:3-4 "According as his divine power has made...
A. I believe the Lord gives all the above.
B. Shall we see it in application.

III. If you would be a steward of the Savior, you may expect:
A. The Heavenly direction made possible by His Divine Power sufficient for every need.
   "According as his divine power...
1. Adam Clark says, "God's power has gifted us."
2. Everything essential has been granted us: food, clothing, shelter.
3. We've received the heavenly grant & it meets every need.
4. Nothing so powerful to change man as the gospel.
   I Pet. 1:22-23 " Seeing ye have purified..."
5. If we fail, do we have any excuse.
6. Barclay, "Christ of generosity who bestows all that is necessary to a practical religion.

7. Power - is Key - our God is able!

8. Truly we've received the impartation of know-how.

B. His gifts include all that is necessary to life & godliness.
   1. What greater need for service - life & godliness.
   2. This means He tells us what real life is & enables us to do it.
   3. He calls us to true living.
      Jn. 10:10
   4. And to true holiness but His absolute standard.
      (a) Wants of us good life now & to the end.
      (b) This godliness is reverence; true piety to God.

5. How does this communication of responsibility come? "Thru the knowledge of him.
   (a) Erdman calls knowledge "the channel of grace, the ground of peace, & the means of salvation."
   (b) God communicates thru knowledge.
   (c) Lange, "Believing knowledge is the medium of attainment."
   (d) Knox mentions the emphasis of knowledge in this letter as opposed to Gnosticism.
(e) We need this as nurture to spiritual life.

(f) Jesus' spiritual excellencies awake in us a desire to imitate.

1 Pet. 2:21 "For even hereunto were ye called out of the path of evil."

(g) Here is a knowledge that grows—let's favor everything that advances it.

(1) Colleges.
(2) S. S.
(3) Printed page.


C. Is there an inspiration imparted in the service & rewards? "Be thou faithful; and I will set thee as a replenisher of the house of Jacob." V. 4 "Whereby are given unto us eternal life.

1. I want us to see 3 things: Such things?
   (a) I'm to partake of divine nature. Not...
   (b) I'm to escape corruption.
   (c) I'm to rec. promises.

2. Let me partake of the divine nature.
   (a) This is God's plan.
   Rom. 8:29 "For whom he did foreknow (b) We are made so we can intelligently emulate the virtues of God.
   Ps. 150:6 "Let everything that hath 2 Cor. 4:6 "For God, who commanded (c) Luther defined this nature as whatsoever that is good that can be named.
   (d) It's the start & finish of our journey.
Rom. 5:1-2 "Therefore being justified
I Jn. 3:2 "Beloved now are we
(e) This virtue is excellency of any kind =
manliness, vigor, courage, fortitude.
Heb. 12:10 "That we might be part.
(f) Guy Woods - partaker is a sharer, a
partner.
(g) We need growth in this - a "continuing
education.
Heb. 3:14 "For we are made partakers
Heb. 6:4 Partakers of H. G.
(h) P. C. "All true members of the church
are enriched with incomparable wealth
& called to a glorious destiny."

3. Let me escape corruption.
(a) Like Lot's angel we must be led to
escape.
(b) Corruption is ugly.
(c) Corruption reigns in the world &
penetrates all parts.
(d) Corruption comes thru the door of lust
(e) Lust is irregular desire, impure wish.
(f) It brings sin & sin death.

James 1:14 "Every man is tempted when he is
I Pet. 2:11 "Abstain from lust that war
I Jn. 2:16 "lust not flesh, eyes, or pride of life
(g) Sin blinds & deafens.
(h) God purifies no heart in which sin's
indulged."
4. Give me the Promises.
   (a) God gives us superlatively great ones:
       (1) Redemption.
       (2) Forgiveness.
       (3) Salvation.
       (4) Sanctification.
       (5) Glorification.
   (b) Promise means things promised, not act of promising.
      Eph. 1:13-14 In whom also ye trusted after that
      I Pet. 1:7
      I Pet. 1:19
      I Pet. 2:7
      (c) What God promises He is able to do.
         He is faithful that has pr.
         It is impossible for God to lie in him, Eph.
      2 Cor. 1:20 for all the promises of God in him are
      Acts 2:33 being verse hand cast out casted need of
      2 Peter 3:13 nevertheless we according to his promise
      (d) Promise is an assurance on the part of another for some good dependent on
      him.
Two housekeepers were talking over their problems of work.

"The lady I work for...

One author has correctly pointed out:

A thousand men may work on a great cathedral, and even take centuries to build it, but if it comes out a work of art, the foundation fittingly suited to the minarets, spires and windows, it is certain there was an architect back of the planning and the building.

...If a fragment of stone were found in Italy, another in Greece, another in Asia Minor, another in Egypt, and on and on until sixty-six fragments had been found, and if when put together they fitted perfectly together, making a perfect statue of Venus de Milo, there is not an artist nor scientist but would arrive immediately at the conclusion that there was originally a sculptor who conceived and carved the statue. The very lines and perfections would
probably determine which of the great ancient artists carved the statue. Not only the unity of the Scriptures, but their lines of perfection, suggest One far above any human as the real author. That could be no one but God.


The Wonderful Word - Ft. Worth Christian College
12th Annual Lectures - Mar., '71
Pages 42-43
"The Wonderful Word's Internal Evidences of Inspiration
By Rubel Shelly
No Calories

Much domestic conversation is on the diet theme and hadn't escaped the attention of Craig, three.
Craig is a thumb sucker and his nurse has been trying to reason him out of it.

"Does that thumb taste sweet, Craig?" she asked.

"No," answered Craig.

"Taste good?"

"No."

"Then why do you suck it?" the nurse demanded.

"Because," answered Craig, "it's not fattening."

Bay City, Texas  Mrs. L. H.

Eternal Dust

A girl visiting her grandmother was introduced to the ceiling cleaning dance.

"Eagle," said Grandmother. "What do you notice first in the living room?"

"A speck of dust," replied the child, "but we'll see how it is when the girl dusted."

The unsatisfied once, twice, and three times the child heaved a deep sigh.

The Difference

A man entered a restaurant and ordered a steak dinner. While he was eating he called the waitress and asked, "What is this?"
More Alarming Than Drugs

Alcohol-related Crime Among Youth Doubles

NEW YORK CITY—Public alarm over drug abuse has overshadowed the persistent and increasing problem of alcoholism and alcohol-related crimes—especially among young people, according to Religious News Service.

Uniform Crime Report statistics compiled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation reveal that, during the 1960-69 period, the number of persons under 18 arrested on various "alcohol-related" charges more than doubled—from 30,144 to 72,980. Arrest rates for girls under 18 more than tripled.

The total reported arrests on alcohol-related crimes and offenses for all age groups still make up nearly one-third of all reported cases in the U. S. For 1969, the figure was 1,411,214 alcohol-related crimes among a total of 3,323,741.

THIS CATEGORY includes liquor law violations, drunkenness and driving under the influence of alcohol or narcotics. Police here said the latter classification is composed primarily of drunken drivers.

Actress Mercedes McCambridge, honorary chairman of the Alcoholism Recovery Institute and a recovered alcoholic, said that alcohol is a greater threat to youth than drugs. She pointed out that teenage deaths from drinking alcohol have risen 15 percent in recent years.

F.B.I. crime reports also show that the arrest rates for persons under 18 in alcohol-related crimes and offenses are nearly double that for drugs. In 1969, there were 42,434 arrests involving narcotics among persons under 18—but 72,980 arrests for alcohol-related crimes.

THE SHARPEST increase was shown in the rates for girls under 18, as indicated in the breakdown of the 1960-69 figures according to sex.

A 206.5 percent increase was recorded in the number of girls arrested for drunkenness—from 1,280 to 3,954.

Total arrests among girls under 18 for all alcohol-related crimes increased from 3,714 to 10,648. Arrests for all women decreased from 114,432 to 103,868 during the 1960-69 period.

William O’Connor, a representative of the Alcoholism Information Center here, suggested that the increasing rate of "alcohol abuse" is related to the current restlessness and rebellion which has revealed itself in other problems of youth.

MARCH 28, 1971
'How to Lose a Brain Cell'

Social Drinkers Hit Hard by New Research

WASHINGTON, D. C.—With every alcoholic drink a person takes, he may be destroying a few brain cells—cells which are irreparable, as well as the alcoholic.

This applies to the social drinker, too.

This was the startling conclusion drawn by a team of medical researchers in South Carolina who studied the effects of alcohol on the brain. The study was conducted by Dr. Melvin H. Knisely, professor of anatomy at the Medical University of South Carolina, and two associates.

Results of this research have now crushed the widespread theory that drinking in moderation can be harmless.

Writing in Listen, Glenn D. Everett said that "Dr. Knisely has now demonstrated that this brain damage is not merely an end effect, but occurs progressively from the first cells destroyed by the very first drink a person takes, and that the damage accumulates relentlessly with every drink he takes thereafter, at any time or place."

The studies by Dr. Knisely and his associates at the Medical University—Dr. Herbert A. Moskow and Dr. Raymond C. Pennington—showed that the circulating red blood cells become "agglutinated" when alcohol is consumed, causing a thick, sticky "sludge." The thick sludge is not able to pass through the fine capillaries in order to nourish body cells with oxygen.

The researchers found that if oxygen is cut off from the brain cells for more than three minutes, they are seriously damaged. If it persists for 15 or 20 minutes, the damage is permanent and the nerve cell dies.

Dr. Knisely said he was once a moderate social drinker, and earlier, as a medical student, had no objection to the custom of an occasional drink. He now has quit drinking.

The report, made public by Narcotics Education, Inc., also notes a study by Dr. Otto Haug of the Psychiatry Department at Frederikstad, Norway. His study, using X-rays of heads, indicated that the volume of brain tissue in people who have been drinking has decreased. Surprisingly, the damage to the brains of beer drinkers were found to be as great as, and often more than, that of whiskey drinkers.

Dr. Knisely began his study on an original research by the late Dr. C. B. Courville, famous neuropathologist. Dr. Courville stirred the medical profession a few years ago when he suggested that many deaths attributed to falls, automobile accidents, and even murder, are not caused by those conditions—but are directly due to alcoholism. Dr. Courville said a blow to the head from which normal man would recover will kill an alcoholic, because his brain damages so easily.
I. We come to the analysis of a sorry condition if we have not made a diligent addition.

II. We are instructed, based on faith, to add seven virtues.
A. Faith the foundation.
B. Virtue—moral excellency, purity, ethical conduct, courage.
C. Knowledge—growing in understanding Jesus, intelligent firmness.
D. Temperance—self-control.
E. Patience—endurance, perseverance.
F. Godliness—piety, reverence.
G. Brotherly kindness—love all Christians.
H. Charity—love of mankind.
I. Each blends into the other.

III. These Things Must Be In Us & Abound.
A. Abound
   1. You actually possess this personality.
   2. Grace of God cannot lie still.
   3. It must be ever advancing from glory to glory.
B. It has an effect on you.
   1. "Make" = render, constitute you.
   2. Habitually you grow in these things.
C. You will not be barren.
   1. Word can also mean idle.
   2. Pitiful state of those who do not advance.
D. Unfruitful in the knowledge of Jesus.
   1. Do we pass through life and never touch another for Jesus?
   2. What do we mean by bringing in the sheaves?
   3. Aren't we praying, teaching, influencing folk for Jesus?
      a) Goal toward which we all should move.
      b) We seek daily via our Bible readings to know more about Jesus.
      c) Practicing these seven virtues we come to a rich appreciative knowledge of Jesus.

E. But Lacking These Things
   1. For if you lack this growth dire conditions will come.
   2. We starve and stunt ourselves spiritually.

F. As a Result of Growth Failure We:
   1. Become blind.
      a) Blind to the reality of the unseen world.
      b) He has no perception of spiritual things.
      c) He lacks spiritual vision.
   2. Cannot see afar off.
      a) Nearsighted.
      b) Can't see distant objects or behold the big picture.
      c) Fixes his gaze on the present and earthly things.
d) GK implies closing the eyes thus willful.
e) This constitutes its culpability, hating & rebelling against the light shining around.
f) Word for shortsightedness occurs only here.
g) Sees what is near but not afar.
h) Things of this world book largely in his eyes.
i) Word means squinting the eyes.
j) We see what brings personal satisfaction while losing sight of that which lies in God's future.
k) Glories of Heaven fade because the present world has our attention.
l) The world presses in and we forget we are sojourners passing through this life.
m) My home is not this world--I'm just a passing through.

3. Forgetful
a) We are purged from our old sins via blood of Christ and remembering his cleansing is a strong stimulant.
b) Our baptism was a pledge that all this was done.
c) GK aorist implies one lifelong effect.
d) Baptism was for remission of sins.
Richard Foster's words penetrate:

Superficiality is the curse of our age. The doctrine of instant satisfaction is a primary spiritual problem. The desperate need today is not for a greater number of intelligent people, or gifted people, but for deep people.

--Charles Swindoll
_Intimacy with the Almighty_  
Meditation  
p.16
ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, SUCCESSES
AND ENTRANCES
II Peter 1:5-11

I. Our text has 3 great divisions: Additions, Deletions, Successes & glorious Entrances.
A. Eventually we address all 4 parts.
B. But first hear the reading of the text.

II. The Imperative Additions
v-5 "And besides this, giving all diligence"
A. Christianity is not the preservation of the statuesquo--it's a life of growth.
B. First see giving all diligence, add and supply.
C. Giving all diligence.
   1. Need to do this work of growth because God has given every Christian so many blessings.
   2. "Giving" an uncommon word--signifies bringing in by and by, or over and above.
   3. Lit. "bringing in by the side" almost peculiar to Paul.

