

LESSON OUTLINES

1. Doubt Brings Failure

[Numbers 13:17-32](#); [Hebrews 3:18-19](#)

1. THE PAST—[13:17-20](#)

The people of Israel had been slaves for over four hundred years in Egypt. Now they were ready to leave Egypt and enter Canaan, the promised land.

- Command—[vv. 17-18](#). Twelve spies were sent to spy out the land to see how many people there were.
- Characters—[vv. 19-20](#). They were sent to see if they were good or bad people. Notice: "Be of good courage"—don't be fearful. When God leads us, He will encourage us and help us.

2. THE PARTICULARS—[13:21-27](#)

- Faithfulness—[vv. 21-25](#). They obeyed and went. They did not know the dangers or problems that were ahead, yet they obeyed and went. Oh, how we need obedient people today, people who will obey God's Word!
- Faith—[v. 26](#). Faith caused these spies to go and to search out this land. They were gone for forty days. The entire Christian life is a life of faithfully following the Lord.
- Fruit—[v. 27](#). This was a land of milk and honey, that is, it was the best of all countries. This was the promised land, Canaan!

When God tells us to do something, let us be faithful in obeying and following Him!

3. THE PEOPLE—[13:28-32](#)

- Faithless—[vv. 28-29](#). Doubt and unbelief is sin. Remember, God can do all things! All things are possible with Him. Doubt and unbelief will lead you away from the Lord.
- Faith—[v. 30](#). Caleb was an old man, but had faith in God that they could go in and possess the land. Only Joshua and Caleb had faith they could take the land!
- Fear—[vv. 31-32](#). Don't look at circumstances—have faith in God! God is not dead. God is anxious to meet our needs!

4. THE LOSS—[3:18-19](#)

- Faithless—[v. 18](#). They could not enter because of their unbelief. We must have faith in God to please Him ([Heb. 11:6](#)). Satan always places doubt in the minds of Christians.
- Fear—[v. 19](#). Fear is a type of unbelief. Why fear when God will take care of us? (See [Ps. 37:25](#); [Phil. 4:19](#).) He promised never to leave us or forsake us ([Heb. 13:5](#)).

2. The One True God

[Deuteronomy 6:4](#); "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one."

1. HE IS OMNIPOTENT—*He has power to do all things!*

1. He is the creator.

- All things were made by him ([John 1:3](#)).
- "In the beginning God created..." ([Gen. 1:1](#)).
- All things we see and can't see ([Col. 1:16](#)).
- Creator of the heaven and the earth ([Heb. 1:10-12](#)).

2. He is the controller.

- In Him all things consist (live) ([Col. 1:17](#)).
- He upholds all things by His Word ([Heb. 1:3](#)).

2. HE IS OMNIPRESENT—*Everywhere at the same time!*

- His Character ([John 4:2](#)). God is a Spirit, and since He is a Spirit, He can be all places at the same time. God does not have a body.

- His Concern ([Ps. 46:1](#)). A very present (very quick) help in time of trouble! You don't have to wait for an appointment, nor do you have to wait in line for His help!
- His Compassion ([Matt. 10:29](#)). Not even a sparrow falls to the ground without God seeing it. ([Matt. 6:26](#)). Jesus said that we are of much more worth than the birds! Man was created in God's image! He has a soul! We can talk to God! We can have fellowship with God!

Always keep in mind that God does not sleep. He is always awake and listening to our prayers. He is *always* watching over us in all the things we do!

3. HE IS OMNISCIENT—*He knows all things!*

God is eternal ([Ps. 90:2](#)). Since He is eternal, He has no beginning and no end. Because He is eternal, He knows all things!

- God knows our sorrows ([Ps. 102:13-14](#)). God knows all about our sorrows. He cares. He understands. He is interested in us. Each tear and heartache He sees.
- God knows our sickness ([Heb. 4:15](#)). He knows each pain. In fact, He took all our sickness upon Himself ([Isa. 53:5](#); [1 Peter 2:24](#)). God made the body and He can repair it when it is sick!
- God knows our sin ([John 8:3-11](#)). Though He knows our sin, He says to us, "Go and sin no more." We can't hide sin from God! He *knows* all; *sees* all; *records* all!
- God knows our shortcomings ([Ps. 103:14](#)). He knows that we fail, yet with kindness, He forgives.

3. God Calls Isaiah

[Isaiah 6:1-13](#)

1. THE WORSHIP—[vv. 1-4](#)

- Sacred—[v. 1](#). When Uzziah died, Isaiah had a vision of the Lord. It was a vision revealing God's majesty.
- Seraphim—[v. 2](#). This angel had six wings. God's presence was so powerful and sacred that the angel hid his eyes.
- Sinlessness—[v. 3](#). Note the words, "Holy, Holy, Holy; the whole earth is full of His glory." God is holy. He is perfect, and without sin.
- Singing—[v. 4](#). "Such singing it was! It shook the Temple to its foundations, and suddenly the entire sanctuary was filled with smoke".

2. THE WOE—[vv. 5-7](#)

1. Confession—[v. 5](#). Note three things in this verse:

- Undone—Isaiah had no defense against God's holy justice.
- Unclean—he felt his own uncleanness and that of his people.
- Unfit—he saw he was unfit for heaven and the presence of God. Compare with [Matt. 5:8](#), [Heb. 12:14](#).

2. Cleansing—[vv. 6-7](#). The seraphim flew to Isaiah with fire from heaven, placed it on Isaiah's lips and cleansed his life. Christ's blood cleanses man from all sin—[1 John 1:7](#).

3. THE WORK—[vv. 8-10](#)

1. Call—[v. 8](#). God asked, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Isaiah responded, "Here am I; send me." He did not say, "I can't do it" or, "Others are more qualified than I." He said, "Send me."
2. Confusion—[vv. 9-10](#). The people would hear, but not understand. Many people don't understand because they refuse to understand.

4. THE WONDER—[vv. 11-13](#)

1. Problem—[vv. 11-12](#). The people would not listen to God's Word, nor warnings of the coming judgment. Very few people today will listen to the message of the coming judgment found in [Revelation 20:11-15](#).

2. Patience—[v. 13](#). God asks us to be faithful. We should not give up—see [Gal. 6:9](#). We must continue to sow the seed, and trust God with the results. Many people rejected even the words of Jesus while He was on the earth (see [John 15:18-20](#)).

4. Our Wonderful Savior

[Isaiah 9:6](#)

1. WONDERFUL PERSON

- His character—[I Peter 2:22](#). There was no fault found in Christ. He is the perfect Son of God, without sin.
- His concern—[Matt. 20:32](#). Christ was willing to help all those in trouble, or those with problems.
- His compassion—[Matt. 9:36](#). Compassion really means "love in action." Christ not only had love—He showed it. Words mean very little if we do not put them into practice.

No person lived like Christ. The whole world remembers His birth, death, and resurrection. He is truly wonderful.

2. WONDERFUL POWER

- Divine power—[Matt. 8:16](#). Christ healed all who were sick. He healed the broken hearts, the broken bodies, and the broken lives.
- Dedicated power—[Matt. 18:11](#). Christ's mission was to seek and save the lost. He left His beautiful home in heaven, and came into this sinful world to live, teach, suffer and die.
- Denouncing power—[Matt. 9:28-33](#). Christ's power overcame demon power. Satan and demons cannot remain where Christ is present.
- Dictating power—[Mark 4:39](#). He even had power over nature. The wind and waves had to obey Him.

3. WONDERFUL PROMISES

- The promise of salvation—[Mark 16:16](#). All man needs to do is to simply believe. If he doesn't believe, he is lost!
- The promise of security—[John 14:27](#). Man seeks security in many different ways, but real peace comes only through Christ. Note the words of [Isa. 26:3](#). Also see [Phil. 4:7](#).
- The promise of satisfaction—[John 14:1-3](#). "In my Father's house" speaks of heaven. Some day, if we believe in Him, we will go to be with Christ. If we die before He returns, we will go to live with Him (see [John 3:16](#)).

It has been estimated that there are 32,000 promises in the Bible. All are true! God will keep His Word. Accept His promises.

4. WONDERFUL PROVISION

- Provision for our physical need—[Isa. 53:5](#), [I Peter 2:24](#). God is interested in our souls, minds, and bodies.
- Provision for our material need—[Phil. 4:19](#). God does not cater to all our wants, but He does meet our needs—[Matt. 6:25-34](#).
- Provision for our spiritual need—[John 8:11](#). God planned our salvation, Jesus paid for it, and the Holy Spirit brings it. Through His blood we have forgiveness—[Heb. 9:22](#), [I John 1:7](#).

5. Christ's Name

"... and his name shall be called Wonderful"—[Isa. 9:6](#).

1. WONDERFULLY UNUSUAL

- His existence before creation—[John 1:3](#). Christ is responsible for the world's existence.
- His entrance into the world—[Luke 2:8-14](#). Angels announced the birth of Christ.
- His exit from the world—[Acts 1:9-11](#). Forty days after the resurrection, Christ ascended into

heaven.

All three of these scripture passages describe unusual events. In fact, those events could never surround a mere man.

2. WONDERFULLY *UNIQUE*

- His conception—[Matt. 1:23](#). Christ was born of a virgin—a miracle birth. This was a fulfillment of [Isa. 7:14](#), written in 742 B.C.
- His character—[John 1:27](#). He was perfect, without sin! He knew no sin, but tasted sin for all mankind—[I Peter 2:22](#).
- His concern—[Matt. 18:11](#). He came to seek and to save the lost.
- His compassion—[Matt. 9:36](#). He wept over Jerusalem—[Matt. 23:37](#). He wants all men to be saved—[II Peter 3:9](#).

3. WONDERFULLY *UNEQUAL*

- His preaching—[Matt. 7:28-29](#). Christ was the greatest teacher that ever lived, and His life was the greatest sermon.
- His patience—[Mark 15:14-20](#). When He was mistreated and persecuted He did not fight back, but showed patience toward all people.
- His pity—[Luke 23:34](#). Even on the cross, He forgave those who were killing Him.
- His pardon—[I John 1:7, 9](#). Christ offers forgiveness of all sin. But note Jesus' words in [John 8:11](#)—"Go and sin no more."

4. WONDERFULLY *UNCOMMON*

- His Superiority—[9](#). His name is above all names. Only in His name can we have salvation—[Acts 4:12](#).
- His Saving Power—[Heb. 7:25](#). He is able to save all people. No sin is too great for Him to forgive.
- His Sovereignty—[John 14:6](#). No man may go to God in prayer, not to heaven except through Christ.
- His Sacrifice—[Heb. 10:12](#). Christ made one sacrifice to cover every sin of man. All we must do is accept this sacrifice.

6. Seeking God

"And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart" [Jer. 29:13](#).

1. THE ATTITUDE

"And ye shall seek me."

- Sincere seeking—[Isa. 55:6](#). Seek God when you feel Him speaking to you. He honors sincere seekers. God often moves us to pray, but if we keep putting it off, our hearts become hardened toward Him.
- Sanctified seeking—[Hos. 10:12](#). Note the progression: (a) sow in righteousness, (b) reap in mercy, (c) break up fallow (hard) ground, (d) seek the Lord, and (e) righteousness will rain upon you.
- Surrendered seeking—[Matt. 6:33](#). Seek first the kingdom of God. We must not follow our selfish ambitions, but God's plan and purpose for our lives.

2. THE ANSWER

"And [ye shall] find me."

- Promise—[Jer. 33:3](#). God longs to do great things through us, if we only ask Him. He will do more than we ask!
- Prayer—[Matt. 7:7-9](#). Note the persistence needed in prayer: (a) asking, (b) seeking, and (c) knocking. A right heart that persists in prayer will get a response from God ([James 5:16](#)).
- Purity.

- Confession—"Confess your faults one to another."—[James 5:16](#).
 - Cleansing—[Ps. 139:23, 24](#). Confession brings cleansing.
 - Person—[5:16](#). "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." Not any man, but a righteous man.
 - Power—[James 5:17](#). Elijah was a man just like we are; yet God sent His power in answer to Elijah's prayer. Note that "he prayed again." He did not give up. We must not give up. We must keep praying. God will answer!
3. THE ATTENTION
- "When ye shall search for me with all your heart."
- Definite praying—[5:17](#). Have a definite time each day to pray. Just as you eat at regular times, have special, regular times to pray.
 - Detained praying—[Isa. 40:31](#). Wait on the Lord; allow God to speak to you.
 - Determined praying—[Gen. 32:26](#). Note that Jacob said "I will not let go." Are we able to pray those words?
 - Dedicated praying—[Dan. 6:10](#). Daniel prayed and gave thanks even when he knew it was dangerous to do so. Prayer does not only consist of asking... it is thanking and praising!

7. Jeremiah's Faith

[Jeremiah 32:1-9, 13-15](#)

1. THE TESTING—[vv. 1-5](#)
- Prison—[vv. 1-2](#). Nebuchadnezzar had made slaves of all the Jewish people. At times Jeremiah probably wondered if God had forsaken and forgotten him.
 - Protection—[Matt. 28:20](#). Christ is with us to the end of this age.
 - Promise—[Heb. 13:5](#). He will never leave us nor forsake us.
 - Punishment—[vv. 3-5](#). The Lord was testing Jeremiah's faith. Later, God would punish Nebuchadnezzar.
Since we are God's people, we can expect to be tested by Him in various way. The purpose of such testing is to make us better and stronger Christians.
2. THE TRYING—[vv. 6-9](#)
- Prophecy—[v. 6](#). When God speaks—obey. No matter what others may say, follow the Lord's commands.
 - Plan—[vv. 7-9](#). Hanameel, Jeremiah's cousin, offered to sell the land. Jeremiah bought it, because the Lord promised that later the Jews would possess that land.
 - Promise. Notice how Jeremiah acted on faith. God wants us to do likewise; He always honors faith. We must always expect an answer when we pray.
 - "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you"—[Matt. 17:20](#).
3. THE TRIUMPH—[vv. 13-15](#)
- Trust—[vv. 13-14](#). God instructed Jeremiah to buy the land. He did not question God. He made no excuses... he bought the land. We also must never doubt God. He knows what He is doing!
 - Triumph—[v. 15](#). Jeremiah's purchase of the land seemed foolish to others. But Jeremiah knew that the all-wise God does not make mistakes. God knows the past, present and future. He works everything together for His glory.

Those who are not spiritually-minded cannot understand spiritual things, and do not care to fellowship with those who are concerned with spiritual matters.

8. Receiving From God

[Jeremiah 33:3](#)

1 THE PERSON

"Call unto Me." Call upon God, our Heavenly Father.

- Call upon Him in times of temptation—[I Cor. 10:13](#). He will not permit us to be tempted beyond what we can bear. Christ was tempted, but did not give in to sin. Therefore, He is willing and able to help us overcome temptation—[Heb. 2:18](#).
- Call upon Him in times of trouble—[Ps. 46:1](#). Everyone faces troubles and problems, but the Lord is near to help. He may or may not remove the trouble. If not, He'll give us the grace and patience to go through the trouble.
- Call upon Him in trials—[I Peter 1:7](#). Being tried or tested by the Lord can empower us to be better and stronger Christians.
- Call upon Him in trauma—[Ps. 34:6](#). When trouble or tragedy arises, it is good to know that the Lord hears when we call upon Him.

2 THE PROMISE

"And I will answer thee."

- God answers according to His way—[Isa. 55:8](#). God's ways are not our ways. His thoughts are not our thoughts. He knows what's best for us, and will work out things accordingly.
- God answers according to His Word—[John 15:7](#). If we abide in Him, and His Word abides in us, we can ask what we want, and He will give it unto us. For each promise in the Bible, there is a condition for us to meet.
- God answers according to His will—[I John 5:14-15](#). If we pray according to God's Word, He hears us. May we always pray as Jesus prayed, "Thy will be done." We must avoid selfish prayers.

3 THE PROVISION

"And show thee great and mighty things, which you know not."

- Showing—"Show thee great and mighty things."
 - Power to meet spiritual needs—[Matt. 5:6](#).
 - Power to meet physical needs—[Exod. 15:26](#), [Isa. 53:5](#). God is not only interested in the soul—He's interested in the whole man.
 - Power to meet material needs—[Phil. 4:19](#). Note also the promise from [Ps. 37:25](#).
- Scope—"That you know not."
 - Promise—[Matt. 19:26](#). If we believe, all things are possible.
 - Power—[Eph. 3:20-21](#). He is able to do more than we ask or even think.

9. Called to Be a Watchman

[Ezekiel 3:5-19](#)

1. THE MISSION—[vv. 5-9](#)

- People—[vv. 5-6](#). Ezekiel was sent to God's people (Israel), who once followed God, but had rebelled.
- Practice—[v. 7](#). Israel refused to listen to God. Throughout the Old Testament, God blessed Israel, but they quickly forgot Him. Man has not changed since then. Notice the future of those who forget God—[Ps. 9:17](#). The house of Israel was impudent and hardhearted.
 - Impudent—the Israelites were disrespectful.
 - Hardhearted—the people were stubborn.
- Power—[vv. 8-9](#). God strengthened Ezekiel, giving him the needed power to warn those who forgot God.

2. Like Ezekiel, all Christians have a mission—[John 15:16](#). Our mission is to reach the world with the gospel—[Mark 16:15](#). This is a difficult task, but God is helping us to accomplish it.
3. THE MIGHT—[vv. 10-14](#)
 - Words—[v. 10](#). God promised to give Ezekiel the words to warn Israel of its sin. God will also help us as we witness.
 - Work—[v. 11](#). Ezekiel was told to go and speak to the people, whether they listened or not. There are many who reject God's message. However, we must be faithful in giving the message, no matter if it is accepted or rejected.
 - Wonder—[vv. 12-14](#). Ezekiel had a vision. Before working for God our spiritual eyes must be open. We, too, must have a vision.
 - A vision of God—[Isa. 6:1-8](#)
 - A vision of hell—[Luke 16:19-31](#)
 - A vision of the lost—[Prov. 29:18](#)
 - Too many Christians are spiritually blind. All about us are men and women who are lost, and need salvation. May we let God open our spiritual eyes.
4. THE MESSAGE—[vv. 15-21](#)
 - Sharing—[v. 15](#). For seven days Ezekiel "sat with the people." He knew how they felt. He knew their problems. He went to where the people were.
 - Solemnity—[vv. 16-19](#)
 - Watchman—[vv. 16-17](#). God told Ezekiel he was a watchman to warn Israel of coming danger. We also must warn of the coming judgment.
 - Wicked—[v. 18](#). Like Ezekiel, we must warn the wicked (guilty). If we do not warn them, their blood will be upon our hands. We are responsible for the wicked.
 - Warning—[v. 19](#). If we warn the wicked ones, and they refuse to listen, then we are no longer responsible for their souls.
 - Seriousness—[vv. 20-21](#). We must be faithful in witnessing. If a man doesn't accept Christ, he will be lost and go to hell.

10. From Death Unto Life

[Ezekiel 37:1-4](#)

1. THE LACK—[vv. 1-2](#)
 - Spirit—[v. 1](#). The Spirit showed the prophet Ezekiel the valley of dry bones. It was a symbol of Israel being dead spiritually. Since all men are born in sin they are spiritually dead—[Eph. 2:1-7](#).
 - Showing—[v. 2](#). There was a valley of dry bones. There were no bodies, no flesh, and no life. The Bible says that those who live in pleasure are dead while they live—[I Tim. 5:6](#).
 - Look—[Eph. 5:14](#). Such people are commanded to wake up, and arise from spiritual death.
 - Life—[John 11:25, 26](#). There is spiritual life only in Christ.
2. THE LIFE—[vv. 3-10](#)
 - Prophecy—[vv. 3-4](#). God asked Ezekiel "Can these bones live?" Ezekiel was told to prophesy God's Word to the bones.
 - Promise—[v. 5](#). "Behold I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live." Note the spiritual parallels here—[John 3:16](#).
 - Power—[vv. 6-7](#). New life was put into the dead, so they would know the power of the Lord. The bones began to rattle, and began to come together.
 - Problem—[v. 8](#). Now the bones came together. They had flesh, but they had no life. In the same way, a man may be alive physically, but dead spiritually.
 - Plan—[v. 9](#). Ezekiel was told to prophesy, and ask the wind to blow upon the bones.