D. Diligence
   1. Implies God works the works but not unless we are diligent.
   2. Super add the latter without losing the former.
   3. It means to lead up as an advance, one of those after the other in beautiful order.
   4. Unless this is diligently done we gain no ground in the work of holiness.
5. We must make progress in our religion—be very industrious in our endeavors.
6. God's made all things possible for us, but they are not yet done, we must earnestly labor to realize the possibilities open to us.
7. All earnestness enters as we work out our salvation with fear and trembling.
8. There is strong reasons for one putting forth this diligence.
9. God supplies the quality of the soil and the Heavenly influence, but the farmer supplies the diligence.
10. God sends the sun and rain, man is up and doing and does not allow the opportunity to slip by.

E. Add and Supply
1. Add & supply are close kin.
2. Elsewhere translated minister.
3. Add means to contribute to the expense of a chorus and is used 3X by Paul.
4. Each grace ministers to another.
5. Each tempers and perfects the preceding one.
6. Set down in order of nature rather than in order of time.
7. Those closest to each other placed together.
8. Each grace becomes a stepping stone to the next.
9. The next qualifies and completes the former.
10. See the wisdom of God in every detail of practice.
11. Yet it is more than adding together--it is a growth.
12. Remember the play on chorus. The plays were put on in Athens as a religious function of the state. Patrons were found who would supply needed funds. In the same way we must be the ones who actively supply the ongoing efforts in building our Christian character.
13. The stream of life is pictured as being gradually enlarged by our activities with each virtue acquired adding in the attainment of the next--from faith to love.

III. The 8 Virtues we add and grow in.
A. Faith is the foundation.
   1. This is the root, the foundation.
   2. Faith leads the band and love brings up the rear.
   3. Fruits of faith are 7--the perfect number.
   4. Faith we have is not to be rested in as if we were already perfect. (Henry)
   5. Faith is the simple trust in confidence of the disciple in God the Father, Jesus the Son, guided by the Holy Spirit into complete obedience of the Divine will.
6. Such faith overcomes worry, feeds liberality, and motivates work.

(Roberts)

7. Augustine "faith is the root and mother of all virtues."

8. It cannot remain alone, it works.

9. It's the only root and must be carried out into its proper development.

10. Add to it in abounding increase.

B. Virtue

1. Moral excellency, purity.

2. Manly yet moral & ethical conduct.

3. Strenuous energy.

4. Bears and forebears, sustains and abstains.

5. Courage whereby conquers all enemies, difficulties and executes whatever faith dictates.


7. Strength and courage without which the believer cannot stand up for good works.

8. Corresponds to talent given you.

9. Discretion, a right understanding.

10. Enables Christians to equip themselves like men in service of the captain of our salvation.

11. In the midst of temptation a resolute determination to do what's right in the sight of Lord.

12. A strength steadfast to always choose the good part.
13. The devotional man is a virtuous man.

C. Knowledge
1. Wisdom teaches how to exercise knowledge in all occasions.
2. More knowledge you have the more you renounce your own will and indulge yourself the less.
3. Knowledge adds prudence to your courage—we regard the person we have to do with and the place in the company we are in.
4. It admits expansion.
5. It seeks to understand the words of Christ.
6. It admits growth not yet ripe and complete.
7. There is a Greek word that means absolute knowledge, but it does not occur in the NT—here spiritual discernment as to what is right and wrong.
8. Courage and firmness may do harm unless directed by knowledge.
9. It's intelligence.
10. It's the idea that there must be enlightening judgement and apprehension in every moment of what is the right application of force.

D. Temperence
1. It is the voluntary abstaining from all pleasures that do not lead to God.
2. It extends to all things inward and outward.
3. It governs every thought as well as affection.
4. Intemperance is to abuse the world—using all below and never looking higher.
5. It is a continual sense of God's presence, providence, and fear of Him.
6. It's self-control, a mastery of self—yet does not mean abstinence or moderation.
7. He learns obedience from Christ and his word—time to study and meditate.

E. Patience.
1. Endurance.
2. Accepts loss and suffering.
3. Perseverance, fortitude, courage.
4. Accepts whatever obstacles are in life's path and the courage to make them into stepping stones.

F. Godliness
1. Childlike fear and reverential love to God.
2. Nothing Betty allowed on top of the Bible.
3. Attitude and behavior of a man truly God fearing.
5. Regulate our conduct by God.
7. Thought of God controls his life.
8. Fellowship with God, walking with God, friend of God.

G. Brotherly Kindness
1. Love of a Christian, relates to our action toward members of the church.
2. Badge of discipleship.
3. Proper goodwill, help, affection to brethren, particularly in time of need.
4. Duty of equals to equals.
5. Constant kindness.

1 Jn. 4:20
1 Jn. 5:1

H. Charity
1. This is the agape love toward all men.
2. Goodwill of all mankind.
3. All one blood, all partake human nature, capable of same mercies and liable to the same afflictions.
4. It's the recognition of the debt of love owed to Christ and God for our redemption and open extension of this same kind of love to all whom God has loved in this way.
5. It is not love confined only to the church.
6. As God is loving unto every man & makes the sun rise on the evil & the good, so the Christians are taught to be imitators of God & must learn to exercise love toward brethren that larger love which embraces all men in an ever widening circle. (P.C.)
7. Godliness is moral purities; knowledge is the knowledge of Jesus Christ; self-control is denial of evil desires; perseverance is steadfastness in trials; godliness is love for God and his standards; brotherly kindness is doing good for fellow believers; love is doing good for all mankind and obeying God. Occurring at the very end of the list is love, the capstone of all these virtues. (Elwell)

Bethany, Franklin, KY (BC) - 5/20/01
One of the growing concerns I have entertained as a result of this temporary time of appraisal is the busyness of so many in the body. Pastors and parishioners alike have often confided in me, admitting that the "tyranny of the urgent" is not a theoretical issue, but a very real fact of life. It leaves them feeling strung out, impatient, occasionally resentful, and even worse, empty. This was the cry of one clergyman who whispered to me following a meeting with pastors, "Nobody around me knows this, but I'm operating on fumes. I am lonely, hollow, shallow enslaved to a schedule that never lets up."

---Charles Swindoll
Intimacy with the Almighty pg.8

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God...
Psalm 42:1-2

Those are the words of a man whose inner being ached to go to the depths. How vividly he describes his longing: "My soul pants for Thee O God." The word picture of a deer searching for water is intriguing.

Charles Spurgeon's remarks here are beautiful:

[Redactions]
David was heartsick. Ease he did not seek, honour he did not covet, but the enjoyment of communion with God was an urgent need of his soul...an absolute necessity, like water to a stag...His soul, his very self, his deepest life, was insatiable for a sense of the divine presence.

O to have the most intense craving after the highest good!

--Charles Swindoll

*Intimacy with the Almighty* p.21
FINALLY THE ENTRANCE DESIRED
II Peter 1:5-11

I. We've come so far through this great paragraph.
   A. We have seen the seven additions to faith.
   B. We've seen how we can be neither barren, unfruitful nor ignorant of Jesus—else we become blind, near-sighted and forgetful of our baptism.
   C. Here we see the climax of a great entrance.

II. First we are called Brethren.
   A. Only time Peter uses the word.
   B. Remember who we are.
   C. We are the beloved.

III. We are to make our calling and election sure.
   A. The called are accomplishing these things.
      1. You heard the gospel invitation.
      2. You answered and responded.
      3. God will keep his promises relative to our election. We are honored to be what we are.
      4. All that the Lord has said we will do and be obedient (Exo. 24:7).
         This is our part.
   B. If ye do these things you shall never fall.
      2. Don't you like things that work everytime?
3. No uncertainty on God's part--our security is His promise and our meeting his conditions.
4. This is the first part--stability in grace (second part is triumphant entrance into glory).
5. Literally you will never stumble, that is to strike the foot against some obstacle so as to stumble.
6. In the long march to heaven we will never fall out of rank and be left behind.
7. GK. is emphatic "never ever at anytime."
8. Guarantees our safety on the road to heaven.

C. Then He Describes Our Entrance.

1. Entrance
   a) We are exorted to earnest efforts.
   b) He is preparing a place for us in Heaven, and a seating for us, praying that we may always be with Him. That entrance shall be richly furnished with glory, with triumph shall the Christian so enter the golden city. There are true riches of holiness in joy and love in the unveiled presence of God, who is rich in mercy, rich in power, in glory & majesty, rich in tender and holy unspeakable love of his elect. (P.C.)
   c) God will richly supply a glorious destiny.
3. But it is for those in the highest degree who have been diligent in the practice of the 7 virtues.

e) Don't be content with a bare entrance, let us by increased diligence enrich the entrance we have.

f) Our entrance not scarcely (I Pet. 4:18) nor so as by fire like one losing all his goods, but in triumph without stumbling or falling.

2. Ministered to us abundantly.

a) Richly supplied.

b) Degrees in glory proportionate to our faithfulness increasing God's gifts.

c) His is the object of the Christian hope.

3. Everlasting Kingdom.

a) President on their watch—tomorrow's postage stamp.

b) Not Jesus!

c) You will see Jesus and time will be no more.

d) Life is a progress until the eternal Kingdom to which we already belong.

4. It is of the Lord & Savior Jesus Christ.

5. Initiative is on God's part and man's response.
7. This entrance is the culmination and crown of Christian character by the grace of God.

Mildred Duer's funeral (last part) - 5/19/01
Bethany, Franklin, KY - 5/20/01
Graymere (reorganizational mtg.) - 5/20/01
I. James startles us with a statement:
James 4:2 "Ye have not because you ask" 
V. 3 "Ye ask and receive not because ye ask"
A. No wonder Jesus was willing to teach his disciples to pray.
B. Emphasis is on paradigm or model; not on liturgical form.
C. We've just been taught to pray "Hallowed Be Thy Name"
1. Yet all men do not hallow the name. Why?
2. It's, as Loyd-Jones says, because there is another Kingdom—so naturally they are taught to pray "Thy Kingdom Come".

II. This causes us to ask several questions.
A. What is the Kingdom?
B. Was it present in Jesus' life—already there or yet to be?
C. Can I pray this—if so, in what connotation?
D. What's the spiritual impact of word 'come'?

III. About the Kingdom
A. Whatever it is it has first priority—over bread, forgiveness, temptation so far as prayer's order is concerned.
1. It's first.
2. Man and request are second.
3. We are beginning with God's name, Kingdom and Will.
4. We are to be more concerned about the Kingdom than the things of ourselves; its prosperity before our personal needs.

5. Question: When we first prayed do we first think of our own problems and perplexities?

B. Gray wrote "To Talk to God you first have to get in step--Thy Kingdom Come."

C. As we move into this prayer we see the priority list of God and the elevation of His purposes.

D. The supplicant will desire certain things but the priority must be first given to God.

IV. What is the Kingdom?

A. Simply it is the rule of God (Ash)
1. Full and effective reign of God--(Wesleyan)
2. From Bas-il-i-ah meaning rule, reign, Kingdom (Greek)
3. Mam-law-Kaw means dominion--word is Mamlakah (Hebrew)

B. Time element of the Kingdom.
1. It was something the Old Testament told was coming.
Dan. 2:44 "And in the days of these Kings shall"
2. In Jesus' day it was the central message.
Mark 1:14 "Now after that John was put--Jesus came Luke 4:43 "I must preach the Kingdom of God to the Luke 8:1 "And it came to pass afterward that he Ps. 22:28 "For the Kingdom is the Lord's and he is the gov. " (Not this parallelism - Kingdom-government)

"And he preached in the synagogues at Caesarea"
3. "Sense in which it has already come" - DeHoff
   Luke 11:20 "But if I with the finger of God"
   Luke 17:20-21 "And when he was demanded"
   Matt. 8:11 "Many shall come from the east & west"
   Luke 13:28 "There shall be weeping & gnashing"
       a) Nelson Smith "Wherever the rule of God
          existed the Kingdom did."
       b) It existed in embryonic state.
   Gal. 3:8 "Preached before the Gospel to Abraham"
   4. Yet very much present!
       Col. 1:13 "Who hath delivered us from the power"
   Rev. 1:9 "I John, who also am your brother"
   5. Also future
       a) Kingdom has broken in--we look for its
          consummation.
   1 Pet. 1:11 "For so an entrance shall be ministered"
       b) We pray about "upper & better Kingdom".
V. Can we pray "Thy Kingdom Come?"
   A. Ted Norton taught Isabel "Thy Kingdom has
      come--all the Dunkards left because Scripture
      changed."
   B. DeHoff "Can't pray for Kingdom to come
      initially, it already has--can pray it be
      extended.
   C. Some missed the nature of the Kingdom:
      "The King of this Kingdom is the Lord Jesus,
      the Son of David; the subjects of it are Israel
      and the nations--The chosen people fulfilling
      the mission which, according to the election
of God, is assigned unto them, of being the medium of blessing unto all the nations of the earth; the centre of the Kingdom is Jerusalem, and the means of its establishment is the coming and visible appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ—Primitive Christians were unworldly, because they were other-worldly, citizens of the age to come." Sapher - Pages 183-187 "Our Lord's Pattern for Prayer".

VI. Speaking of the rule how can we pray it?
A. Kenningham "Pray for Kingdom to grow, triumph, prosper".
B. Lloyd Jones "We need to extend the Kingdom in our hearts." Further it means to pray for the successful spread of the Kingdom.
C. Ash - "Give us wisdom and boldness to reach people".

Col. 4:3 "That God would open to us a door unto the people to speak the mystery of Christ.
I Thess. 3:12 "The Lord make you to increase & abound in love toward one another & toward all men"

VII. Two questions
A. Do I have any missionary zeal?
1. Linda Smith teaches 12 in LR - non Chr. gave up 140 class of Chr. -baptized 3.
2. Any passion for the spread of God's sovereignty?
3. Can we pray this prayer and not pledge ourselves to get the work done?
4. Do I desire the royal rule to be extended so that people will bow in submission to Him?
5. Do I believe and see the joy of the Kingdom of grace becoming the Kingdom of glory?