- People—[v. 10](#). Life came into the bodies. They became a great army, filled with life and power.
3. THE LIVING—[vv. 11-14](#)
- Picture—[v. 11](#). The bones were symbolic of Israel, which was spiritually dead. There appeared to be no life—no hope!
 - Power—[v. 12](#). God promised that the Jewish people, scattered among heathen nations, would return to Israel. In the same way, though a man is dead in sin, God can restore him to life.
 - Personally—[v. 13](#). God promised that Israel would come to know Him personally.
 - Personality—[v. 14](#). God said He would put His Spirit within man. Man would have God's law written on his heart, and would obey the Lord.

11. Handwriting On the Wall

[Daniel 5:1-31](#)

1. THE FEAST—[vv. 1-4](#)
- Shame—[v. 1](#). Belshazzar had a great feast. He invited many to attend, but he didn't invite God. However, we see that God came anyway.
 - Sacrilegious—[vv. 2-3](#). He used the vessels from the Temple in the wrong way. God's house should be kept holy and pure. Note also that he had many wives and concubines. Belshazzar's life was filled with the pleasures of this world, which do not last.
 - Sin—[v. 4](#). As the people drank, they praised the idols of wood, gold, silver, brass and stone. What small, powerless things to worship! They did not recognize the one true God, who created all these things.
2. THE FEAR—[vv. 5-9](#)
- Hand—[v. 5](#). Suddenly, the king saw a hand which wrote on the wall. God was taking strong measures to get Belshazzar's attention. God had surely spoken to Belshazzar before, but the king had disobeyed.
 - Horror—[v. 6](#). The "mighty" king was now filled with fear. No doubt all those present were also afraid of the strange moving hand.
 - Helpless—[vv. 7-8](#). All the wise men were called to interpret the message on the wall, but no one could decipher the words.
 - Hysterical—[v. 9](#). All assembled saw the king become so fearful that he lost control of himself. He became confused and upset, not knowing the meaning of the handwriting on the wall.
3. THE FATE—[vv. 10-31](#)
- The person—[vv. 10-16](#). Daniel was called in to interpret the dream. God used dreams in Bible times to warn men.
 - The punishment—[vv. 17-25](#). Daniel reminded Belshazzar how God humbled his father Nebuchadnezzar, causing him to eat grass like an animal. Daniel warned Belshazzar that God would judge him, too.
 - The prophecy—[vv. 26-28](#). Daniel explained the words on the wall:
 - Mene—God has numbered thy kingdom and finished it.
 - Tekel—Thou art weighed in the balances and found wanting.
 - Peres—Thy kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.
 - The plight—[vv. 29-31](#). That very night, Belshazzar's kingdom was taken from him as Daniel predicted.

12. The Request for Righteousness

[Hosea 4:1-17](#); [5:1-15](#); [6:1-11](#)

1. ISRAEL'S STUBBORNNESS—[4:1-17](#)

- Indifference—[vv. 1-2, 4](#). Three things had disappeared from Israel: (a) Love of God, (b) Faithfulness to God, (c) Knowledge of God. The people were swearing, lying, and stealing; they were committing murder, adultery, and all types of violence. Instead of confessing their sins, they were excusing them.
- Ignorance—[vv. 6, 11](#). They were ignorant of God's Word—[8:12](#). They ignored the prophets sent to warn them—[6:5](#). They turned their backs upon God—[7:13](#). They forgot God's goodness and blessings—[13:6](#).
- Idolatry—[vv. 12-13, 17](#). The people began indulging in strange superstitions. They practiced heathen worship in heathen temples. They were wandering far from the Lord.

2. ISRAEL'S SORROW—[5:1-15](#)

- Pride—[vv. 4-6](#). Pride separates men from God, both on earth and in eternity. God said that the people of Israel would make a sacrifice to Him, but it would be too late. Note the importance of seeking God when the Spirit calls—[Gen. 6:3, Isa. 55:6](#).
- Punishment—[vv. 12, 15](#). Israel followed man's way and not God's. The Lord said He would send punishment and judgment to bring them to repentance.
- Pride causes men to reject Christ. It makes men stubborn, and causes them to thwart the work of God. Satan uses pride to destroy many people.

3. ISRAEL'S SALVATION—[6:1-11](#)

- The plan—[vv. 1-3](#). God desired that the people of Israel repent and change their way of living. [V. 3](#) speaks of the "latter rain," which was a symbol of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (fulfilled in [Acts 2:1-4](#)).
- The problem—[v. 4](#). Israel's repentance was not sincere. The people were momentarily sorry for their sins, but not sorry enough to stop sinning. To repent means to turn from sin, to forsake evil and follow God.
- The patience—[v. 11](#). God would never completely destroy Israel, because He planned that Christ, the Messiah, would come out of Israel.

13. Returning to God

[Joel 2:12-20](#)

1. THE COMPASSION—[vv. 12-14](#)

- Repenting—[v. 12](#). God wants us to turn to Him with all our hearts.
 - Fasting—[Mark 9:28, 29](#). It sometimes takes this extra effort to defeat Satan.
 - Weeping—[Acts 20:31](#). Paul shed tears over the lost.
 - Mourning—[James 4:9](#). We should mourn over the lost.
- Rending—[v. 13](#). In ancient times, rending a garment was a sign of sorrow. God says, Don't rend your garments—rend your hearts. God doesn't want a mere outward show of repentance—He wants an inner change.
- Results—[v. 14](#). If we shed tears, it will produce joy. Compare with [Ps. 126:5-6](#). Also see [Gal. 6:9](#).

Compassion is more than love; it is love at work. To be a mature Christian, you need compassion.

2. THE ASSEMBLY—[vv. 15-16](#)

- Solemnity—[v. 15](#). The Lord wanted the people called together. This indicates the importance of attending God's house—[Ps. 122:1, Heb. 10:25](#).
- Sanctify—[v. 16](#). All ages should come together, to be made holy by the Lord. As we consecrate our lives to God, we will be made holy, and we will be faithful unto God. Remember, you are the church. The church can only be what you make it.

3. THE CONTRITION—[v. 17](#)

- Praying—"Weep between the porch and the altar." Jesus prayed for His followers ([John 17](#)). He wept for the lost ([Matt. 23:37](#)), and when He saw sorrow ([John 11:35](#)).
- Pleading—"Spare my people." Paul expressed this same deep desire to save Israel in [Romans 9:3](#).
Every person without Christ is on his way to hell. We should be as concerned as Paul was for the lost—we should especially be as willing to forfeit our own happiness and security to communicate the gospel.

4. THE COMPLETENESS—[vv. 18-20](#)

God will respond to us when we obey Him.

- Pity—[v. 18](#). God sees the heart of man—[I Sam. 16:7](#). When we are honest before God, He will answer us.
- Promise—[v. 19](#). If we keep His commands, and obey His laws, then He will answer—[II Chron. 7:14](#).
- Power—[v. 20](#). Victory will come when we follow the Lord. If we meet His conditions, He will send victory.

14. The Warning of Amos

[Amos 5:18-27, 6:1-6](#)

1. THE SORROW—[5:18-20](#)

- Surety of judgment—[v. 18](#). God's judgment may not be immediate, but it is inescapable. Note the coming judgment to sinners—[Rev. 20:11-15](#), [Heb. 9:27](#). Note the judgment for Christians—[II Cor. 5:10](#), [Rom. 14:10](#), [12](#).
- Sorrow of the judgment—[vv. 19-20](#). Man must reap what he has sowed. There are only two options—death or life. Look at the choices in [Rom. 6:23](#). Amos preached against the evil and sin of his day. This kind of preaching isn't always popular.

2. THE SACRIFICES—[5:21-27](#)

- Practices—[v. 21](#). Like many Christians and churches—the house of Israel allowed sin to enter, destroying the good.
- Problem—[v. 22](#). The people offered sacrifices, but did not offer themselves to the Lord. See [12, 2](#).
- Plan—[v. 23](#). The people of Israel sang and played instruments in their "worship" services, but God was not impressed with their empty ceremony. They had ritual, but not reality.
- Plight—[2](#). God warned them that if they refused righteousness, He would have to send His judgment. The Lord has not changed in His attitude toward sin and evil.
- Piety—[vv. 25-26](#). They appeared to worship the Lord, but their hearts went astray in worshipping false gods.
- Punishment—[v. 27](#). Because of their disobedience, God said he would allow them to suffer and be punished.

3. THE LAZY—[6:1-8](#)

- Lazy—[v. 1-2](#). Here is a picture of self-sufficiency. Israel felt no need for God's help; the people were resting upon past victories. Note the word "Woe"—how terrible would God's judgment be upon these people!
- Serious—[vv. 3-4](#). Israel did not realize how serious God's words were. The people were too indifferent.
- Singing—[vv. 5-6](#). The people did not sing real, sincere songs as praise unto God. They were more concerned with pleasures than with God's will.
- Suffering—[vv. 7-8](#). God would not tolerate Israel's unfaithfulness—He warned the people that he would destroy Zion.

15. The Prediction of Israel's Fall

[Amos 8:1-14](#)

1. THE DEGRADATION—[8:1-3](#)

- Picture—[v. 1](#). God showed Amos a basket of ripe fruit. God often spoke in parables, even in the Old Testament.
- Prophecy—[v. 2](#). "Then the Lord said, 'This fruit represents my people Israel—ripe for punishment. I will not defer their punishment again'. God would send His punishment and judgment. His patience only goes so far—[Gen. 6-8](#)."
- Punishment—[v. 3](#). "The riotous sound of singing in the temple will turn to weeping then. Dead bodies will be scattered everywhere. They will be carried out of the city in silence. The Lord has spoken".

2. THE DESCRIPTION—[8:4-10](#)

God describes the sins of Israel.

- Dishonest—[v. 4](#). "Listen, you merchants who rob the poor, trampling on the needy". God cannot stand dishonesty. Note [Rev. 21:8](#).
- Deceit—[v. 5](#). "You who long for the Sabbath to end and the religious holidays to be over, so you can get out and start cheating again—using your weighted scales and undersized measures". All types of cheating are sin, and God must judge and punish them.
- Designs—[v. 6](#). "You who make slaves of the poor, buying them for their debt of a piece of silver or a pair of shoes, or selling them your moldy wheat".
- Deeds—[v. 7](#). God said He would not forget the sinful, crooked living and practices of the people.
- Destruction—[vv. 8-10](#). Judgment would come. No one sins without paying for it—[Rom. 6:23](#), [Gal. 6:7-8](#).