B. If it comes--some are outside it--am I? Would I welcome return of the Lord?
WHAT MOVES MEN ADVANTAGEOUSLY?

2 Pet. 1:19-21

1. We all know men must act.
A. May I read 3 statements
   1. Life - Motion
   2. Life - Difficulties
   3. Church - Activities
   4. What now can move men to do good
      things? & the motivation be proper?
B. Now we cite the good movers.
   1. Men are moved by compassion.
      Matt. 9:36 "But when he saw the multitude
      (a) Strongest word for pity.
      (b) Means to have bowels yearn, feel
          sympathy
      (c) Jesus moved by pain, sorrow (widow's
          son Lu. 7:13), hunger (Matt. 15:32).
      (d) Also by people's bewilderment (like
          corpse mangled or wearied by unending
          journey) & dejection (laid prostrate).
      (e) Do we give men strength to live?
      (f) Jesus' religion lives to encourage, not
          discourage & cast down!
   2. Fear moves (circumspect, apprehensive
      reverence) Heb. 11:7
      (a) Noah told in Gen. 6, 7, 8.
      (b) Earth so wicked nothing to do but
          destroy it.

By fear, by being warned of God of things
not seen as yet moved & fear (being wary).
(c) Told Noah, reverently he believed & prepared. Feared not for his life but reverenced his God.
(d) Noah took God at His word - even if it looked foolish & hardly ever to come to pass. We have the same choice today - heed or disregard.
(e) Do we heed God's warning of the word, conscience, advice of friends?
(f) Noah not moved by mockery of others. Do we abandon things on which world puts value just because God said so - build a boat on dry land!
(g) Noah's faith was a judgment on others there is danger in goodness.
I Pet. 3:20 "The longsuffering of God
(h) Noah 1st man called just (Gen. 6:9) He took God at His word when all else didn't.
3. Holy Ghost moves men
2 Pet. 1:21 Knowing this is, that no prophecy
(a) All men need prepare for 2nd coming.
(b) Prophets spoke as God revealed it.
(c) No one can take Scrp. & interpret it to suit himself.
(d) Spirit brings truth & helps men grasp truth.
(e) Bible is worthy of your time because it is the Holy Spirit speaking.
(f) Interpret comes from word which means "untie a knot - unloose a bundle to disclose what it contains."

(g) Prophets only untie - God did the packing of the bundle.

(h) God breathed the words.

(i) Man doesn't mfg. the truth.

(j) Moved = borne along, impelled by HS to express the mind of God. Proceeds not from prophet's invention.

(k) Man didn't invent; HS dictated what he wanted said.

4. So does voice of God at the voice of

Isa. 6:4 "And the posts of the shek moved

Isa. 7:2 And his heart was moved as this
II. Will you today out of compassion, fear, Holy Ghost, & voice of God be moved?

Scripture: Jer. 7-13-69

Bible verse: Iren. 7-13-69
CHRISTIANITY—Change—7

man old
it future
T P

Ed:it's

CHRISTIANITY—Change—7

man old
it future
T P

Ed:it's

CHRISTIANITY—Change—7

man old
it future
T P

Ed:it's

One reason the success of the church is so deceptive is that success has made it possible for the church to develop a whole program of activities that can keep a person busy without his being in touch with either the risen Christ or the world. The church has developed a kind of cultural and institutional life of her own which is quite independent of the life of Christ and the life of the world. —WESLEY NELSON quoted by W. T. PURKISER, "Devices of the Devil," Herald of Holiness, 6-4-69.

LIFE—Difficulties—31

The difficulties of life are intended to make us better—not bitter. —*Grit*, 5-18-69.

LIFE—Motion—32

All life is motion and therefore motion is the law of our existence. If man moves, he does live; if he does not move and assume a static attitude toward life and its problems, he begins to rot and decay at the core of his existence and finally collapses into death. Laziness, indolence, drowsiness, stagnation go against life and therefore should be discarded forthwith. —Prof. O. P. GUPTA, *Sikh Review*, Calcutta, 2-69.

LIVING—Refuge—33
II. Is there any small wonder men ask, "Where did the Bible come from?"

A. It states it's the Word of God.
   1. "There are equivalent sentences which declare God hath spoken, such as 'Thus saith the Lord, and the fact that 'He spoke.' Someone has counted them, and declares they occur 2,661 times--680 times in the Books of Moses, 196 times in the Poetical books, 418 times in the Historical books, and 1,307 times in the Prophetical books." ("The Structural Principles of the Bible or How to Study the Word of God" by F. E. Marsh - Page 287).
   2. W. Boyd Hunt, "The Bible is replete with claims which suggest its unique inspiration. Not only did the prophets constantly insist, 'thus says the Lord,' but the phrase, 'it is written,' was repeated over and over, especially in New Testament references to the Old Testament. Other passages which indicate the special inspiration of the Bible abound, such as 2 Tim. 3:16, 2 Pet. 1:21, Matt. 5:18, Rev. 22:18-19, and Exodus 24:4, 12." ("Is the Bible a Human Book?", Edited by Wayne E. Ward and Joseph F. Green, Page 120)

B. But how did God get His Word here?

2 Peter 1:20-21 "No prophecy of Scripture is "not talking about interpretation but authentication."

2. CAN WE RELIE ON THE SURFACE?
3. Prophets were carried along by H.S.
   a) Not in some mad frenzy as Philo
      suggests, but self-inspired ecstasy.
   b) God's writing convention.
   c) Metaphor; a ship carried by wind.
      They raised their sails and God carried
      them in the direction He wanted them to go.
   d) No explanation given on the psychology
      of inspiration.
   e) Notinfo on how they felt or knew the
      nature of writings.
   f) Not knew they were bearers of God's word.

C. What do you mean by inspiration?
   1. Cave quote #3.
   3. B. B. Warfield quote #5.
   5. "But you can't prove the Bible's inspired by the
      Bible."
      (a) Card #7 - Rimmer
      (b) Card #8 - Anderson.

Mark End 12-17-72
The classic case for the Biblical idea of its own inspiration was written by B. B. Warfield as an article for The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia. Warfield examined many passages but hinged his argument on three texts.

1, 2 Tim. 3:16: "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness." In this passage and its immediate context Paul affirms God's authorship of every scripture, not just the Jewish Scriptures of the Old Testament. Every Scripture is "God-breathed," with the result that what the Scripture says, God says.

Paul's view of the Old Testament is one of complete trust. He often personifies Scripture as God speaking:
"For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, 'I have raised you up for the very purpose of showing my power in you..." (9) God has promised what the Scripture has promised (Acts 13:32-35): the Scriptures are the "oracles of God" plural form of one word in the text: "Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, 'And to offsprings,' referring to many; but, referring to one, 'And to your offspring,' which is Christ" (Gal. 3:16). His affirmation to Felix is sweeping: "But this I admit to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the law or written in the prophets" (Acts 24:14, cf. Rom. 15:4).

2. 2 Pet. 1:20-21: "First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by the impulse of man, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God." Paul gave us a positive view of Scripture production—"All scripture is inspired", Peter states the point negatively—"It was not through any human whim that men prophesied of old ..." (NEB). Scripture was not produced by the cleverness of the individual or "out of his own head," but through divine initiative. Men "spoke from God" as they were "moved" or "borne" by the Holy Spirit.

One may see Peter's viewpoint in application on Pentecost: "Brethren, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before hand by the mouth of David, concerning Judas ..." (Acts 1:16) The prophet's words are the Spirit's words.
3. John 10:34-36: "Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I said, you are gods'? If he called them gods to whom the word of God came (and scripture cannot be broken), do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming," because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?' Jesus had just affirmed, "I and the Father are one," and the Jews were ready to stone him for blasphemy. He responded with reasoning based on Psalm 82:6. Without seeking to interpret the entire passage, the view of Scripture which allows an argument to be made on the presence of one word in the Hebrew text, "gods," and expressed in the words, "Scripture cannot be broken," must be of great concern to us in the formulation of our own view of Scripture.

SHALL WE CALL THE BIBLE INERRANT?
Harold Hazellip

9. Rom. 9:17
"Inspiration is a cooperation of the Holy Ghost with the spirit of man, guaranteeing the reliability of the record."


"Our Dependable Bible" - By Stanley E. Anderson - Page 82

Inspiration signifies in-breathing, or the power which gives life to anything, hence Channing says, "One great thought breathed into a man may regenerate him."

"The Structural Principles of the Bible or How to Study the Word of God" - By F. E. Marsh - Page 142)

The scholarly theologian of Princeton Seminary, Dr. B. Warfield, wrote, "Inspiration is, therefore, usually defined as a supernatural influence exerted on the sacred writers by the Spirit of God, by virtue of which their writings are given divine trustworthiness. . . . The value of 'inspiration' emerges, thus, as twofold. It gives to the books written under its 'bearing' a quality which is truly superhuman; a trustworthiness, an authority, a searchingness, a profundity, a profitableness which is altogether Divine. And it speaks this Divine word immediately to each reader's heart and conscience; so that he does not require to make his way to God, painfully, perhaps even uncertainly, through the words of His servants, the human instruments in writing the Scriptures, but can listen directly to the Divine voice itself speaking immediately in the Scriptural word to him."

""Inspiration is a cooperation of the Holy Ghost with the spirit of man, guaranteeing the reliability of the record."
Webster says that inspiration is "a supernatural influence which qualifies men to receive and communicate divine truth. "Inspiration implies an infusion of divine power, or a preter-
natural enlightening of the mind." It is distinct from revelation which is "God's disclosure or manifestation of Himself or of His will to man, as through some act, oracular words, signs, laws, etc. That which is revealed by God to man."

Revelation is that direct divine influence which imparts truth to the human mind. Inspiration is that divine influence which secures the transference of this truth into language by the writers of Scripture. Revelation is what God gives to man; inspiration is His method of communicating and recording what is revealed. This refers to the original Hebrew of the Old Testament and Greek of the New Testament—the autograph copies.
"Revelation, as claimed in and from the Scriptures, is the body of truth which God has made known to men by miraculous means; it could not have been given in any other way, and it relates indirectly or directly to men's moral and spiritual welfare. Inspiration is the operation of the Holy Spirit, by which men were impelled to publish revelation and were guarded from error in doing it." (John Talmage Bergen, "Evidences of Christianity" Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1923, p. 26)

Inspiration is not unaided human genius, nor is it mere illumination of the human mind. It consists of divine influence upon the writings of selected men, and is not limited to the inspiration of the men themselves. Moreover, it pertains to their original writings and not to the various copies and versions of those writings which are now in use.

"Our Dependable Bible" - By Stanley E. Anderson - Pages 81-82

"You cannot prove the inspiration of the Bible by the Bible itself," has often been declared. Then, according to the reasoning of Dr. Harry Rimmer, one cannot be tested by itself! "The science of chemistry is predicated upon the certainty that one can prove the nature of an object by analysis."

(Harry Rimmer, "Internal Evidence of Inspiration", Grand Rapids; Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1938, p. 9)

"Our Dependable Bible" - By Stanley E. Anderson - Page 84
The Bible bears witness to its own inspiration. This is to be expected if it is actually inspired by superhuman influence. To show this inspiration of the Bible by quoting some of its passages is not arguing in a circle; it is not declaring the Bible to be inspired simply because of its own claims for itself; rather, it is permitting the Bible to speak up for itself. (An entire chapter will be given to this subject later, yet these explanatory paragraphs seem necessary here.) An airplane flying overhead demonstrates its own ability to fly; the midday sun exhibits its own light and heat; and so the Bible's influence and beauty and wisdom and divinity are proofs of its inspiration.

"Our Dependable Bible" - By Stanley E. Anderson - Page 84
I. It was a sad day that Peter described.
   A. For me to even mention it shocks some as we want to believe everybody is somehow OK.
   B. And curiously who does he have in mind?
   C. Let's examine what Peter said and let it be a restraint on any of us to fudge on the word of God.

II. Our Text--2 Peter 2:1-3 and from it we see:
   A. The ever potential for error.
   2 Pet. 2:1 "But there were false prophets"
   1. Barclay said they were more interested in gaining popularity than in telling the truth.
   2. They told the people what they wanted to hear.

   1 Kings 22
   3. They followed wherever the applause of the crowd led them.
   4. Similarly the past repeats and as always there are methods and motives connected with error--we'll see them.

   B. Privily they bring damnable Heresies.
   1. Privily
      a) Privately
      b) Cunningly
      c) Without noise
      d) As covert as possible (Clark).
      e) Insidiously introduce them.
      f) Subtle--secretly introduced continuous action.
2. Damnable Heresies
   a) They are destructive of true faith.
   b) The end result is perdition—so quite serious.

3. Heresies
   a) Means choice, to choose.
   b) Originally meant way of life chosen, line of belief pursued.
   c) When Jesus came he offered man only God's way.
   d) No longer an option, or one way among many.
   e) Now either accept or reject the one way.
   f) Heretic became one who believes whatever he chooses to believe instead of God's way.

4. Their Error: Deny the Lord that brought them.
   a) Jesus purchased you from Devil's power thus see the seriousness of man's condition.
   b) Also see the "purchase price."

1 Cor. 7:23
Mk. 10:45
1 Tim. 2:6
Rev. 5:9
2 Sam. 7:23

   c) God personally intervenes to call them to himself.
   d) By right of purchase Christians absolutely belong to Christ.
e) The price paid was very high—don't squander on cheap things.
f) Lord died for all thus even false ones are bought.

5. Just what were the false teachers doing?
a) Fostered an evil ambition.
b) Desire to possess more, and to possess what one has no right to desire.
c) To take place of Christ & put their own ideas there.
d) To forge cunningly devised arguments.

6. End Result: Swift Destruction
a) Leads a man to perdition if heresies followed.
b) Pernicious ways.
   (1) Lascivious
   (2) Unclean
   (3) Dissolute practices
   (4) Reckless
   (5) Hardened immorality
   (6) Encourage immorality.

c) Way of truth evil spoken of.
   (1) Instead of teaching restraint they encourage the embrace-ment of sin.

d) Through Covetousness, feigned words, make merchandise of you.
   (1) Do it for personal gain.
Micah 3:11
1 Tim. 6:5
(1) Feigned (plastos) plastic, formed, molded, manufactured words.
e) Judgement lingers not.
   Damnation slumbers not.
   (1) Wicked will be punished.
   (2) False teachers are labeled destruction.
   (3) You lose the main reason for your existence.

III. Then stay with that which upholds the purity championed for those in Christ.
I. If I am old enough to know who I am and understand what I do, then—before God—one of two things is mine.
A. I'm either Reserved for Hell or Reserved for Heaven.
B. God's plainly told me—shall we have the courage to study it?

2 Pet. 2:4-10A

II. Men need to face their condition.
A. Some turn their religion into a justification of their immorality.
B. Man needs to see the pattern God has well established in such debauchery.

III. Let's Start With Angels.
v-4 "For if God spared not the angels"

A. Angels
1. No time of probation for them.
2. Story of them not yet complete.
3. Today they magnify God and serve you.

Heb. 1:14

B. Angels Sinned
1. About all we know is they kept not their first estate—lost it by sinning.
2. Meet fallen angels (Gen. 6).
3. Some labor to frustrate heaven—devil and his angels.
4. Know not the names of angels who sinned.
5. Peter does not specify their sin.
6. Else where we see it was rebellion.
Gen. 6:1-4
Jude 6
Rev. 7:7
7. Lust is also mentioned.
8. Didn't keep their dignity--their proper place.
1 Cor. 11:10
9. No possibility now of their salvation.
10. When--how--why of their revolt not told--about 1/3 in Rev. 12.
C. Angels are Cast Down to Hell
1. This is one single GK word occurring only here.
2. They are in a place of torment but await final judgement.
3. They are in some world other than this one.
4. Chains of Darkness
   a) Darkness so dense they can't be delivered.
   b) Impossible to escape.
   c) RSV pits of nether gloom.
   d) Underground pits.
   e) Silos.
   f) Big jar for storage, thus underground grainery.
   g) Put in subterranean pits, kept in darkness & punishment.
5. Reserved unto judgement.
   a) Impartial judgements of God come even if they linger.
   b) We need to see future judgement finalize choices men & angels earlier make.
c) There is a reason they are in hell--earned it!

IV. After Angels a Parade of Others.

A. Old World
   1. Note pattern, if God spared not other wickedness, why do we think he will current sin?
   2. Example to be shunned.
       Example to be followed.
   3. Noah tried--8th person.
       a) Herald--to convey official message:
       b) "God wants righteousness".
       c) Whole race without God lost.
       d) They were ungodly--no reverential awe toward God.

B. Sodom & Gomorrah
   1. Homosexuality.
   2. Drunkenness.
   4. All this we accept--God turned it into ashes.
   5. Lot delivered.
       a) Willing to make a clean break.
       b) Wife would not.
       c) Peter gives Lot some credit--not all bad.
   6. Lot was vexed.
       a) Tormented.
       b) Grievously pained by unrighteousness.
       c) Distressed, knocked him up.
       d) Sore disturbed.
V. Can Anything Be Done?

A. The Lord Knows How to Deliver.
1. He knows how both to save & destroy.
2. Wicked not unpunished nor are righteous forsaken.
3. No temptation too great to endure.
4. God regulates it, plus gives strength to face it.

1 Cor. 10:13
5. Delivered out of, not away from.

B. As He Preserves Rt. He Also Reserves for Some Punishment.

v-9 "The Lord Knoweth How to Deliver"
1. Keep--guard a prisoner.
2. Punish--prune, top as trees or wings, to check, curb, restrain.
3. Chief offense.
   a) Walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness.
   b) Despise Government.
      (1) Abhor restraints of civil law.
      (2) Self-willed, self-sufficient.
      (3) Spurn all human authority.
      (4) Refuse to submit to authority.
      (5) Look at record--sin will be punished.

Ps. 11:6
I. Can you think of anything worse than false teachers?

II. Yes—one thing; those who turn false and were once in the church.

III. Of all things I do not want leveled at me—he's a false teacher; yet this happens.
   I don't want to run with them!
   A. We preach to warn.
   B. We will present 3 pictures of them.
      1. We are betrayed when one leaves us.
      2. It tries our very soul.
      3. We know they take some with them.

IV. Our text.
2 Pet. 2:15-17 "Which have forsaken"
   A. Obviously:
      1. These "cursed children" forsook path in which they once walked.
      2. It is the right way—if you leave it, it is then the wrong way.
      3. It is going "astray"—that's getting lost!
   B. Our Picture Begins.
      1. First Balaam.
         a) His was followed.
            (1) Lit. follow out to the end.
            (2) Men are not without followers.
            (3) Men delight in novelty.
            (4) They dislike strictness of life.
            (5) They go for a system with lax morals.
         b) Balaam's story is told in Nu. 22-24.
(1) Balak of Moab sore afraid—lick up all around as ox does grass—out of Egypt—cover face of earth.
(2) Come curse this people "whom that bless is blessed"
(3) Reward in hand.
(4) Stay one night—speak to the Lord.
(5) Thou shalt not go.
(6) Princes go home.
(7) 2nd request via greater nobles & rewards.
(8) House full of silver and gold—No! but stay 1 night.
(9) God said go—but use my words.
(10) Balaam rose in the morning and went!
(11) God angry.
(12) Ass & angel, sword drawn—foot mashed—narrow place & no way to turn—ass fell—beaten 3X—spoke.
(13) Angel seen.
(14) Went with men to Balak.
(15) 7 altars & a blessing—2X—asked for 3.

Read Nu. 23:7-10
18:24
Nu. 24:3-9
(16) Balaam sent home.
(17) Later joins Midian & was killed.

Nu. 31:16
c) He knew what was right but did what was wrong.
d) Self-willed.
e) Boer = way of covetousness.
f) Balaam--to swallow down.
g) Loved wages of unrighteousness.
   (1) Earnestly desired.
   (2) Love of gain.
   (3) Not souls--money!--"Hire of wrong doing."
   (4) Purblind type of religion.
   (5) Goal: pleasure, power, praise, purse.
h) Dumb Ass Rebukes Him.
   (1) Without voice.
   (2) Satire: false teacher on level with brute beast; their own prototype had stooped so low as to be rebuked by one. (Bruce)
   (3) Forbade = stayed, hindered.
i) Madness.
   (1) Only here in NT.
   (2) Dumb ass forbids an inspired prophet!
j) Covetous & taught Israel to sin!

2. Picture #2 Wells Without Water.
a) Arrogant & empty.
b) Unsatisfactory.
c) Water
   (1) Metaphorically for truth.
   (2) Promise but don't perform.
   (3) Deceive by promises they do not fulfill.
(4) Don't have the water of life.
(5) Clouds first sign of rain
but give none.
3. Picture #3 Clouds Carried by Tempest
a) Jude 12, 13.
b) Empty--no good gifts of water.
c) Entice--mock the thirsty traveler.
d) Lead to danger by drawing him
away from water.
e) Raise hopes they cannot satisfy.
f) Mist
   (1) Use big words but nothing
   of significance.
   (2) Instability, obscure, hazy.
g) Darkness reserved forever.
(1) Seeing these men promote
darkness in the world it is
just that the mist of dark-
ness should be their portion
in the next.
(2) They destroy & will be
destroyed.
(3) Eternally separated.

Matt. 8:12

(4) Lowest Hell.
GOOD OUT OF BAD
2 Peter 2:18-22

I. Perhaps all have experienced valuable lessons out of bad experiences—our text is surely one.
   A. Story of false teachers and their evil ways.
   B. Yet I will learn:
      1. The bait they use and avoid it.
      2. The status of those who escape.
      3. The difference between liberty & libertinism.
      4. The way to freedom.
      5. The connection between righteousness, obedience and commandments.
      6. The condemnation and destiny of the backslider.
   C. So we go to our text to see good come out of bad.

2 Peter 2:18-22

II. These Obvious Truths
   A. First I see the bait used.
   v-18 "For they speak great swelling"
      1. Words of great sound but little sense or substance.
      2. Promise illumination but give none.
      3. "They allure through lusts".
         a) Literally "lay bait for."
         b) Unbridled lusts, excess, wantonness, shamelessness.
         c) Fleshly lusts and idolatry and error go together.
         d) Unchain the flesh desires & lower restraints is like walking into the tiger's cage.
e) We are then vulnerable.
f) Be wary of any teaching that makes self indulgence look good.
g) They appeal to the worst in man.
h) What man does with his body affects all of him--his soul is at stake.

B. Secondly, we can escape this.

v-18 "Those that were clean escaped"
1. More will be said about the route of escape but here is established a fact it can be done.
2. In spite of Calvinism some just barely escape.
3. Escape for a little or scarcely so--still out of it, it's a spiritual fact--you can win.

C. Thirdly, I see the difference between liberty and libertinism.

v-19 "They promise liberty, they"
1. Who doesn't want liberty and freedom?
2. Yet liberty & right were the catch words of the party of license at Corinth.

Jn. 8:34
3. Liberty is not license to sin.
4. Libertinism is freedom from moral restraints, revolt against the law of God.
5. Note Milton's poem:
Bawl for freedom in their senseless mood
And still revolt when truth would set them free
License they mean when they cry liberty
For who loves that must first be wise and good.

6. "O liberty, what crimes have been wrought in thy name?"

7. False teachers offer license not liberty.

8. They themselves are servants of bondage of corruption.
   a) Offer you freedom but they are enslaved!
   b) We serve either sin or righteousness--no middle ground or third alternative.
   c) If they overcome us we are then inferior, left in an inferior condition by the conqueror.

9. This Bondage.
   a) It's cruel.
   b) It's the vilest--corruption.
   c) It's slavery.
   d) The very ones that talk of liberty are enslaved themselves.
   e) Sold as slaves taken in a war.

D. Fourthly, we see the route of escape.
   v-20 "For if after they have escaped"
   1. Escape was factual.
      a) They were Christians--free!
b) Once were saints.
c) They may have just barely escaped to fall again but it was done.
d) Previously true Christians—not pretenders.
e) Truth followers escape!

2. Pollution is to be seen & avoided.
a) It defiles—dip another color.
b) It stains.
c) Moral miasma of the competition that is in the world defiles the soul.
d) It's noxious particles proceeding from persons infected with contagious disease.
e) "World is one large putrid marsh, rending its pollution everywhere". (Clark)

3. It's escaped via knowledge of the Lord & Savior Jesus Christ and knowing the way of righteousness.
a) O that they'd retained this true knowledge.
b) Knowledge of Jesus the beginning and end of the Christian life.
c) They escaped through knowledge of Jesus—pose as Christians? Can't fool Him.
d) Not of those who deny claim of divinity, authority of Jesus.
e) Not those who disobey.
f) Through knowledge of the Lord we escape.
5. Know way of righteousness.
   a) Word for know is for full and accurate knowledge.
   b) Real Christians.
   c) Knowledge never used to describe one who professes or claims to be a follower.
   d) Not one who just knew mentally.
   e) Righteousness—all our way is holy.
   f) Righteousness is precious—two angels sent to save one man in cities of the plains.
   g) As is the road so is our termination, our destiny—new heaven, new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

E. Fifthly, we can become entangled and face a worse end.
1. "They are again entangled therein."
   a) Foolishly walk back into entangling net.
   b) When entangled we are easily overcome—so stay close with the Lord.
   c) Like fish caught in nets.
   d) Essential to watch—we can fall!
   e) Note conversion, fall, could still return.

2. End is worse than beginning.
   a) Many stripes.
   b) Apostate often goes deeper into sin & has less restraint than formerly did.

Lu. 12:47-48
c) State of apostacy worse than state of ignorance.
d) God's provoked by those who pour contempt on his grace.
e) Greater knowledge brings greater responsibility & consequences thus more severe punishment.

Matt. 11:21-22
f) Worse to sin against the light.

3. Turned from Holy Commandments.
a) Collective sense of the whole body of moral & spiritual precepts. (Oberst)
b) They are for our good.

Deut. 6:24 "For our good"
Deut. 10:13 "For thy good"

F. Sixth, it's an ugly picture.

v-22 "But it is happened unto them"

1. Former state is better for the church--to have never known brings no reproach; but to know and turn does.

2. When man turns from what he knows he sinks to greater depth of depravity and state of callousness. (Kelsey)

3. He takes up what he once rejects & falls from grace.

4. Dog and sow.

Prov. 26:11

5. Think no more of taking sin into our spiritual being than we would sharing a dog's meal with him.
7. Both animals unclean to a Jew.
8. Vomit & wallow only here used.
9. Foolish to return to filth.
ARE YOU WHAT YOU WANT TO BE?

II Peter 3

I. Have you reached two goals or are you still striving to attain?
   A. First goal is vocational - are you what you set your mind to be?
      1. Evelyn Mayhugh always wanted to be a secretary--for 55 years she's splendidly achieved this goal.
      2. Jim Gill long wanted to be a doctor--now one in Latin America and later to train in N.O.
      3. Young teen -- wanted to be "possible" -- always told "you are impossible."
   B. What about spiritually?
      1. Clyde Slimp told me he always wanted to be a preacher.
      2. Elliott Tyler wanted to be a "breader and a cupper."
      4. All of us have spiritual and character goals.
         a) Control temper.
         b) Grow spiritually.
      5. Peter universally gave us all goals in II Peter 3.
II. First look at the uniqueness of it.
   A. It's Peter's last words.
   B. It's God's extension of mercy.

II Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise."

C. It's earth's last days.

v.10 - "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night."

D. It's a provocation to holiness.

v.11 - "Seeing then that all these things."
   1. Lit. "manner—of what country."
   2. Only righteous will be in the new world.