3. THE DOOM—[8:11-14](#)

- Famine—[vv. 11-13](#). A famine of God's Word. To guard against such a famine, we must:
 - Hide His Word—[Ps. 119:11](#)
 - Study His Word—[II Tim. 2:15](#)
 - Know His Word—[I Peter 3:15](#)
 - Use His Word—[Heb. 4:12](#)
 - Success through His Word—[Josh. 1:8](#)
- Fall—[v. 14](#). "And those who worship the idols of Samaria, Dan, and Beersheba shall fall and never rise again".

16. Obadiah Predicts Doom

[Obadiah 1-21](#)

1. THE PEOPLE—[vv. 1-4](#)

- Person—[v. 1](#). God showed Obadiah the future. Armies would be sent to destroy Edom.
- Plan—[v. 2](#). God planned to teach Edom a lesson.
- Pride—[v. 3](#). Pride had caused the Edomites to forget and reject God. Pride always destroys people.
- Punishment—[v. 4](#). No one can ever escape God's power—[Num. 32:23](#).
- Condition—[vv. 5-9](#).
 - Suffering—[vv. 5-6](#). This would be the result of God's punishment.
 - Sorrow—[v. 7](#). Allies would turn against them, and friends would betray them.
 - Shame—[vv. 8-9](#). All the wise of Edom would be destroyed; its mighty army would be weak.

- One may suffer without sinning, but one cannot sin without suffering.
2. THE PRACTICE—[vv. 10-14](#)
 - Conduct—[vv. 10-12](#). God's judgment upon Edom was a result of Edom's treatment of Israel. Edom had refused to let Moses and the children of Israel pass through their land—[Num. 20:20-21](#).
 - Cruelty—[vv. 13-14](#)
 - Unkind—[v. 13](#). The Edomites entered the land of Israel in a time of trouble and stole the people's goods.
 - Inhuman—[v. 14](#). Not only did the Edomites steal, but they committed murder.
 3. THE PUNISHMENT—[vv. 15-18](#)
 - Results—[v. 15](#). "The Lord's vengeance will soon fall upon all Gentile nations. As you have done to Israel, so will it be done to you. Your acts will boomerang upon your heads".
 - Rejection—[v. 16](#). Rejection of God would lead to rejection by God.
 - Refuge—[vv. 17-18](#). Man reaps what he sows—[Gal. 6:7, 8](#). God will protect His people.
 4. THE PROPHECY—[vv. 19-21](#)
 - Return—[vv. 19-20](#). God promised that Israel would return to their land.
 - Ruler—[v. 21](#). The Lord will be king. All saints shall reign with Him.

17. God's Call Rejected

[Jonah 1:1-17](#)

1. THE CALL—[vv. 1-2](#)
 - God's call—[v. 1](#). As God called Jonah, so He calls all Christians—[John 15:16](#).
 - God's challenge—[v. 2](#). God wanted Jonah to go and preach to Nineveh, a city of people who had no concern about God.
2. God calls everyone. However, those who are spiritually deaf don't hear this call, and those who are hardhearted ignore it.
3. THE HARDENED—[v. 3](#)
 - Disobedience—"went to Tarshish." This was in the opposite direction of Nineveh.
 - Downward—"Went down." When one runs from God, he goes downward in many phases of his life.
 - Departure—"From the presence of the Lord." Jonah tried to escape God's presence, which is impossible—see [Ps. 139:7-12](#).
4. THE CONFUSION—[vv. 4-8](#)
 - Storm—[v. 4](#). Storms always come when one disobeys God.
 - Sleeping—[v. 5](#). During the storm, Jonah was asleep. He felt no concern for what was happening about him.
 - Safety—[v. 6](#). The sailors begged Jonah to call upon his God. Jonah was ashamed to call upon God, since he was running from Him.
 - Sorrow—[vv. 7-8](#). Running from God causes others to suffer. God sent a storm because of Jonah's disobedience, but the whole crew on the ship was affected.
5. THE CONFESSION—[vv. 9-14](#)
 - Problem—[v. 9](#). Running from God made Jonah fearful.
 - Price—[v. 10](#). There is a price to pay when one rejects God.
 - Plan—[vv. 11-12](#). Jonah asked to be thrown into the raging sea.
 - Patience—[vv. 13-14](#). The sailors didn't want to throw Jonah into the water, since they didn't know that God would protect him.
6. THE COMPASSION—[vv. 15-17](#)
 - Casting—[v. 15](#). The sea stopped raging. In the same way, confession and cleansing brings inner

peace.

- Confession—[v. 16](#). The sailors vowed to serve Jehovah. They were more godly than Jonah at that point.
- Compassion—[v. 17](#). God had prepared a great fish. God could have let Jonah die, but God had a mission for him.

18. God's Call Accepted

[Jonah 2:1-10, 3:1-10](#)

1. THE CRY—[2:1-10](#)

- Prayer—[vv. 1-3](#). Jonah prayed to the Lord from the stomach of the fish. *Now* he prays. Too often people wait until they get into trouble before they pray.
 - Praying should be daily.
 - Praying should be definite.
 - Praying should be dedicated.
- Problems—[vv. 4-8](#). Jonah confessed his disobedience and despair. Before prayer can be answered, one must confess his sin and wrong—see [James 5:16](#). God can not and does not answer prayer when there is sin in the heart—see [Ps. 66:18](#).
- Promise—[vv. 9-10](#). The fish spit Jonah onto the dry ground. Surrender to God always brings deliverance.

2. THE CONSECRATION—[3:1-4](#)

- The call—[vv. 1-2](#). God called Jonah a second time. He wanted Nineveh to be reached and warned. God doesn't always give man the second chance.
 - Seeking—[Isa. 55:6](#). Seek the Lord while He is near.
 - Spirit—[Gen. 6:3](#). God's Spirit doesn't always speak to man.
- Consecration—[vv. 3-4](#). Jonah now completely obeyed God. He preached God's Word to Nineveh.
 - The call to consecrate—[Matt. 4:19](#). As God called Moses, Jonah, and Paul, so He calls us.
 - The compensation through consecration—[Rom. 12:2](#). We are privileged to know and do God's will.

3. THE CONVERSION—[3:5-10](#)

- Repentance—[v. 5](#). The people were repentant, and turned from their sins. When God's Word is preached, it will bring contrition.
- Regeneration—[vv. 6-7](#). The people's lives were changed by God's power. Only God can bring about this kind of change (see [II Cor. 5:17](#)). Man may become religious, but only God can make him righteous.
- Rededication—[vv. 8-10](#). These people gave their lives to God. Repentance plus regeneration will lead us to give our lives to God.

19. God's Requirements for His People

[Micah 6:1-4, 6-9, 13; 7:18-19](#)

1. THE PEOPLE—[6:1-4](#)

- God spoke—[vv. 1-2](#). God voiced His case against Israel. The people had turned away from Him. Note their eight sins—(1) Idolatry—[1:7](#). (2) Coveting—[2:1-2](#). (3) Oppression—[2:2](#). (4) Violence—[2:8-9](#). (5) Witchcraft—[5:12](#). (6) Cheating—[6:10-11](#). (7) Lying—[6:12](#). (8) Bribery—[7:3](#).
- The people's shame—[v. 3](#). God asked why the people had forsaken Him and turned to sin.
- God's service—[v. 4](#). God reminded the people how He freed them from slavery in Egypt.

2. THE PLEASURE—[6:6-7](#)
 - Offerings—[v. 6](#). God asked Israel, "Do you think burnt offerings will make up for your sin and indifference?"
 - Offence—[v. 7](#). All their burnt offerings meant nothing to God, because the people were not sincere.
3. Many are sorry for their sin when they are caught, but not sorry enough to leave their sin and follow God. God tires of people who habitually sin, and then go to Him for forgiveness—only to go back to their sins again.
4. THE PLAN—[6:8](#)
Note the simple requirements by God:
 - Do justly. Be fair at all times to all people in all circumstances. This is part of Christianity.
 - Love mercy, be merciful, and show mercy at all times to all people. Most important, remember God's great mercy toward us.
 - Walk humbly. This is desperately needed in a world filled with pride and inflated egos; Christians are too often guilty of pride.
5. THE PUNISHMENT—[6:9, 13](#)
 - Solemnity—[v. 9](#). Listen to God's voice—judgment is coming! God always warns before sending judgment.
 - Sickness—[v. 13](#). God said He would make the people of Israel sick as the result of their sins. A person may suffer without sinning—but he cannot sin without suffering. Sin always brings sorrow and suffering.
6. THE PARDON—[7:18-19](#)
 - Patience—[v. 18](#). God's patience is beyond understanding. He does forgive all sin—[I John 1:7](#).
 - Pardon—[v. 19](#). He casts our sins into the sea (compare with [Ps. 103:3, 12](#)).

20. Judgment Upon Nineveh

[Nahum 1:1-15](#); [2:1-13](#); [3:1-19](#)

1. THE SUPERNATURAL—[1:1-15](#)
 - Showing—[v. 1](#). God gave Nahum a vision of Nineveh's impending doom.
 - Supernatural—[vv. 2-8](#)
 - Personality—[v. 2](#). He wants our total love and devotion. He will destroy those who oppose Him.
 - Practice—[v. 3](#). God is patient and powerful.
 - Power—[vv. 4-6](#). He has unlimited power—both creating and controlling power.
 - Protection—[vv. 7-8](#). God gives protection to His people in times of trouble. He has the power to destroy His enemies.
 - Stubbornness—[vv. 9-11](#). The Lord promised to destroy those who forgot and stubbornly defied the Lord.
 - Salvation—[vv. 12-15](#). God is all-powerful. He vowed to release His people from the oppressors of Nineveh.
2. THE SUFFERING—[2:1-13](#)
 - Confusion—[vv. 1-6](#). Judgment has begun, and the prophecy has begun to be fulfilled. What God promises will come true. It may take time, but it will come to pass.
 - Captivity—[vv. 7-12](#). The people of Nineveh were not only made captives, but all they owned was destroyed. They were once a great powerful people, but now they were weak. They had been made slaves.
People cannot disobey God, and turn their backs on Him without suffering for it. Sin has consequences—see [Rom. 6:23](#). Not only do you suffer when you sin, but you cause others to

suffer too.