E. It's a chapter that uses "dear friend" four times or beloved.

v.1 - This second epistle, beloved.
v.8 - But beloved be not ignorant.
v.14 - Wherefore beloved, seeing that.
v.17 - Ye therefore beloved seeing ye know.

III. But I want us to concentrate on mutual goals — universal for all Christians.
   A. Pursue these things diligently.
      1. Earnestly strive for.
      2. Man is a morally responsible creature.
      3. He did not arrive by chance, nor does he live by chance; he will give account for his deeds.
         (Roberts)
B. He comes for us to see how we have done - "found in Him."
   1. We look for Him too.
   2. Looking means confidently expecting.
C. Be found in:
   1. Peace
      a) Labor so whenever He comes this characterizes us.
      b) We meet Him without terror.
      c) Peace in all aspects.
         1) God
         2) Conscience
         3) Fellowman
   2. Without spot
      a) Christ was this way.
      b) Free from stain.
      c) His delay gives us time to get ready.
      d) Frequent in prayer.
   3. Blameless
      a) Not moral perfection but it means without charge against us which we have not righted.
      b) Study of unified Scripture helps to achieve this.
         1) Paul and Peter wrote uniformly.

I. Cor. 15:33 "Evil companions corrupt."
Ex. 23:2 "Follow multitude to do evil."
(Moses)
2) Some hard to understand.
   a) Unlearned and unstable—
      wavering, unsettled.
   b) Wrest—twist on a rock,
      strain, torture, distort.
   c) To their own destruction.

4. Beware being led away.
   a) Distort Scripture—
      to tighten cable with a windlass.
   b) Error causes lawlessness.
   c) Fall from your own stead-
      fastness.
   d) "Reject false teachings, rest
      firm in the confidence of the
      surety of the Christian
      promises, live that life of
      peace without spot, blameless,
      thus the loyal Christian will
      increase in the favor of God
      as he learns more of the
      Scriptures and deepens his
      understanding and insight
      of it."

5. Grow in grace (increase).
   a) Don't fall from it, but grow
      in it.
   b) Steadfastness of reading is
      contrasted with unstableness.
   c) He does not assume
      unconditional preservation.
d) Strength and well-being of the Christian depends on what he feeds on (we are what we eat - man refused shrimp.)

e) Easy to forsake God, feed on self, it brings "leaness of the soul."

f) "The end and design of grace being purchased and bestowed on us, is to destroy the image of the earthly and restore us to that of the heavenly."

6. Grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
   a) We try to be more like Him every day.
   b) Knowledge of Christ is the root of it all.
   c) Peter ends on the idea of knowledge even as he began the Book.

7. To Him be glory both now and forever, Amen.
   a) Daily duty.
   b) Forever--the day of eternity.
   c) Now--you've got this moment to utilize this. Do this while the world stands.

Woodbine Bible Class - 4/18/01
I. It would be easier to count the things that never end opposed to those things that do end, yet contrastly:
A. These pleasant days with you in vacation.
B. Those pansies blooming their hearts out.
C. Our marriage--60 years with Betty.
D. Life itself.
   1. Two porters at the airport checking us in "The poor you have always.
   2. Not that way with the elderly, we better take care of them."
E. This Epistle--we are reading its last chapter--writes no more.
F. This earth and all its masterpieces.
G. The preaching of the gospel.

II. All of this should sober us and lead to careful usage of our days.

III. But I want to read this last of Peter's writings and see a few things we may gain from 2 Peter 3.
A. It's his second and last Epistle.
      a. Letter nine times.
      b. Send a message especially in writing.
2. Beloved - four times in this chapter.
3. Good to write or say I love you.

B. It was written for a good purpose.
1. Contrast with Osama Bin Laden.
2. Stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance.
   a. Pure=when examined in sunlight.
   b. Trench said it purges, sincere, unmingled, winnowed.
   c. Unmixed with any false, impure motives, solely fixed on knowing and doing God's will.
   d. Mind=to think through.
   e. Remembrance - he had taught them earlier.
   f. Judgment coming--take heed as to how you live.

3. I'm not the only one interested in you.
   a. Holy Prophets spoke.
   b. Apostles brought commandments of the Lord and Savior.
   c. One sent--for our benefit.
   d. Commandments vs. suggestions.
   e. Be ever ready for His return.
   f. Jesus the supreme authority--film "The Passion of the Christ" check words and actions accuracy by Bible.
g. Singular command sums up apostolic teaching—who else can so order?

h. All this is practical—stir up, arouse.

i. All that God orders is designated to promote our salvation.

C. He fairly tells us this world is on probation—has limited existence.

1. Scoffers will deny it.
   a. Dangers lie ahead as men cater to their own lusts and power.
   b. Only 30 years since ascension.
   c. Time will end and God knows the date.
   d. Even cites their words! "Where is the promise of His coming?"
      It has been this way since the fathers fell asleep. "All things continue as they were."
      (asleep=die).
   e. Mockers and mockery—to play on words to emphasize.
   f. Lusts—evil desires.
   g. Age is changeless, uniform.
   h. If Christ is coming what delays Him?

2. Willingly ignorant.
   a. Escape notice.
   b. Hidden from.
   c. Deliberately forgetful.
D. Then tells us how world was created.
   1. Made by Word of God—supernatural.
      a. Universe was created by word.
      b. World perished by word. Col. said made for Jesus.
      c. Earth rises above the waters surrounded by it.
      d. Same word that created physical cosmos stored for fire.
      f. Once destroyed by flood water yet by fire.
      g. Against day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

E. Lord non used of time—day, 1,000 years.
   1. Delay purely human conception.
   2. No day like His Judgment Day.
   3. So God’s not slack—word means be slow.
   4. Gives us time to be ready.
   5. Not willing that any perish, but all men repent.

F. Day of the Lord will come.
   1. Day of God—He brings the end.
      a. Jesus will come.
      b. Men will be judged by Him.
      c. He who is everlasting can await a few more days.
2. Thief in the night.
   a. Sudden
   b. Without warning (?) (?)
   c. Night.
3. Heavens pass away with great noise.
   a. One word in Greek.
   b. Whizzing sound of rapid motion through air, light, flight of birds, thunder, fierce flame.
   c. Crackling.
   d. Tremendous crash, whizzing sound of rapid motion.

4. Elements melt with fervent heat--heavenly bodies--not strange to this nuclear age.

5. Earth and works burned up--laid bare, burning terrestrial globe.

6. End of all evangelism.

G. What manner of person ought we to be!

1. Look for--expecting.
2. Hastening unto.

H. Most remarkable word in Bible-- "Nevertheless."

1. Look for new heaven and earth.
2. Where righteous dwells.
3. Free from practice of sin and surely the guilt of it.
4. Look for these things-- be diligently to be found:

Which we have no righted
IN HIM
Peace
Without Spot
Blameless
5. Beware lest ye fall—steadfastness.
6. Or led away.

I. Today
1. Grow in grace
2. Knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus.
3. To whom be glory—now and forever

Pratt, KS BC - 4/18/04
Schooch, KY - 5/2/04 (BC)
Smithville, TN (BC) - 5/9/04
I. It is God who has patience and it is God who keeps his promises.

II. He tells us about two cleansing days.
   A. One has already come - the flood.
      1. Wickedness brought the need for cleansing.
      2. Men scoff at that day even as they do the famous second one.
      3. Read 2 Peter 3:5-6.
      4. With the exception of the ark He send a universal flood to destroy men in a horrible spiritual state.
   B. Though I know not when, I believe He will do it again.
      1. We've the rainbow promise it will not be a scrubbing by water.
      2. But it will be by the purifying power of fire.
      3. He's made such a lovely world - why destroy it?
         a. Verse 7 kept in store, reserved perdition of ungodly men.
         b. Man has and will continue to pollute this earth morally speaking that His only recourse is purification by fire.
c. Furthermore he is going to call to himself the redeemed, the forgiven, the saved, and He needs to make a place for them.
d. Just because it has not been done is no reason to think it will not be done.
e. Though folk missed the details of Jesus' first coming, we could be doing the same about the second coming.
f. I believe these words are about the end of time and not the end of Jewish age. See photocopied material.

4. 1,000 years a day
   a. Time is relative.
   b. Man poor judge of length of time.

5. God wants none to perish, but salvation he wants for all.

III. There comes the end.
   A. Day of the Lord.
   B. Day of God - only time so used.
   C. Thief in the night--totally unexpected.
   D. This will happen.
      1. Heavens pass away with great poise.
a) Onomatopoeic word.
b) Roar, crackling
c) Roar of a fire
d) Swish of an arrow
   Rumble of thunder
   Crackling flames
   Scream of a lash
   Rush of mighty waters
   Hiss of a serpent
e) Great noise

2. Elements melt with fervent heat.
   a) Either various elements of universe.
   b) Or sun, moon, heavenly bodies
   c) Destroyed
      1) Rend liquid
      2) Sun 36 million degrees F.
      3) Interior of H-bomb 90 million
   d) Earth like a globular egg, shell same proportion as egg.
      Cool crust around a molten mass--break crust and see what happens.
   e) Lets loosen, unbind, unfasten--God compacted it yet can turn it loose at many seams.

3. Earth and works burned up.
   a) See earlier description.
   b) Works--man's accomplishments.
      We saw twin towers fall.
c) People amount to more than things.
d) All we can take out is our character.

IV. Logical question: What manner of persons ought to be in holy conversation and godliness?
   A. Unholiness causes the destruction--holiness is our salvation.
      1. This must permanently be our makeup.
      2. If you live in touch with Christ you can face the dissolution of all things--without dismay--even with joy.
      3. Our sins will not have the final word.
   B. God will make a permanent home suitable to our new estate.
      1. Toward it if not looking for, we are hastening to.
         a) Look--in a sense you expect it to happen.
         b) We can hasten the day by daily doing God's work.
         c) He wants us to be zealous, industrious.
         d) Earth that now is has been stained and is unclean.
e) Don't know what resurrected body and restored universe will be like exactly.

f) Beautiful as today we see only the backside of God's quilt what must the right side look like.

g) Fire purifies metal and leaves only the real, genuine.

2. You are promised a new heaven, a new earth (this one renovated some say).

3. There He places those who now are found in "peace, spotless, blameless."

4. There you forever will "be with the Lord."

Neely's Bend - 2/16/03
Summary and Conclusion

To summarize, we believe the following is true. Peter, based upon prophecies of the Old Testament speaks of the last days prior to the parousia. The last days are reference to the last days of the Jewish Dispensation. It would be a time of scepticism. The day of the Lord would be the time when God would act to punish the wicked enemies of his people. It would not be the end of the material universe, rather, in harmony with the Old Covenant usage of the term, a time when God acted in history by means of chosen instruments. Specifically, it would be when Titus would destroy Jerusalem. Peter's description of the passing of the heavens and the earth is to be viewed as an apocalyptic prediction of the fall of the WORLD of Judaism. Prophetic language often used the terms heaven and earth and spoke of the destruction of same when speaking of the fall of different nations. The passing of the Old System heralded and cleared the way for the consummation of the kingdom of God. With the passing of the Old the New stood identified, confirmed, vindicated, mature. The predicted kingdom of the Old Covenant worthies, the everlasting kingdom of heaven, was about to be ushered in. Peter and his readers eagerly expected, they longed for, and hastened that day. That kingdom is to be a kingdom of righteousness. Everlasting life is to be found there. Today that kingdom does exist. It is the glorious church of Jesus in which we are to live and magnify his name.

We are convinced II Peter 3 says not one word about a cosmic catastrophe which terminates time. Instead we believe it was a divine prediction of the Jewish cataclysm which occurred in 70 AD when Jehovah swept away the last vestiges of the Old World of Judaism and consummated his glorious Scheme of Redemption. Having accomplished his purpose he now reigns forever over the New Heavens and New Earth wherein dwelleth righteousness; his everlasting kingdom.
In early days this writer would read II Peter 3 and believe it to be one of the easiest passages in all of the Bible to understand. Then one day I read verse 16. Peter says Paul wrote of these same things and then he says these things are hard to understand. I was perplexed. What was so hard about it? It slowly dawned on me that if an inspired apostle says it is hard to understand then perhaps someone like me should take a closer look. Yet today it is still common to hear preachers expound on this text and say it is too clear to be misunderstood. I have heard brethren, some quite famous, say a person would have to have help to misunderstand what Peter means here. That may be so but I am not convinced it is.

This scribe is more than convinced that one of the greatest problems in Bible studies today is a failure to study the Old Covenant background of the New Covenant. We in the churches of Christ have preached so long, loud, and vehemently, that we are not under the Old Covenant, that most have taken this to mean we should not even study it! I have personally had people tell me that preachers should not preach from the Old Testament! But such an attitude robs us of not only the riches of the wisdom of the ages contained in the Old Covenant, but fails to realize a knowledge of the Old is indispensable to a proper understanding of the New.

We sometimes quote Romans 15:4 which tells us the Old Testament can still be used for our learning. Do we really mean, and acknowledge this? We know I Corinthians 10:12 says the things of the Old were written as enamples for us. But do we study them as we should? In the text we have been studying, we have attempted to show how an acquaintance with Old Testament language and thought can help interpret it. The usual response is "It says what it means and means what it says!" But Peter says it is hard to understand! So we had better beware lest our conceit entrap us. It is our prayer that this little work will inspire greater diligence in study and more objectivity. Let us be better students of the word.
This scribe was raised with the plea of the Restoration Movement ringing in his ears. Although the halcyon days of this movement have, in the minds of many seemingly passed, the plea is still valid and needs to be revived! My first recollections were of great men of God challenging the denominational world to study the Bible; to be good students of the word for themselves and reject the pontifical creeds and catechisms which arbitrarily determined orthodoxy and demanded unquestioning submission. A spirit of independence of thought and inquiry was fostered by a father who loved the Word over fame, fortune, or security. This spirit and love for the truth inherited from my father has caused me to constantly ask all teachers and preachers to "Prove it."

Sadly, what we in the churches of Christ have so deplored in others we are now hearing from our own ranks. I have on tape a sermon by a prominent minister from California in which he objects to the Preterist view of prophecy by saying "Why if this doctrine is true we have been wrong all these years!" The appeal here is not to the Book, it is to TRADITION!

I cannot help but reflect on the early years of the Restoration Movement. It is easy to imagine the discussions in many of those Methodist, Baptist, and Presbyterian congregations where Alexander Campbell, Barton Stone and other powerful ministers proclaimed the truth concerning the mode, subjects, and purpose of baptism, and the division of the Covenants for the first time; "Why if these brethren are right that means we have been wrong all these years! If we accept what they are saying that means we have interpreted the Bible wrongly for all of our lives!"

Now in my fellowship, we have applauded the courage and independence of thought exhibited by those who cast off human traditions and accepted the truth. We have lamented the hard heartedness of those who refuse to study and accept the "plain and undeniable" passages of scriptures relating to the plan of salvation. Now the shoe is on the other foot! I and others are challenging my brethren, and any who read this book, to study, to think for yourself, to be willing to cast off traditional con-
cepts and ideas, to truly restore the Bible truth. You are being challenged to accept the "plain and undeniable" statements of chronology contained in almost every book of the New Covenant. You are being challenged to study and know what the Bible meant to the people to whom it was written, not to impose a white middle-class American/Occidental interpretation on it. Simply put, you are being challenged to be better students of the Word of God. We never lose by re-examining what the Book says! We only lose when we close our minds to thinking, to study, to honesty.

We well recognize that the interpretation of II Peter 3 and the Day of the Lord as set forth here is not the traditional interpretation. It most assuredly is not the view with which I was raised! I say in all honesty and candor however, that I did not know of any dissenting views from the traditional concept until I was well on my way to rejecting it. The position set forth in this treatise came strictly from an examination of the Biblical text.

We may be wrong in what we have to say in this book. It is only the most conceited, blinded, or prejudiced who deny the possibility of error. We seek not to be "willingly ignorant." In fact, we would welcome correction if indeed we are in error. However, we will not bow to simple assertions, nor kow-tow to pontifications from "those who seem to be somewhat." It will not be enough for some to say "It just ain't so!" As the Lord challenged long ago, "Bring forth your strong reasons!"; and we will discuss the matter in dignity and mutual respect. I will, time allowing, gladly correspond with those who differ and we can examine the evidence together as fellow-disciples in the fullest sense of the word. We are not seeking to be contentious, we want the truth; so "Come and let us reason together."

We want it clearly understood that we have only the highest regard and respect for the men cited in this work. We differ with their interpretations and have attempted to call those views into question. But we do not question the integrity nor sincerity of any. We seek to be an humble student of the Word and call all men to be the same. This work is somewhat polemic perhaps but it is intended to challenge the reader to study, not intended to offend.
THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL COME
2 Pet. 3:9
1. Of all things that have not yet happened which I believe in is that the day of the Lord will come.
   A. I don't know when.
   1. Will come as a thief.
   Matt. 24:43-44 "When the unclean spirit is gone out of a house and is driven into waterless places.
   2. Jesus doesn't know when.
   Matt. 13:32 "Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among plants and becomes a tree.
   Acts 1:7 "And he said unto them, It is not for you to know or to discern the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.
   B. I know God does not count time as I do.
   Ps. 90:4 "For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday.
2 Pet. 3:8 "But beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing.
   1. God sees time c a perspective we lack.
   2. Also c an intensity - 1 day as 1000 yrs.
   3. Times relative - men are poor judges of its length.
   4. Regard time as an opportunity!
   C. I know why it hasn't yet come.
   1. The Lord is not slack.
   a.)
   2. The Lord is longsuffering.
   a.) He is not eager to punish.
   b.) This delays the consummation of history & leave door open to penitent.
   3. The Lord wants none to perish.
   a.) Mercy, not impotence, delays return.
   b.) Don't use His love as licenses.
   Ecc. 8:11 "Because sentence against an evil work is in Ezen. 33:11 "As I live saith the Lord God, I have no
4. The Lord wants all to come to repentance.
1 Tim. 2:4 "Who will have all men to be saved, and to
Rom. 11:32 "For God hath concluded them all in unbel
Ezek. 18:23 "Have I any pleasure at all that the wicke
Acts 17:30 "And the times of this ignorance God winke
a.) Tho God wants all saved some will exercise their
   God given free will & be lost.
b.) Just because God wills that none die doesn't
   prove some won't.
c.) We have the right to offer salvation to everybody
Ezek. 18:23 "Have I any pleasure at all that the wicke
II. But the Day of the Lord will come!
Mk. 13:32-37 "But of that day and that hour knoweth n
A. There will come a day when God will break in on
   every life.
B. For this day I must be prepared.
C. Man has a short time to live -- must prepare now.
D. Gospel concerns a Person who ushered in the last
days & his return will seal them.
III. I Know What Will Happen!
A. Heavens shall pass away with a great noise.
   1. With a roar of flame.
   2. Onomatopoeic word:
      swish of arrow
      Rumble of thunder
      Crackle of flame
      Rush of wind
      Hiss of serpent
   3. Roar = crackling, roar of fire.
   4. Sun 36,000,000° F
      Interior of H Bomb
      90,000,000° F.
5. Physical convulsions accompany Jesus' return.
6. Heavens - firmament above.
Mk. 13:31 "Heaven and earth shall pass away; but my
Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my
Rev. 20:11 "And I saw a great white throne, and him
Isa. 34:4 "And the heavens shall be rolled together as
B. Elements shall melt c fervent heat.
1. Physical elements will melt & be dissolved.
2. Earth, air, fire, water.
4. Various elements of universe/or sun, moon,
heavenly bodies.
C. Earth also & works that are therein shall be burned
up.
1. Geologists say earth like a globular egg - shell
same proportion as egg - cool crust around molten
lava - like cone.
2. Turning earth has flattened poles 13 miles at each
end.
3. Break earth's crust - it's a molten mass.
4. Ocean hydrogen & oxygen - both burn.
5. Works = all man's accomplishments - shows how
much God's impressed/also how much better he's
reserved than our best here.
6. All earth except ark destroyed once - God won't
leave that spot the next time.
IV. Therefore There is a Moral Consequence
What Manner of Person Ought Ye to Be!
A. Obvious moral implications.
1. This should inspire to holy living.
1 Jn. 2:28 "And now, little children, abide in him; th
2. Ans. question: Is life going anywhere, is there anything to live for!
3. People matter more than things.
4. People are more enduring than the world on which they live.
5. Man's character is all he can take out of the world with him.
6. Since it is only righteousness that will survive, we'd better live righteously.
7. Things however solid will have to go - men remain
8. Consciousness of existence & sense of responsibility are indestructible.
9. There'll be a time when all things are rated at their true value.

"How small of all that human hearts endure
That part which laws or kings can cause or cure." (Goldsmith).

B. What's your Relationship to Jesus.
1. Return of Jesus is the day of the Lord.
2. If you live in touch c Christ, you can face the dissolution of all things w/o dismay - even joy.
3. Sin will not have the final word.
4. Jesus will return & confront us!
5. How will He find me?
Shooting suspect wanted to be on TV

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Brenda Spencer bragged to high school classmates last week that she was going to “do something big to get on TV.”

Today, the 16-year-old is in police custody, held in a 15-minute burst of gunfire that left two persons dead and nine others, including eight children, wounded.

Police said Miss Spencer aimed a semi-automatic .22-caliber rifle she got for Christmas at the Cleveland Elementary School Monday morning, firing 30 rounds of ammunition.

School principal Burton Wragg, 53, was fatally wounded while trying to aid the injured children and custodian Michael Suchar, 56, died attempting to pull Wragg to safety.

Among the wounded was policeman Robert Robb, 28, shot through the neck. He was listed in stable condition.

THREE OF the children were released after being treated for minor wounds.

Authorities said the children still hospitalized included: Monica Selvig, 9, and Christy Buell, 9, in critical condition; Mary Clark, 8, serious condition; Cam Miller, 9, in fair condition; and Craig Verner, 8, good condition.

After firing the 30 rounds, police said the high school junior barricaded herself inside the family home across from the school for almost seven hours, warning police she was going to “come out shooting.”

As members of the SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) force waited out the tense vigil, the girl finally agreed to surrender after hanging up her telephone on negotiators several times.

EARLIER, she told the San Diego Tribune in a telephone conversation: “I don’t like Mondays. This livens up the day.” She added, “I have to go now. I shot a pig (policeman). I think, and I want to shoot more.”

Wearing a black Navy watch cap, brown corduroy pants and a blue sweatshirt, the freckle-faced, red-haired girl was whisked to police headquarters for questioning after she surrendered.

She was being held at the San Diego City jail. Police said no charges have been filed in connection with the shootings.

Police said the girl had a history of petty theft and drug abuse.

SWAT OFFICER Mike Hendrikson said negotiators were told by family members (See SUSPECT, Page 2)
There's a Great Day Coming

2 Pet. 3:10-15

I. All of us feel that this life is not all there is. But
feeling is not reliable.

II. There comes a sacred testimony that assures us there
is more. One of the inevitables is that there will
be a judgement.

2 Pet. 3:10-11 "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in
the night. "
Rom. 2:15 "Which shew the work of the law written in
Rev. 6:17 "For the great day of his wrath is come; and
Matt. 10:15 "Verily I say unto you, It shall be more to
Matt. 7:22 "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord,
John 6:39 "And this is the Father's will which hath sent
1 Cor. 3:13 "Every man's work shall be made manifest.
Matt. 24:36 "But of that day and hour knoweth no man.

III. Can you think of a greater day for you?

A. List the great ones: born, graduate, marry, 1st
   baby, promotion.

B. Do you pleasantly anticipate the judgement – as
   the coming of a beloved relative who said he'd
   come see you?

Mk. 13:37 "And what I say unto you I say unto all, W
Matt. 24:37-39 "But as the days of Noe were, so shall
1. Do some refuse the warning?
2. Are some disbelievers?
3. Do you see it as the "day of the Lord" - the day
   for which other days are made?

IV. In that day:

A. The dead will be raised.

Matt. 24:37-39 "But as the days of Noe were, so shall
Rom. 8:23 "And not only they, but ourselves also, who
Acts 4:2 "Being grieved that they taught the people, a
1. He raised Laz.
2. He will you.
Phil. 3:21 "Who shall change our vile body, that it may
1 Jn. 3:2 "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and
Rev. 5:9 "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art
B. Wicked will know God's wrath.
1. God's never loved wickedness.
Ps. 73:18 "Surely thou didst set them in slippery place
Ps. 1:6 "For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous;
Isa. 57:20 "But the wicked are like the troubled sea;
Isa. 66:15 "For, behold, the Lord will come with fire,
C. Books will be opened.
Exo. 32:32 "Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; Dan. 7:10 "A fiery stream issued and came forth from I
Luke 10:20 "Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that
Rev. 20:12-15 "And I saw the dead, small and great,
Rev. 21:27 "And there shall in no wise enter into it a
1.) Note V. P. Black quote.
2.) Remember Matt. 25.
D. Eternity begins.
Isa. 57:15 "For thus saith the high and lofty One that
1. Tell time but can't define eternity.
V. What Manner of Person Ought Ye to Be.
2 Pet. 3:11 "Seeing then that all these things shall be
A. Sin isn't funny with the homes it breaks, orphans
created, & deaths caused.
Gen. 3:9-11 "And the Lord God called unto Adam, a
Ps. 73:19 "How are they brought into desolation, as i
B. Be unspotted.
I Jn. 2:15-17 "Love not the world, neither the things
C. Be zealous & obedient.
DON'T PUT THE SCRIPTURES ON THE RACK
II Peter 3:15-16
I. The Bible is intended for understanding.
   A. God surely has the ability to so speak.
   B. Man is not profited via ignorance.
II. About the Scriptures I face three things:
   A. Some are hard to understand.
   B. Some will wrest the Scriptures they do understand.
   C. Wrested Scriptures result in man's destruction.
III. Seeing these 3, we look 1st at those hard to grasp.
   II Pet. 3:16 "As also in all his epistles, speaking in ti
   A. Hard to understand.
      1. May speak of the end of the world.
      2. Order of events in Christ's return.
      3. Nature of deity, if I could grasp it all, I'd be
divine. Explain Trinity
      4. Doesn't mean Paul's style but the subjects of
         which he wrote.
      5. Prejudices, foolish expectations, cardinal fancie
         make Scrp. hard.
   B. Since it's hard, what shall I do about it?
      1. Cast it aside & never read -- no, study all the mon-
         2. Appoint an official interpreter. Doesn't work--
            just as hard to interpret now as it was before
            Pope became "infallible."
      3. Peter never hinted he was one to do interpreting.
      4. Tho hard, we can still find way of salvation.
   2 Tim. 3:15 "And that from a child thou hast known t
   5. We don't remove error by perpetrating ignorance
IV. The Wrestling of Scriptures.
   2 Pet. 3:16 "They that are unlearned & unstable wres
A. What does it mean "to wrest."
1. From windlass, instrument of torture.
2. To distort limbs on a rack.
3. Instead of torturing people we torture language.
   None do it better than Garner Ted Armstrong.
4. To wrest is to turn away by force.
5. They wrest that which otherwise is straight.
   How do you wrest?
   (a) Via ignorance.
   (b) Literalism.
   (c) Allegorize.
   (d) Neglect.
   (e) Pride.
B. Who does it?
1. The unlearned.
   (a) Ignorant.
   (b) Ignorance produces instability. Buckeyes for
       pain - even in medicine - sock on basketball
       court.
2. The unstable.
   (a) Unsteadfast.
   (b) Some do not want to know truth.
   (c) The unstable have no landmarks.
V. The End Results of Wrestling Scripture.
A. They (wresters) are destroyed.
   1. Scriptures save.
      James 1:17-18 "Every good gift and every perfect gift
         (a) Paul & Peter treated ea. other's writings as Scrp
         (b) To use Scrp. to Jewish mind meant inspiration.
   2. Wrested Scriptures destroy.
(a) GK is emphatic in that the destruction is their very own.
(b) I can't blame others.
THE PURPOSE AND ORIGIN OF THE BIBLE
2 Peter 3:15-16

1. That I have at my disposal the most popular book in
the world is W/o contest - namely, the Bible. Of
it, I have 2 qts.:
A. What's its Message or Purpose?
B. How did it get here anyhow?