3. THE SORROW—[3:1-19](#)

- Punishment—[vv. 1-3](#). God's judgment fell. Nineveh became a bloody city. What a contrast from when Jonah preached—the people repented and God saved the city. Now the very opposite had happened.
- Purpose—[vv. 4-10](#). All this judgment and suffering was the result of Nineveh's disobedience.
- Prepare—[vv. 11-17](#). Nineveh was told to prepare for more judgment to come.
- Pity—[vv. 18-19](#). Note, "The Lord God is my strength, and he will give me the speed of a deer and bring me safely over the mountain".

21. Prayer for Revival

[Habakkuk 3:1-6, 16-19](#)

1. PRAYER FOR REVIVAL—[vv. 1-6](#)

- Prayer—[vv. 1-2](#). This is a sincere prayer for revival. Regardless of how long a person has known Christ, he may need revival. All churches need revival.
- Personality—[v. 3](#). Note the words, "full of praise." This is always one of the results of revival. When revival comes, praising replaces complaining. Revival causes people to enjoy their Christian experience instead of merely enduring it.
- Power—[vv. 4-6](#). There is no limit to God's power. Allow His power to work through you. Don't be satisfied with being an average Christian—be a giant for the Lord. If one is in touch with God daily, he cannot see the conditions of the world without crying out for revival.

2. PURPOSE OF REVIVAL—[vv. 16-17](#)

- Sin—[v. 16](#). Note how Habakkuk felt:
 - Unclean. He felt like Isaiah when he saw the Lord in the temple—[Isa. 6:1-8](#).
 - Unrighteous. Our righteousness is as filthy rags in God's sight.
- Sorrow—[v. 17](#). God promised to send judgment if man did not change his way. God always warns people before He sends judgment. This has always been God's plan—His message is: Repent, or I'll send my judgment.
- Shame. Sin destroys men and nations.

3. POWER OF REVIVAL—[vv. 18-19](#)

- Rejoicing—[v. 18](#). Revival creates joy. Perhaps the reason there are so many sad people is that they need to be revived. Note [Ps. 16:11](#).
- Righteousness—[v. 19](#). The "hinds" feet are deer feet, which are quick and full of life. Revival produces new life. It creates righteousness.

Christ came to give life—see [John 10:10](#). Only His power can produce this full life which we need.

Lessons from Psalms

22. God and Man

[Psalm 1:1-6](#)

1. The saved man—[vv. 1, 2](#)

- Happiness—"Blessed is the man."
- Habits.
 - Doesn't Walk in the counsel of the ungodly. How can two people walk together unless they agree?—[Amos 3:3](#).

- Doesn't Stand in the way of sinners. The Christian's life must be different from the sinner's—[II Cor. 6:17](#).
 - Doesn't Sit in the seat of the mockers. You cannot be a friend of the world and God both!—[James 4:4](#).
 - Hope—[v. 2](#). Man's hope is in God's Word. He delights in keeping His Word.
2. The successful man—[v. 3](#)
 - Symbol—"And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water." *Water* speaks of life. Note Jesus' words in [John 10:10](#).
 - Success.
 - Practice—"That brings forth his fruit in his season." A Christian should produce fruit—[John 15:5, 8](#).
 - Perpetual—"His leaf also shall not wither." This speaks of growth. See [8](#).
 - Prosperity—"And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." This speaks of success. See [Josh. 1:8](#).
 3. The sinful man—[vv. 4, 5](#)
 - Unsaved—[v. 4](#). The chaff remains with the wheat for a short time, but soon is separated. The sinner may be near the Christian, but will be separated from him—[Rev. 20:15](#).
 - Insecure—[v. 5](#). The sinner will stand at the last judgment—[Rev. 20:11-15](#). The Christian will be with God in heaven.
 4. The Saviour of man—[v. 6](#)
 - Protection—"For the Lord knows the way of the righteous." The steps of a Christian are led by God—[Ps. 37:23](#). If in trouble, He will deliver us—[Ps. 91:15](#).
 - Punishment—"But the way of the ungodly shall perish." Those who believe are saved. Those who doubt will be lost—[Mark 16:16](#). Those who refuse to believe in Christ are already lost—[John 3:18](#).

23. Man's Folly

[Psalm 2:1-12](#)

1. The ambition—[vv. 1-3](#)
 - Folly—[v. 1](#). "What fools the nations are to rage against the Lord! How strange that men should try to outwit God"
 - Foolishness—[v. 2](#). History is filled with men who opposed God: Pharaoh, Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Herod, and others.
 - Freedom—[v. 3](#). "Come, let us break his chains," they say, "and free ourselves from all this slavery to God".
2. The Almighty—[vv. 4-6](#)
 - Plan—[v. 4](#). God is amused at man's plans; He laughs. Who is man to think he is above God? Who is man to think he doesn't need God?
 - Punishment—[v. 5](#). He is displeased with them. God is above all. All men must bow before God—[Phil. 2:10, 11](#).
 - Prophecy—[v. 6](#). Promise of the coming Messiah. The prophets spoke often of the coming Messiah. Note [v. 6](#) from the Living Bible: "For the Lord declares, 'This is the King of my choice, and I have enthroned him in Jerusalem, my holy city.'"
3. The attitude—[vv. 7-9](#)
 - Prophecy—[v. 7](#). Prophecy that Christ always existed—[Gen. 1:26](#). The Trinity is eternal. Christ's birth was his incarnation.
 - Promise—[v. 8](#). This speaks of the time when Christ will rule the world. See [11](#).
 - Power—[v. 9](#). Here we see Christ's reigning power. Compare with [Rev. 19:5](#). This prophecy

preceded the birth of Christ by many years. The best proof of God's Word is the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies in the New Testament.

4. The attention—[vv. 10-12](#)
 - Warning—[v. 10](#). Listen, or change way of living while there is yet time. Repent!
 - Way—[v. 11](#). Note the two-fold way: (a) reverence and respect; (b) rejoice. When we reverence and respect God, rejoicing will follow.
 - Wrong—[v. 12](#). To kiss the Son means to respect Him. If we don't respect Him as our Saviour, we will meet Him as our judge—[Rev. 20:11-15](#).

God first warned, then sent judgment. Today, man has the Bible to warn him. In it are many examples of men who thought they didn't need God and ended up failures.

23. Man's Trouble and God's Help

[Psalm 3:1-8](#)

1. The problem—[vv. 1, 2](#)
 - People—[v. 1](#). The people who opposed the Psalmist. Many were against him. Note Jesus' words in [John 15:18, 19](#). You will always face opposition when you serve God.
 - Plight—[v. 2](#). These people discourage the Psalmist, saying God isn't concerned about his problems. However, God is; He asks us to cast our care upon Him—[I Peter 5:7](#).
2. The protection—[vv. 3, 4](#)
 - The Lord—[v. 3](#). Notice how God is our shield. He protects man. Only God could lift up the head of the Psalmist; that is, encourage him. God encourages us in many ways.
 - The listening—[v. 4](#). The Psalmist calls upon the Lord, and the Lord hears him. The Bible has much to say about how God answers our prayers—[Jer. 33:3](#); [Matt. 7:7-9](#).
3. The peace—[vv. 5, 6](#)
 - Faithful—[v. 5](#). The Psalmist lay down and went to sleep. He had faith God would take care of him. God has promised never to leave us—[Matt. 28:20](#).
 - Fearless—[v. 6](#). Though ten thousand people are against me, I will not be afraid. If God is for me, it doesn't matter who is against me—[Rom. 8:31](#). "The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me"—[Heb. 13:6](#).
4. The power—[v. 7](#)
 - Plea—"Arise, O Lord; save me." If we pray according to God's will, he will hear us—[I John 5:14, 15](#).
 - Personal—"Oh, my God." David knew the Lord personally. He said, "The Lord is my shepherd"—[Ps. 23:1](#). Paul desired to know God personally—[Phil. 3:10](#).
 - Protection—"For thou hast smitten all mine enemies, upon the cheek bone; thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly." Even the strongest animal drops his prey and flees when struck upon the cheek bone.
5. The pardon—[v. 8](#)
 - Hope. Man's only hope of salvation is God. Outside of God there is no salvation—[Acts 4:12](#); [John 14:6](#). We are saved not by what we do, but by what God had done for us—[Eph. 2:8, 9](#).
 - Happiness. Salvation always produces joy—[15](#). See also [I Peter 1:8](#).

24. God's Protection

[Psalm 4:1-8](#)

1. The petition—[v. 1](#)
 - Plea—"Hear me when I call, O God."
 - Provision—"Thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress." God helped the Psalmist when in trouble.

- Prayer—"Have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer."
2. The perversion—[v. 2](#)
Two of man's greatest mistakes, which hurt him and also hurt God and His work.
 - Shame. Turning God's glory into shame. This is done by rejecting God and renouncing God. Man, who was created by God for God's glory, turns away from God.
 - Self. Man's worst enemy. Self becomes an idol. Selfish plans and ambitions come before God. God gives man twenty-four hours per day, yet how much time daily is given back to God?
 3. The promise—[v. 3](#)
 - Purity. Those who live pure lives are set apart by God. Jesus taught that the pure in heart would see God—[Matt. 5:8](#).
 - Promise. The Lord does hear those who call upon Him in simple prayer—[Jer. 33:3](#); [Matt. 7:7-9](#). God answers all prayers of man. He answers yes, no, or wait.
 4. The prayer—[vv. 4, 5](#)
 - Serious. Be careful how you live. Don't sin. Others are watching you. Read [I Peter 4:17, 18](#).
 - Sacrifices—[v. 5](#). Sacrifices of righteousness. Live right and put your trust in the Lord.
 5. The protection—[vv. 6, 7](#)
 - Doubt—[v. 6](#). The ungodly doubt if we Christians have any good in serving God. The non-Christian can't understand why we live without all the things of the world. Yet, we have more enjoyment than they.
 - Delight—[v. 7](#). Gladness in our hearts. It comes from knowing the Lord. It is more than fun—it's joy. It's lasting joy.
 6. The peace—[v. 8](#)
 - Peace—"I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep." All about us may be war, problems, and trouble, but we have the peace of God within our hearts.
 - Protection—"For thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety." Note David's words in [Ps. 26:4](#).