II. The Purpose of the Book.
2 Pet. 3:15 "Account that the longsuffering of our Lord
A. Its purpose is Salvation.
1. How many other books do you have that are like
this?
2. It tells of God's marvelous love.
3. The most important question ever considered by
me is the state of my soul's health.
B. But some would even assault this.
1. Some say delay in Jesus return shows He won't.
2. Bible says it's to give a few more days of grace.
3. Ungodly make mockery of God's grace - say He's
slow.
4. Every day world stands a few more can be saved
for salvation as used here means the opportunity
or means of salvation.
Rom. 11:11 "Thru their fall sal. is come to the
Cath.
Heb. 2:3 "How shall we escape if we n.
5. Only reason for delay is not to prosper wicked
but save sinner.
6. Have you appropriated the proper time sequence
to your life?
7. Do I feel it's for slackness, laziness or salvation
that the world still stands?
III. The Origin of the Book.

2 Pet. 3:15 "Even as our beloved brother Paul also
A. How did Paul & Peter know what to write?
1. Wisdom was given unto him, in writing by his
   (a) Divine wisdom God gives. had upon me
   Col. 2:3 "In whom are hid all the treasures of
   1 Chron. 28:19 "All this...the Lord made me understand"
   1 Cor. 14:37 "The things I write unto you are the same"
B. He presumed they were acquainted with Paul's
   writings.
1. No man told it all.
2. Are we worthy of our reputations as Bible students
3. Peter knew Paul's writings - do we learn from all
   sources - an apostle from an apostle?
4. Note "hath written" - was Paul either dead or
   else had he ceased writing?
5. What Paul gave to people & what Peter did was
   what he got from God.

IV. And we come to another purpose of the Book - not
 only Salvation but it makes us capable
A. "Our beloved Brother Paul," Clip on the left
1. When Peter recommended Paul's writings, do you
   know what they contained - for one thing, a
   condemnation of Peter!
   Gal. 2:11 "But when Peter was come to Antioch I was
2. He still regards him as a brother & as an authority
3. Didn't start another paper!
4. Can I praise what condemns me or must I be
   defensive?
B. What does Christianity do?
1. Leads us to love those we are out of love with.
2. Leads us to bigness
3. Leads us to correction
4. We who preach have an obligation to treat fellow preachers as brothers.
I. The question that entitles this sermon is the most complex question we can ask.
A. God is Holy and sinless.
B. Sin is a breakage of His will.
C. Every sin God will punish.
D. How can He ever call guilty man to His bosom?
   1. Answered in one verse.
I Peter 3:18 "For Christ also hath once
   2. It embraces God, Christ, Spirit, unjust man.
   3. He gloriously outlines his salvation method - on His part.
   4. Later He will tell man how to appropriate this.
I Peter 3:21 "The like figure where unto
   5. Three-year ministry of Christ, 1/3 of gospels have to do with last week of Christ's life - so it must be very important.
   6. Parsons wrote "This verse can blow sin, hatred, disappointment and dissolutionment out of our hearts and transform our lives."
7. We'll meet the God head in so few words.

II. For me to be saved by God it was essential that:
A. Christ once suffered for sin.
   1. This is the work of God's appointed.
   2. Suffered once.
      a. Once for all time.
      b. Roman trial - Judges wrote "certificate of debt."
      c. One side the crime, the other the punishment.
      d. If imprisoned the certificate was nailed to his cell door.
      e. When served sentence fully, taken down and "Tetelestia" written on it "Paid in Full."
      f. Taken off cell wall, rolled up, given to prisoner-proof that he met all demands of the law.
One suffered once who had no crime and via His blood our certificate of salvation is stamped in crimson hue. Somebody pays the price for the crime - Jesus did it.

3. Please note "once" - never to be repeated, mass or otherwise.

B. Essential you grasp "suffered"
1. Somebody will - either Christ or you.
2. If Christ is not our substitute, you will experience a calvary of your own.
3. Sin and suffering go together - it exacts a price.
4. I have the right of choice: Christ or me.

1 Cor. 15:3
5. Christ a sin offering to atone.
6. Remember He unjustly suffered.

1 Peter 2:22-24
2 Cor. 5:21

This section has to do a Christ our example in suffering - Peter yours to sublime scheme of salvation.
7. Suffered for sin.
   a. Sin is an affront to God.
   b. God perfectly Holy - no white lies with Him.

Psalm 51:14 "Against thee, thee only, have I

C. Just for unjust.
   1. Just
      a. How can God love and judge (forgive) at the same time?
      b. Jesus good enough to be our substitute.
      c. Pilate, Sadducess, Herodians, leader
         "I find no fault."
      d. He alone can do it.

Romans 3:26

Lev. 4:32

John 1:29

g. The full consequences of human rebellion placed upon the sinless Son.

h. He committed no sin.

\textit{Sins not his own}
1 Peter 2:22

2. For in place of, a substitute.
   a. He took our punishment.
   b. He died for us instead of us.
   c. Passover lamb's blood on door post and lentils thus the cross.
   d. Perfect even to eyelids.

3. Unjust
   a. That's me.
   b. We chose sin instead of God and thus offended Him.
   c. God infinitely Holy and will punish every sin.
   d. Rembrandt painted pictures of crucifixion - put his own face as one of the figures standing at the cross.

   We are responsible for the crucifixion.

III. The purpose of all this - to bring us to God.

   A. Christ shares His inheritance.
   B. Brings us

   1. Word used when a person would introduce us to a King.

Acts 16:20
John 14:6  "I am the way  
2. He took my hell so I could take His Heaven.  
3. His death brings us to God and consecrate us to His service.

Ex. 29:4  
Lev. 8:4  
Eph. 2:18

C. Brings us to God.  
1. This our destiny via God.  
2. Yet we live without giving Him glory.  
3. No longer reckoned sinful but Holy and righteous.  
4. Sin is forgiven.  
5. All can come into the presence of God.  
6. Veil is rent.

Matthew 27:51

D. Does it in the flesh.  
1. Flesh and spirit to spheres of existence.  
2. Jesus put to death in the flesh.

E. Quickened by the Spirit  
1. By means of resurrection Christ passes into a new and fuller life.
CHRISTIAN MATURITY DEFINED
2 Pet. 3:14-18

1. Within the plans of all of us, surely there are dreams for betterment. (Contrast c "She's hollow" story & Elliot poem - #1)."Growing person" I guess
A. I admit an emptiness. when a yellow becomes
1. Merle Smith letter
2. Gary Collins Quote #2, as far as he's going.
3. Trueblood Quote #3.
B. But I also present an answer.
1. Maturity of the Christian.
2. Within the scope of God's guidance.
3. By this I mean I must want to do, be, serve & achieve more because I've reached a higher spiritual level, and I can only do this in cooperation with the strength God grants.

4. Thus, we propose to look at:
(a) Christian maturity defined,
(b) Christian maturity achieved.

II. Christian maturity defined.
A. Maturity has synonyms.
1. Developed - ripen.
2. Age.
3. Fullness of growth.
4. Fit for usage.
5. Readiness for normal functioning.
B. A study of synonyms.
1. Develop - Ripen.

Joel 3:13 "Put ye in the sickle for the harvest is ripe; a
Rev. 14:18 "Thrust in thy sharp sickle & gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are full.
(a) If mature, I have developed, ripened.
(b) That means childish, petty, little things I lay aside.
(c) If ripen, I arrive at a higher level of achievement.
   (1) 20% never pray - #4.
   (2) Things I don't like - Prater #5.
   (3) Emerson, "Be kind, every man you meet is fighting a battle."

2. Age:
Heb. 5:14 "But strong meat belongeth to them
(a) One translation has solid food is for the mature. "A person who is mature is not perfect but has his life developed in such a way that he can face problems & testings."
   Bristol, "Heb. Comm."
(b) This verse calls for "strong meat," "exercise" discernment between good & evil." Make a choice on side of good.
(c) Are we ready for strong meat?
   (1) Kent Gilbert Card #6. - Teaching
   (d) Do we exercise.
   (1) Francis Schaeffer Card #7. "Not a day do we sleep.
   (2) James Thurber said man is travelling too fast for a round world, and some day he will overtake himself - there will be a collision from the rear and man won't know for a long time that what hit him from behind was man."
   (3) Card on Erosion #8.
1 Cor. 14:20 "Brethren, be not children in underst.
3. Fullness of growth.
John 1:16 "Of his fullness have we all rec.
Rom. 15:29 "And I am sure that when I come
Eph. 1:22-23 "And hath put all things under
1 Tim. 4:7 "Exercise thyself to godliness
1 Pet. 2:2 "As newborn babes, desire the
2 Pet. 3:18 "But grow in grace & in the
   (a) Is there a goal for you?
   (2) Victor Frankl statement #10.
   (b) Trivia vs. real.
       J. P. Allen, "While science is probing outer
       space and psychology inner space, the church
       is largely preoccupied c parking space."
4. Fit for usage, enjoyment.
Lu. 9:62 "No man having put his hand
Prov. 24:27 "Prepare thy work w/o, and make it fit
for thyself in the field and afterward build thine
house."
Ps. 16:11 "Thou wilt show me the path of life; in thy
presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are
pleasures forevermore.
2 Cor. 1:24 " Helpers of your joy, for by faith
Eph. 5:18 "Be not drunk c wine, wherein
Phil. 4:4 "Rejoice in the Lord always and again"
   (a) Dorothy Sayers, "The trouble with life is
       that it's so everlastingly daily."
   (b) Do we enjoy it?
   (1) Card "United Hates of Am." #11.
(c) Relevant?
(1) McLaren Quote Churches #12.
(2) Huxley & Beans #13.
(3) Atheist - Church Afire #14.

5. Readiness for normal functioning.
2 Cor. 8:11 "Now therefore perform the doing of it Titus 3:1 "Put then in mind to be subject Rom. 1:14-17 "I am debtor both to the Greeks (a) If you are mature, you are ready.
(1) Clip on Dr. Dale Hagler #15.
(b) You are needed - Anxiety here!
(1) Hilgard Card #16.
(2) Collins Card #17.

B. What then have I said? If mature spiritually, you are:
1. Developed - Ripened.
2. Age & Experience gotten.
3. Reached toward a fullness of growth.
5. Have an Immediate readiness for normal functioning as God invites you to serve.

THIRD END 4-16-73

Lippardine Fellowship 4-18-72
College Terrace Church, Ft. Smith, Ark., 4-24-72
Pointsett Church, Greenville, S.C., 5-4-72 Gladie Clay
Daughter Due Church, Paris, Texas, 6-24-72
I like the story of the large woman who stood on the scales without knowing they were out of order. The hand went only to seventy pounds. A little boy watching responded. "Whew! She's hollow!" What an appropriate description of so many of us and our "things" in this "new day!" As T. S. Eliot says so graphically:

We are the hollow men
We are stuffed men
Leaning together
Headpiece filled with straw. Alas! 7

"Disciplines for Life in the Age of Aquarius"--Lance Webb P. 21
7-T. S. Eliot, "The Hollow Men", Collected Poems

What is life? No more than a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing? Only a vapor that passes away or something that can be abundant? Limited to a few years on this earth or continuing in some other form after death?

These questions are as old as recorded history. Ancient philosophers asked them. So did the Biblical writers and the great poets. So do people today--people worried about world famine, over-population, environmental pollution and nuclear warfare. People of all ages, but especially the young, wonder about purpose in life, meaning to our existence. Some seek answers in science. Others in cults, astrology, eastern religions, or in the message of the Jesus freaks. Some have dropped out into a world of promiscuous sex and drug-induced escapism. Others, especially those in middle-class suburbia, go through life on the installment plan, struggling to get ahead in the world, and
drifting from one acquisition to the next. But in spite of all this sound and fury, many people—including those who are well-entrenched in established churches—find life confusing, empty, signifying nothing.

"A Psychologist Looks at Life"—By Gary R. Collins — Page 1 of Preface

Dr. Elton Trueblood stated in one of his books: "Whatever the course of history may be in the next years, it will not be a course of tranquility. Our modern world has developed so much animosity, so much justifiable fear, so much open conflict, that there is no peace. . . . Peace in our time is as unlikely as was prosperity in the South immediately after the American Civil War, because the conditions of peace simply do not exist, and we cannot see how they may arise for a very long time. . . . We are in the monsoon and we must weather it out. Instead of pining for calmer days, the way of wisdom is to learn to live... wisely and well in the midst of continuous strain."

"What About Tomorrow?" — By J. Wallace Hamilton — Page 79
It has been suggested that 20 percent of Christians never pray, 30 percent never go to church, 50 percent never give, 80 percent never attend prayer meeting, 90 percent never have family worship, and 99 1/2 percent never win a soul to Christ!

"How to Build An Evangelistic Church"--John Bisagno

Chap. 40, P. 134

There was something about the church she didn't like. Why didn't the custodian pick up the trash in the churchyard, and she had noticed some dust on the pews. The Boy Scouts had been in the church kitchen again and broken a glass. Why hadn't I been to see Mrs. So and So? She didn't like the service last Sunday, people were unfriendly, or the choir was sharp or flat, the organ was too loud or too soft and the sermon was too long or too short or too deep or too shallow and on and on and on, ad infinitum--ad nauseam!

"Release from Phoniness" - By Arnold Prater - Page 42
One of the great built-in determiners of learning is the pupil's maturation, which influences his capacity to learn. When I was a boy of eleven, a relative gave me a model airplane kit that must have been designed to entertain a graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology. After examining the several hundred pieces of balsa wood, rivets, grommets, and widgets, I couldn't even put the parts back into the box, much less transform them into an airplane. The dozen or so complex blueprints were certainly no help, and I was left with a feeling of bewilderment strongly tinged with disappointment. Not only was that model never completed but it was a long time before I ventured to try another one.

AS CHRISTIANS TEACH
by W. Kent Gilbert
pg. 36 "Practical Insights"

What does this have to do with the church and individual Christians who are trying to cope with life? Not long ago Francis Schaeffer, the well-known theologian in Switzerland, published a book entitled "The Church at the End of the 20th Century." "The evangelical church seems to specialize in being behind," Schaeffer wrote,

But the major problem we are going to face... in the next 30 years is revolution with repression. Society is going to change. I believe that when my grandchildren grow to maturity, they will face a culture that has little similarity to ours. And the church today should be getting ready and talking about issues of tomorrow and not about issues of 20 or 30 years ago.... This is not a day for a sleepy church.

"A Psychologist Looks At Life" - By Gary R. Collins - Page 161
Erosion takes longer than explosion, but in the long run the effect can be as devastating. Many a man, many a married couple can rise to a crisis by sheer strength of character; but it takes something stronger than character to stay with life's routine situations—exhausting work, home duties, unhappy relationships, the care of sick people, the business of making ends meet. It takes stamina, resilience and an infinite capacity for inward renewal; it takes all the resources of religion.

"Illusions of Our Culture"—Leonard Griffith
P. 131

In one of George Moore's novels he tells of Irish peasants back in the period of the Great Depression who were put to work by the government of Ireland in building roads. For a time the men worked well; glad to be at work again, they swung their picks and sang their Irish songs. But little by little they discovered that these roads they were building led nowhere, ran out in dreary bogs and stopped. And as the truth gradually dawned on them that the roads were pointless, that they had been put to work solely to provide employment and an excuse for feeding them, the men grew listless, leaned on the shovels and stopped singing. The roads to nowhere are difficult to make. For men to work well and to sing there must be an end in view.

"What About Tomorrow?" - By J. Wallace Hamilton - Page 74
In the early 1940's a successful Jewish psychiatrist, then resident of Austria, was herded into a train with 1500 other people and sent off to a Nazi prison camp. For three grim years, prisoner number 119-104 lived in daily horror—digging trenches within the shadow of some of the giant furnaces that claimed the lives of six million Jews during World War II. Following his liberation, the psychiatrist, whose name was Victor Frankl, wrote a fascinating book about his experiences. The book was given the title "Man's Search for Meaning", probably because one of Frankl's major conclusions after his prison experience was that men must have some meaning and purpose in life if they are to get along efficiently and (for people like Frankl in a prison camp) if they are to survive. "The prisoner who lost faith in the future," Frankl wrote of his fellow prisoners, "was doomed. With his loss of belief in the future, he also lost his spiritual hold; he let
himself decline and became subject to mental and physical decay. "The sudden loss of hope and courage can have a deadly effect."

In his writings and lectures Dr. Frankl often quoted the philosopher Nietzsche who once wrote, "He who has a why to live for can bear with almost any how."


"A Psychologist Looks At Life" - By Gary R. Collins - Page 115

One of the sinister marks of our time is extremism, emotional forces out of balance, loud angry voices shouting at each other across fences--some real and some imaginary--without regard to accuracy, without the restraint of reason. The whole country today seems in an ugly mood, as if we'd all been suddenly bitten by the same venomous bug--class against class, black against white, younger generation against older, section against section. Everybody rallies around his hates--and someone has called us, "The United Hates of America."

"What About Tomorrow?" - By J. Wallace Hamilton - Page 83
And in the churches themselves, of every dollar contributed to local churches across America, only about 10 cents is actually used for the benevolent work which is so loudly vaunted, while 90 cents stays in the local program for buildings, parking lots, salaries, and the "needs" for the comfort of the members.

Why is the Church losing its effectiveness? Diagnoses always seem more readily available than cures, but perhaps we can focus helpfully on areas where remedies are still viable. One obvious fault is that the Church in the twentieth century is still conducting its affairs as if it were living in the past. A prominent scientist explained recently that although he is a confirmed believer in Christ, and supports the mission of the Church financially, he seldom attends worship because "all we can share is seventeenth-century hymns, eighteenth-century prayers, and nineteenth-century sermons that do not comprehend
A churchwoman in England wrote Thomas Huxley complaining about the unorthodox posture of a certain clergyman in the Anglican Church. She asked Mr. Huxley if he didn't think it unfortunate that this priest in administering the sacrament adopted an eastward position instead of facing westward. Mr. Huxley answered, "My dear lady, I am told by the astronomers that to drop a bean at the end of every mile of a voyage to the nearest fixed star would require a fleet of ten thousand ships, each of six hundred tons' burden all starting full of beans. Now do you really think that the maker of those fixed stars considers this new position of . . . (the rector) a serious matter?"

"What About Tomorrow?" – By J. Wallace Hamilton – Page 125
The preacher awoke in the middle of the night to find the church house ablaze. And who should be leading the bucket brigade, throwing water on the fire, but the town atheist! "Atheist," said the preacher, "I've never seen you at church before," "Preacher," said the atheist, "I've never seen your church on fire before!" Let the church get on fire and the world will come to watch it burn!

"How To Build an Evangelistic Church"
John Bisagno
Chapt. 5 - P. 24

My friend, Dr. Dale Hagler, had a good story of a man and his wife who, on an automobile trip, got into a large-sized fuss over a small-sized incident, and for miles didn't speak to each other. Finally, passing a pasture where some long-eared mules were grazing, the man broke the silence. Pointing to the mules, he said, " Relatives of yours?"

And she retorted, "Yes, on my husband's side." And all was well again. A sense of humor is part of perspective, the ability to see the small thing against the background of the big. We all need a heap of it to face the days and put trifles in their place.

"What About Tomorrow?" - By J. Wallace Hamilton - Pages 81-82
Why is anxiety so common? Dr. Ernest R. Hilgard, past president of the American Psychological Association and a distinguished psychologist, has suggested one answer:

The causes of contemporary anxiety are complex: Two world wars within our century, and a cold war persisting since the last one; enormous mobilities of peoples, geographically and economically, disturbing the sense or rootedness; shifting values so that we are uncertain about child-rearing practices, about moral standards, about religious beliefs.


"A Psychologist Looks At Life" - By Gary R. Collins - Pages 17-18

One such writer has concluded that "the 20th century is more anxiety ridden than any other era in history since the Middle Ages (Marmor, J. Anxiety. In "The Encyclopedia of Mental Health", Vol. 1, New York: Franklin Watts, Inc., 1963, p. 216.)"

There are various reasons for this prevalence of anxiety in this last third of the 20th century. Modern technology is producing such rapid and far-reaching changes in our standards of living that some people become anxious simply trying to keep up. In addition, the mass media has made it possible for us immediately to be aware of the problems that are going on in the world around us. The tensions in the Middle and Far East; our troubled economy; exploding campuses; pollution; over-population; hunger; tension in the ghettos; crime and civil disobedience; the increasing ability of scientists to manipulate and control human behavior; the changing values of youth; and a host of other issues are
constantly bombarding us. Is it any wonder modern man feels anxious?

"A Psychologist Looks At Life" - By Gary R. Collins - Pages 11-12
STANDING AT THE FORKS OF THE ROAD--WHITHER, PILGRIM! 2 Peter 3:17-18

1. Oftentimes I've stood at the forks of a Path, a Road now an interstate & didn't know where I wanted to go.
   A. It was a time of uncertainty.
   B. It was a moment of indecision.
   C. It was a problem not based on fact.

II. On other occasion I've stood at the forks of a road clearly marked. I understood the destiny, I knew the end results. For the conclusion I have none to hold accountable but myself.
   A. This day I stand at such a road.
   2 Pet. 3:17-18 "Ye therefore, beloved seeing that
   B. I have two choices:
      1. Fall from my own steadfastness.
      2. Or grow in the grace & knowledge of our Lord.

III. Seeing the choice to be made, what facts are at my disposal.
   A. I know the way & the end result: "Seeing that ye know these things before"
      1. Calls me beloved.
         (a) Does it 4X in II Peter.
      2. Says I know
         (a) To forewarn is to forearm.
         (b) Bespeaks certainty.
         (c) Danger of being seduced
             Danger by being seduced.
   B. One Road I should shun
   V. 17 "Beware lest ye also
1. In the international signs God puts a slash across that arrow – "No left turn."

2. Word beware interesting
   (a) Watch
   (b) Keep guard
   (c) Protect
   (d) Command to be heeded at once!

3. Error of the Wicked is the cause for that road.
   (a) Word error comes from root "to wander - stray about.
   (b) False doctrines mislead.
   (c) False teacher is in sin

Matt. 15:14 "Let them alone; they be blind leaders of
   (d) Error destroys the soul.
   (e) Apprehension that one may be in error should make you:
   (1) Diligent
   (2) Candid
   (3) Careful
   (4) Prayerful
   (f) Every intermission of Chr. duty is harmful.

Eph. 4:13 "Till we all come in the unity of the faith,
   (g) Error of wicked is strong - note carried.

C. The Other Way - Route of Growth.

V. 18 "But grow in grace & in the knowledge of of our
1. Grow is a present imperative - continue growing.
   (a) Religion is susceptible of cultivation & growth.
   (b) God gives us time to prepare for eternity.

2. Grow in grace & knowledge of Lord.
   (a) Grace - His way.
3. What makes for growth?
(a) Study of subjects Peter's just finished.
(b) Must be life before growth - Rocks don't grow.
(c) Suitable conditions - light, soil, heat, rain.
Eph. 4:14-15 "That we henceforth be no more children
(d) A tree not a complete reality at once but from
beginning to end there is progress.
(e) Need symmetry of character - grow in all graces
avoid spiritual deformity.
(f) Study, attend, consistent prayer, faithfulness in
work make for growth.

4. That Special day
(a) There comes a day that never ends
(b) To the day of eternity - no end.
(c) Lit. forever - to the day of eternity.
In 1832, when Abraham Lincoln was the newly commissioned capt of the Bucktail Rangers, his troop, marching in platoons, was confronted by a fence with a gate that was tightly locked. Capt Lincoln had no idea of the proper order under such circumstances, but his wit did not desert him: "The company is dismissed for two minutes," he ordered. "Then it will fall in on the other side of the fence."
13 THE IMPORTANCE OF LOVE

"Love one another, as I have loved you."—John 15:12

"A heart attack may depend on how well the person is loved," a very prominent doctor recently reported. "The prevention of disease depends on the psychological as well as the social climate the person lives in," he added.

A study was made of two hundred women who suffered complications after giving birth to their first babies. It was discovered that those who had had to make recent social adjustments—changing residence, quitting a job—with little warm support from family or husband stood a 90 percent chance of complications, while those who felt well-loved ran only a 30 percent chance. The doctor in the study further stated that he thought lack of love was the major factor for the higher incidence of infant deaths and diseases of all kinds among ghetto dwellers.

Is it any wonder that Christ commanded us to love one another? If we are in Christ spiritually through the new birth, then Christ should be seen in us by others in the way we treat or love them. To love the "unlovely" is a difficult task; but if He can love us, bad as we are, then through Christ we can and must love others.

If loving others is a problem for you, then why not strengthen yourself with the strength of Christ, as the apostle Paul challenges us to do in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Did you know that someone needs your love today?
9 MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL

"For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me."—Psalm 51:3

The old African chief stood proudly on the trail, his body spotted with ashes and with long scars covering his torso. With an attitude of determination he pushed out his chest and said, "Chief is pretty."

The missionary was his friend and he stood his ground just as firmly. He replied, "No, Chief is not pretty."

The injuries that had produced the scars had been inflicted by the chief himself to impress others with his bravery. He also considered them marks of beauty.

Finally the missionary produced a mirror and held it up before the chief. Seeing the ugly form of his own body in the mirror, the chief jerked it from the missionary's hand and smashed it to pieces.

If man would only look into God's perfect mirror, the Bible, and see himself as God sees him. But man would rather hide from the truth and trample God's Word underfoot, just as the old chief would not see himself as others saw him.

In the Scripture for today, David prayed for forgiveness and cried out, "My sin is ever before me." If we will only see ourselves as David saw himself and face the truth, then there can be forgiveness for sin.

Do yourself a favor. Look in the Book, God's precious and perfect mirror. What do you see?
43 TOO PROUD TO ASK

"Pride goeth before destruction."—Proverbs 16:18

For two and a half days, before their car bogged down in an orange grove, two sisters, one eighty, the other eighty-four years old, drove in circles, confused. The police in rural Lake County found the younger sister just eight miles from the home she was trying to reach. She had died from exposure and exhaustion. The other sister was found in critical condition lying in the shade of an orange tree, her sweater draped over her face to ward off mosquitoes.

A police dispatcher said, "It looks like they were too proud to stop and ask somebody to take them home. They just kept driving, asking directions, and driving. The more they drove, the more confused they became." They drove more than two hundred miles trying to reach their home only twenty miles away. Apparently they drove almost continuously, not even stopping to eat.

What a shame, you say. But I know a more pathetic story about folks "too proud to ask." Only they travel for years instead of days. Years in which pride and self-sufficiency keep them from asking God to help them, with the inevitable consequence of not reaching home, the haven of rest, heaven. "Pride goeth before destruction." The alternative to destruction is found in Romans 10:13: "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

The sisters were too proud to ask for help. Are you too proud to ask help from Him who forgives and leads the way home?