25. Answered Prayer

[Psalm 6:1-10](#)

1. The sympathy—[vv. 1-3](#)
 - Plea—[v. 1](#). The Psalmist asks God not to punish him in anger. He asks for mercy. Should God give us what we deserve, we would all be sent to hell. We need mercy—not justice!
 - Pity—[v. 2](#). "Pity me, O Lord, for I am weak. Heal me, for my body is sick". Sickness can discourage people perhaps more than anything else.
 - Problem—[v. 3](#). The Psalmist is upset, disturbed, filled with gloom. He asks that he be restored (made new). As Christians, we need to consecrate and dedicate ourselves anew. Remember, the Lord is interested in our needs. His heart is touched with our feelings, weaknesses, and sicknesses. He knows all about us. He knows more about us than we know about ourselves.
2. The salvation—[vv. 4-7](#)
 - Pardon—[v. 4](#). He asks God in His kindness to save him and to heal him. Man needs spiritual and physical healing. Christ came to make man whole.
 - Praise—[v. 5](#). If die young, then cannot praise the Lord. There are various ways of praising the Lord. A few are:
 - Singing—[Ps. 100:4](#). It is good for all Christians to learn how to praise the Lord in singing.
 - Praying—[Dan. 6:10](#). Not only asking the Lord for help, but praising Him.
 - Testifying—[Ps. 150:6](#). All people should be willing to testify, telling of God's goodness.
 - Pain—[v. 6](#). "I am worn out with pain; every night my pillow is wet with tears".

3. The separation—[vv. 8-10](#)
 - Answer—[v. 8](#). The Lord heard the prayers and tears of the Psalmist. He sees each tear, feels each pain.
 - Attention—[v. 9](#). He will answer my prayer in one of three ways:
 - Yes—it's His will.
 - No—it's not His will.
 - Wait—it's not His time to answer.
 - Answer—[v. 10](#). "All my enemies shall be suddenly dishonored, terror-stricken, and disgraced. God will turn them back in shame".

26. The Folly of Man

[Psalm 14:1-7](#)

1. The fool—[v. 1](#)
 - Disbelieving—"There is no God."
 - Degenerate—"They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good."
2. The faithful—[v. 2](#)
Faith in God will cause us to seek Him.
 - Importance of seeking God—divine guidance.
 - Impact of seeking God—divine power.
3. The filthy—[v. 3](#)
 - Sinful—"They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy." Compare [Isa. 53:6](#). Man is born in sin—only God can cleanse him.
 - Shame—"There is none that doeth good, no, not one." Man by nature doesn't seek God. But when he sees his need of God, he will seek God and find help.
4. The foolish—[v. 4](#)
 - Without concern—"Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge?" Sinners have knowledge, but not spiritual knowledge.
 - Without compassion—"Who eat up my people as they eat bread." Those without Christ will cheat, lie, and do anything to "get ahead."
 - Without Christ—"And call not upon the Lord." They feel they do not need God.
5. The fearful—[v. 5](#)
Righteousness produces faith.
 - Fear. Respect toward God.
 - Faith. Will result from respect toward God.
6. The faithful—[v. 5](#)
"He is the refuge of the poor and humble when evildoers are oppressing them".
 - Protection from evil people. God permits people to go only so far in hurting His people.
 - Protection from evil practices. Man may seek many ways to destroy and hurt us, but they can go only so far.
7. The forgiven—[v. 7](#)
 - Forgiveness—"From Zion [Heaven]." Salvation is from God.
 - Freedom—"Set free from captivity." Freedom is through Christ.

27. Our Wonderful God

[Psalm 19:1-14](#)

1. The Lord—[vv. 1-6](#)

- Showing—[vv. 1, 2](#). "The heavens are telling the glory of God; they are a marvelous display of his craftsmanship. Day and night they keep on telling about God". All the stars, moon, sun, and planets show the glory of God.
 - Silence—[vv. 3, 4](#). "Without a sound or word, silent in the skies, their message reaches out to all the world". The more man studies the universe, the more he realizes the greatness of its Creator.
 - Splendor—[vv. 5, 6](#). Here we see the greatness of God. All things were made by Him—[John 1:3](#). Also note [Col. 1:16, 17](#). Some teach that the world "just came into being"; this denies the teachings of God's word.
2. The law—[vv. 7-10](#)
 - Perfection—[v. 7](#).
 - Saving—converts the soul. Saves from judgment.
 - Simple—tests the sure, makes simple the wise. So simple that all may understand.
 - Purity—[v. 8](#). The commandments of the Lord enlighten the spiritual eyes and help man understand God's Word and will.
 - Pricelessness—[vv. 9, 10](#).
 - Divine—[v. 9](#). The judgments (decisions) of the Lord are true, righteous, and eternal. They are also fair.
 - Desired—[v. 10](#). His commands, or His Word, are more desirable than gold, and are sweeter than honey.
 3. The longings—[vv. 11-13](#).
 - Commands—[v. 11](#). "For they warn us away from harm and give success to those who obey them".
 - Cleansing—[v. 12-13](#). Note the prayer, "Cleanse thou me from secret faults." A good prayer for all to pray!
 4. The living—[v. 14](#)
 - Prayer
 - Talking—"Let the words of my mouth." See [James 1:19](#).
 - Thoughts—"and meditations of my heart." See [Prov. 23:7](#).
 - Pleasure. "be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer." Note: "Keep your mouth closed and you'll stay out of trouble."

28. God's Power and Protection

[Psalm 27:1-14](#)

1. Forgiveness—[v. 1](#)
 - Salvation—"The Lord is my light and salvation, whom shall I fear?"
 - Strength—"The Lord is the strength of my life." Compare [Phil. 4:13](#).
 - Security—"Of whom shall I be afraid." Compare [Ps. 118:6](#).
2. Fearlessness—[vv. 2, 3](#)
 - Protection—[v. 2](#). Unafraid of those who seek in various ways to destroy him. Compare [Ps. 91](#).
 - Peace—[v. 3](#). "Yes, though a mighty army marches against me, my heart shall know no fear! I am confident that God will save me".
3. Favor—[v. 4](#)
 - Desire—"Dwell in the house of the Lord all my days." See [Ps. 23:6](#).
 - Divine—"To behold the beauty of the Lord all my life." His beauty in nature and salvation.
 - Dedication—"To enquire in his temple." Seeking God—[Ps. 122:1](#). Attending church—[Heb. 10:25](#).
4. Foundation—[vv. 5, 6](#)
 - Protection—"In the time of trouble he shall hide me."

- Power—"Set me upon a rock." Unmovable. Stable.
 - Praise—[v. 6](#). It is good to sing praise unto the Lord—[Ps. 100:2](#).
5. Future—[vv. 7-9](#)
 - A Plea—[v. 7](#). Have mercy—[Ps. 106:1](#).
 - Pleasure—[v. 8](#). I will seek Thy face—[Ps. 55:17](#).
 - Prayer—[v. 9](#). Remain with me—[Matt. 28:20](#).
 6. Forsaken—[vv. 10-12](#)
 - A Adoption—[v. 10](#). Parents may forsake us, but God will remember us. See [John 1:12](#). He is our Father, we are His children.
 - Attitude—[v. 11](#). A desire to know God's will. Compare [I John 2:17](#); [Rom. 12:2](#).
 7. Fainting—[vv. 13, 14](#)
 - Power—[v. 13](#). Without God's power, we all would fail God!
 - Prayer—[v. 14](#). We get God's power by waiting before Him—[Isa. 40:31](#).

29. Our Great God

[Psalm 33:1-22](#)

1. His righteousness—[vv. 1-5](#)
 - Praise—[v. 1](#). Rejoice in the Lord! Nothing defeats Satan more than praise for the Lord.
 - Plan—[v. 2](#). Praise the Lord with the harp and guitar. Many churches have instruments other than the piano and organ. If Satan can use instruments, why can't God use them in the churches?
 - Person—[v. 3](#). We sing a new song after we are made new in Christ.
 - Perfection—[v. 4](#). "For all God's words are right, and everything he does is worthy of our trust".
 - Personality—[v. 5](#). "He loves whatever is just and good; the earth is filled with his tender love".
2. His reality—[vv. 6-12](#)
 - Power—[vv. 6, 7](#). "He merely spoke, and the heavens were formed, and all the galaxies of stars. He made the oceans, pouring them into his vast reservoirs".
 - Praise—[v. 8](#). All people should respect and honor God since He is over all.
 - Personality—[v. 9](#). Here we see God's character; He speaks and it is done!
 - Plans—[vv. 10, 11](#).
 - Power of His plans—[v. 10](#). "And with a breath he can scatter the plans of all the nations who oppose him".
 - Purity of His plans—[v. 11](#). "But his own plan stands forever. His intentions are the same for every generation".
 - People—[v. 12](#). The nation whose people belong to God is blessed.
3. His remembrance—[vv. 13-22](#)
 1. Place—[vv. 13-15](#). "The Lord gazes down upon mankind from heaven where he lives. He has made their hearts and closely watches everything they do".
 2. Problem—[vv. 16, 17](#). "The best-equipped army cannot save a king—for great strength is not enough to save anyone. A war horse is a poor risk for winning victories—it is strong but cannot save". We should depend upon God alone!
 3. Protection—[vv. 18, 19](#). God's eyes are upon His people; He will protect them!
 4. Prayer—[v. 20](#). Waiting before God is important and necessary.
 5. Peace—[v. 21](#). Rejoice in the Lord.
 6. Plea—[v. 22](#). God be with us and help us.

30. Warning for the Christian

[Psalm 37:1-11](#)

1. The fretting—[vv. 1, 2](#)
 - Possessions—[v. 1](#). Don't worry about or be jealous of the sinners' possessions. They cannot take them with them when they die. Love of money (and of material things) is the root of all evil—[I Tim. 6:10](#).
 - People—[v. 2](#). Rich people will soon pass from the earth. They will have no heavenly reward not because of their riches but because of their rejection of God.
2. The faith—[v. 3](#)
 - Person—"Trust in the Lord." Trusting man will mean disappointment. Trusting God never will.
 - Practice—"Do good." One of the fruits of the Spirit is goodness—[Gal. 5:22](#).
 - Promise. We will live in safety, and God will meet all our needs.
3. The fellowship—[vv. 4-6](#)
 - Delight—[v. 4](#). Rejoice in the Lord, and He will give you, according to His will, the desires of your heart.
 - Dedication—[v. 5](#). Commit or dedicate your life unto the Lord—[Prov. 3:5, 6](#); [Matt. 6:33](#).
 - Design—[v. 6](#). Seek God's design (will) for your life. Paul tells us to give our lives unto Him and thus discover the perfect will of God for our lives.
4. The faithfulness—[v. 7](#)
 - Rest—"Rest in the Lord." Tension is not of God. Satan uses this to confuse many people. Learn to relax, knowing God will take care of all things.
 - Respect—"And wait patiently for him." God does not answer prayer late.
 - Realism. Don't worry about the sinner who prospers.
5. The feat—[vv. 9-11](#)
 - Punishment—[v. 9](#). The evildoers shall be destroyed.
 - Patience—[v. 10](#). Be patient. God will take care of the sinners. Their punishment is not our business.
 - Peace—[v. 11](#). The Christian not only has peace in this life; he will have eternal life in heaven.

31. Trusting in the Lord

[Psalm 40:1-16](#)

1. Deliverance—[vv. 1-5](#)
 - Patience—[v. 1](#). Waiting before God always brings an answer to our prayers. It may not be the answer we want, but it will be the right answer.
 - Pardon—[v. 2](#). Praise God for pardon from sin. He will establish our feet upon the unmovable rock, which is God. If we are on the Rock (Christ Jesus), nothing can move us!
 - Praise—[v. 3](#). He has put a song in our mouths, even praise to our God. After salvation comes praise!
 - Purity—[v. 4](#). "Many blessings are given to those who trust the Lord, and have no confidence in those who are proud, or who trust in idols".
 - Past—[v. 5](#). David remembers all of God's blessings to Israel in the past, blessings beyond number.
2. Delight—[vv. 6-10](#)
 - Sacrifice—[v. 6](#). God is uninterested in constant burnt offerings; He wants consistent Christian living!
 - Saviour—[v. 7](#). Quoted by Christ in [John 4:34](#).

- Surrender—[v. 8](#). Christ longed to do God's will. In the garden He prayed, "Not my will, but thine be done."
 - Speaking—[v. 9](#). David told everyone about God's goodness.
 - Sharing—[v. 10](#). David shared all of God's blessings: faithfulness, salvation, and loving kindness.
3. Desire—[vv. 11-16](#)
- Prayer—[v. 11](#). Asking God not to hold back His blessings.
 - Problems—[v. 12](#). So many problems faced David. Without God's help, he could not have faced them all.
 - Plea—[v. 13](#). "Please, Lord, rescue me! Quick! Come and help me".
 - Punishment—[vv. 14, 15](#). "Confuse them! Turn them around and send them sprawling—all these who are trying to destroy me. Disgrace these scoffers with their utter failure".
 - Pleasure—[v. 16](#). Through helping David, God would be magnified. All Christians should magnify (praise) the Lord.
 - Personality—[v. 17](#). Though David failed God, yet God would help him. God is patient and longsuffering!

32. God Our Refuge

[Psalm 46:1-11](#)

1. The refuge—[vv. 1-3](#)
 - Strength—[v. 1](#). God our refuge and strength.
 - Spiritual strength—[Isa. 40:31](#).
 - Physical strength—[Phil. 4:13](#).
 - Stability—[vv. 2, 3](#). Not be afraid though the earth be destroyed. Not fear though the earth be destroyed. Not fear though the mountains be carried into the sea. Note the words of [40:31](#).
2. The river—[v. 4](#)
This speaks of the Millennial river. Note two important things about this river:
 - Happiness—"There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God."
 - Holiness—"The holy place of the tabernacles of the most high."
3. A river always speaks of life and enjoyment.
4. The rock—[vv. 5-7](#)
Though a rock is not mentioned, the stability of God is.
 - Permanent—[v. 5](#). He is with us. He will not forsake—[Matt. 28:20](#).
 - Power—[v. 6](#). He speaks and all things are changed.
 - Personal—[v. 7](#). He is with us. The all-powerful God is with His people always.
5. The respite—[vv. 10, 11](#)
 - Respect—[v. 10](#). Be still and know God. He will be exalted among the heathen. He will be exalted in the earth.
 - Refuge—[v. 11](#). God is our refuge. What need we fear? God is for us, and it doesn't matter who may oppose us.

33. Worshiping the Lord

[Psalm 84:1-12](#)

1. Worship required—[vv. 1-4](#)
 - Attraction—[v. 1](#). "How lovely is your Temple, O Lord of the armies of heaven".
 - Ambition—[v. 2](#). Desire to know God and be near Him, something all God's children should have.
 - Attitude—[v. 3](#). Even the birds are welcome. We should be gentle and kind even to animals.

- Abiding—[v. 4](#). Those who dwell in the house of the Lord praise and love Him.
- 2. *Selah* indicates a pause for those playing musical instruments. The Psalms, remember, are really songs.
- 3. Worship rendered—[vv. 5-9](#)
 - Strength—[v. 5](#). Strength is not in man but in God. Human strength will fail.
 - Springs—[v. 6](#). Springs of water always refresh and satisfy. Christians should refresh and enliven those they meet.
 - Strength—[v. 7](#). They increase their strength. This pictures a person entering Jerusalem, the goal of a long journey. Now he stands in the presence of the Lord.
 - Supplication—[v. 8](#). "O Jehovah, God of the heavenly armies, hear my prayer! Listen, God of Israel".
 - Shield—[v. 9](#). God our shield is asked to protect us in our time of need.
- 4. Worship rewarded—[vv. 10-12](#)
 - Satisfaction—[v. 10](#). Being with God one day is better than a thousand elsewhere. A "doorkeeper" is one who is worthy to enter into His presence.
 - Sufficiency—[v. 11](#).
 - Protection—"For the Lord God is a sun and shield."
 - Kindness—"The Lord will give grace and glory."
 - Promise—"No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly."
 - Safety—[v. 12](#). Those who trust in Him are both safe and blessed.

34. Request and Renewal

[Psalm 85:1-13](#)

1. Security—[vv. 1-4](#)
 - Freedom—[v. 1](#). Freed from captivity. See [John 8:32, 36](#).
 - Forgiveness—[vv. 2, 3](#). He has forgiven all the sins of the people. Compare [I John 1:9](#).
 - Favor—[v. 4](#). Seeking God's favor. Not demanding help, simply asking for it.
2. Spirituality—[vv. 5-7](#)
 - Request—[v. 5](#). God's anger will not last forever.
 - Revival—[v. 6](#). God will revive us again, so we may rejoice with Him. See [II Chron. 7:14](#).
 - Righteousness—[v. 7](#). Asking God to show us His salvation and mercy.
3. Speaking—[v. 8](#)
 - Peace. God gives peace to His people. See [John 14:27](#).
 - Problem. Those who backslide. Many will go back and cease to follow—[John 6:66](#).
4. Salvation—[vv. 9, 10](#)
 - Pardon—[v. 9](#). Salvation is near to those who are near to Him. Saved simply by asking—[Rom. 10:13](#).
 - Peace—[v. 10](#). Righteousness and peace always go together. Right with God, then right with our fellow man.
5. Sincerity—[vv. 11, 12](#)
 - God—[v. 11](#). God, who is righteous, will look down from heaven upon man. He is concerned about man.
 - Goodness—[v. 12](#). God gives good things to his people. See [Ps. 103:5](#).
 - Godliness—[v. 13](#). Godly living for those who trust Him.

35. Thanksgiving

[Psalm 100:1-5](#)

1. Thanks-praising—[v. 1](#)
 - Praise—"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord." Do not make excuses or complaints, but make a joyful noise of praise and thanks.
 - Person—"Unto the Lord." Why praise the Lord? The most important reason: He has saved us from sin—[Ps. 103:3](#).
 - Races—"All ye lands." All God's people should praise Him; everyone who has breath should thank Him—[Ps. 150:6](#).
2. Thanks-serving—[v. 2](#)
 - Serving—"Serve the Lord with gladness." The Bible speaks of joy through salvation—[Ps. 51:12](#), of our joy being full—[I John 1:4](#).
 - Singing—"Come before his presence with singing." The Bible speaks of spiritual songs—[Eph. 5:19](#). We sing because we are happy and free!
3. Thanks-depending—[v. 3](#)
 - Person—"Know ye that the Lord he is God." Because He is God, He will not change—[Heb. 13:8](#); He will not lie—[Titus 1:2](#).
 - Plan—"It is he that hath made us and not we ourselves." Man was made in the image of God—[1:2](#). He didn't just come into being—God created him! Man was made for fellowship with God—[Gen. 2:7](#). Man was created with a soul, which makes possible fellowship with God!
 - People—"We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture." Jesus the Good Shepherd gives His life for His sheep—[John 10:11](#).
4. Thanks-giving—[v. 4](#)
 - Respecting—"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving." Praising God for our blessings will increase them; failing to thank Him will diminish them.
 - Rejoicing—"And into his courts with praise." You can thank and praise at the same time!
 - Recognizing—"Be thankful unto him and bless his name." Recognize Him as God's Son. Recognize the superiority of His name to every other.
5. Thanks-remembering—[v. 5](#)
 - Character—"For the Lord is good." All things that come from God are good and helpful—[Rom. 8:28](#).
 - Compassion—"his mercy is everlasting." God wants all men to repent—[II Peter 3:9](#).
 - Continuance—"And his truth endureth to all generations." God's Word is everlasting—[Matt. 5:18](#).

36. God's Benefits

[Psalm 103:2](#)

1. His past blessings
 - Salvation—[Ps. 103:3](#). Forgiveth all our sins. See [I John 1:7](#). He also forgets our sins!
 - Love—[John 3:16](#); [15:13](#); [I John 4:10](#). He loved us before we loved Him. His love is greater than man's.
 - Friends—[Ps. 133:1](#). It is wonderful for Christians to dwell in unity. There is no substitute for Christian fellowship.
 - Church—[Ps. 122:1](#). Are you glad to attend church? See [Heb. 10:25](#).
 - Health—[Exod. 15:26](#). God's rules for a healthy body. Have you thanked God for a healthy body?

2. His present blessings
 - Material blessings—[Phil. 4:19](#). God has promised to meet all our needs—not all our wants! "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread"—[Ps. 37:25](#). Notice also [Matt. 6:25-34](#). Pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." God will meet our needs!
 - Spiritual blessings—[Matt. 5:6](#). Compare [Ps. 42:1, 2](#).
 - Physical needs—[2](#). God wants us to prosper and be healthy. A strong body honors God. Christ still heals today! [Heb. 13:8](#) He bore our sickness—[Isa. 53:5](#).
3. His promised blessings
 - Guidance—[Prov. 3:5, 6](#). We may not know the future, but we know that He will guide us! See [Ps. 32:8](#).
 - Protection—[Ps. 91:1-7](#). He will protect us from evil if we obey his laws and the laws of man.
 - Hope—[John 14:1-3](#). Jesus may come in the new year. Even if we die before he comes, we will see Him—[1 John 3:2, 3](#).
 - Peace—[6](#). There will always be wars, but we can have the peace of God in our lives.
 - Love—[3](#). God's love for us is everlasting.
 - Strength—[Deut. 33:25](#). Promised strength until our death!

37. God's Goodness

[Psalm 107:1-36](#)

1. God's provision—[vv. 1-9](#)
 - Praise—[vv. 1, 2](#). Give thanks to the Lord. His mercy endures forever. Let those whom the Lord has redeemed say so, or praise Him for it.
 - Protection—[vv. 3-7](#). The Lord led the Israelites for forty years. More than two million were never sick. Their clothes did not wear out. It was forty years of miracles.
 - Provision—[vv. 8, 9](#). Praise God for His provision. Praise Him for His personal provision.
2. God's patience—[vv. 10-22](#)
 - Punishment—[vv. 10-12](#). God's patience goes only so far. Reject Him and He must send judgment.
 - Patience—[vv. 13, 14](#). The people cried to God and He helped them. Often they forgot God, yet He was patient with them.
 - Praise—[vv. 15, 16](#). [Verse 15](#) also appears in [vv. 8, 21, 31](#). How often do you praise the Lord?
 - Problems—[vv. 17-19](#). The history of Israel is one of "forgetting God," then calling upon Him in time of trouble. In [v. 19](#), they call to God, and He hears and answers them.
 - Perfection—[v. 20](#). God sends His word and heals them, delivers them from destruction.
 - Proof—[v. 22](#). Made sacrifices, or proved that "they meant business" with God.
3. God's providence—[vv. 23-36](#)
 - Problem—[vv. 23-27](#). Even sailors, when they have problems know there is a God in heaven. Only fools deny God's existence.
 - Protection—[vv. 28, 29](#). The people call upon God and He answers by calming the storm.
 - Peace—[v. 30](#). "What a blessing is that stillness, as he brings them safely into harbor".
 - Praise—[v. 31](#). See [v. 15](#).
 - Public praise—[v. 32](#). "Let them praise him publicly before the congregation, and before the leaders of the nation".
 - Power—[vv. 33-36](#). God's power is unlimited, and it is all available to Christians.

38. God's Word

[Psalm 119:1-6](#)

1. The person—[vv. 1-4](#)
 - Cleansing—[v. 1](#). The undefiled (clean) walk according to the laws of the Lord. His Word is the best soap for the soul.
 - Completeness—[v. 2](#). Keeping His testimonies and seeking Him with all our hearts. Too many Christians live a half-hearted life.
 - Consecration—[v. 3](#). Do no iniquity (sin), but walk in His ways. His ways are clearly shown in the Bible.
 - Commandment—[v. 4](#). Keeping His precepts diligently. If we love Him, we will keep His commandments.
2. The precepts—[vv. 5-8](#)
 - Longing—[v. 5](#). Desiring to keep his statutes (laws). This desire should grow stronger each day.
 - Loving—[v. 6](#). Being unashamed. Love for God will result in respect for Him. Real love is always obedient!
 - Learning—[v. 7](#). Learning His righteous judgments. God is a just God. He is fair in all His judgments. He is holy in His dealings.
 - Looking—[v. 8](#). Looking unto Christ for help in keeping His statutes. We cannot keep these in our own strength.
3. The purging—[vv. 9-11](#)
 - Purity—[v. 9](#). How can a young man cleanse His way? By obeying the laws of God.
 - Plea—[v. 10](#). David sought the Lord with his whole heart. Note this plea: "O let me not wander from thy commandments."
 - Power—[v. 11](#). If we hide His Word in our hearts, we will not sin against God. We will live an overcoming life daily.
4. The praising—[vv. 12-16](#)
 - Personal—[v. 12](#). Notice: teach me thy statutes. There should be a personal desire to know God's Word.
 - Power—[v. 13](#). Tell all the nations and people of God's great power. This is real witnessing.
 - Praise—[v. 14](#). Rejoice in His testimonies and riches.
 - Precepts—[v. 15](#). Meditate upon His precepts. We need not only read the Bible, but to think about it.
 - Purpose—[v. 16](#). David purposed not to forget God's Word.

39. Cleansing

[Psalm 119:9-16](#)

1. The purging—[v. 9](#)
 - Concern—"How can a young man cleanse his way?" More simply, "How can a person live a holy life?"
 - Cleansing—"By taking heed thereto according to thy Word." "By reading your Word and following its rules". A person who follows God's Word will live a holy life.
2. The plea—[v. 10](#)
 - Prayer—"With my whole heart have I sought Thee." Perhaps the psalmist knew the truth of [Jer. 29:13](#).
 - Plea—"O let me not wander from thy commandments." In plain words, "Help me to obey all thy commandments."

A Christian should always be seeking to improve his Christian living. He should never be satisfied. To be satisfied is to be backslidden.

3. The power—[v. 11](#)
 - Scripture—"Thy Word." God's Word will not pass away. His Word is settled forever in heaven—[Ps. 119:89](#).
 - Security—"Have I hid in my heart." If we hide His Word in our hearts, we'll not sin against God! Jesus said that out of the heart man speaks—[Matt. 15:18](#).
 - Sinlessness—"That I might not sin against thee." The more we hide God's Word in our hearts, the less we will sin against Him.
4. The prayer—[v. 12](#)
 - Praise—"Blessed art thou." All prayer should begin with thanksgiving. Daniel prayed and gave thanks—[Dan. 6:10](#).
 - Plea—"O Lord: teach me thy statutes." He will teach us if we are willing to study—[II Tim. 2:15](#).
5. The Person—[vv. 13-15](#)
 - Witness—[v. 13](#). The Psalmist talked about the good things of God. God seeks people who will witness for Him.
 - Worship—[v. 14](#). Rejoicing is a very important part of worship. The Psalmist rejoiced in God's ways.
 - Ways—[v. 15](#). He respected and meditated upon God's ways. Many have never learned to meditate.
6. The praise—[v. 16](#)
 1. Delight. Delight in God's statutes. He was happy to keep God's laws.
 1. Dedication. He would not forget God's Word!

40. Worship and Protection

[Psalm 121:1-8](#)

1. Practice—[v. 1](#)
 - Lift up your eyes in prayer. Man's only hope is in God, and the only way to reach God is through prayer.
 - Lift up your eyes in praise. Praise opens the communication lines between God and man.
2. God's people should never be found "looking down" but should always be "looking up"—up to the Lord.
3. Person—[v. 2](#)
 - The omnipotent God. The God who is able to do all things. See [Col. 1:17](#); [Heb. 1:10-12](#).
 - The omnipresent God. The God who is at all places at the same time. He is Spirit, and a spirit can be at all places at the same time—[John 4:24](#).
 - The omniscient God. The God who knows all things. He is eternal and knows everything.
4. Protection—[vv. 3, 4](#)
 - Unknown protection. Many times, unknown to us, He is with us, protecting us from evil and danger.
 - Unseen protection. Though we may not see Him, nor His hand, we know He is protecting us.
5. Power—[vv. 5, 6](#)
 - Person—[v. 5](#). He is our keeper. He is personal. He can be felt. We can speak to Him. We can depend upon Him at all times.
 - Protection—[v. 6](#). Nothing can touch us or hurt us without His permission.
6. Preservation—[vv. 7, 8](#)
 - Evil—[v. 7](#). Keeping us from evil. However, He can keep us only as we cooperate with Him.

- Eternal—[v. 8](#). He will preserve us forever. See [Rom. 8:35-39](#).
He can and will keep us, if we only cooperate with Him and abide in Him. See [1 Peter 1:5](#); [Jude 24](#).

41. Sowing and Reaping

[Psalm 126:1-6](#)

1. Rejoicing—[vv. 1, 2](#)
 - Released—[v. 1](#). Freedom from captivity. Freedom always brings joy. Christ came to set man free! Man was born free, but sin made him a slave. Note man's freedom—[John 8:32, 36](#). The truth always sets man free. Jesus said He was the Truth—[John 14:6](#). Freedom brings rejoicing because of the forgiveness of sin—[Ps. 103:3](#), [1 John 1:7](#).
 - Rejoicing—[v. 2](#). Note three things connected to rejoicing:
 - Laughter. Salvation always brings joy.
 - Singing. Happy people always sing.
 - Witnessing. Spread His name among the heathen.

One cannot know the Lord personally without rejoicing and showing happiness.
2. Respect—[vv. 3, 4](#)
 - Praise—[v. 3](#). Gladness because of what the Lord hath done. Gladness for both past and present blessings. Many people pray and plead much before the Lord, but when the answer comes, they do little praising.
 - Prayer—[v. 4](#). Prayer for complete freedom from captivity. A desire to return to the streams of the south. This area was well watered and a fruitful place.
Man was not born to be a slave. God wants him to enjoy full freedom. However, man must choose this freedom.
3. Remorse—[vv. 5, 6](#)
 - Heart-broken, shedding tears. Concern for others will produce tears. Note the desire of Jeremiah—[Jer. 9:1](#). Paul shed tears for three years, night and day—[Acts 20:31](#). Compare with [Isa. 66:8](#).
 - Rejoicing—[v. 6](#). Watering the seed with our tears will produce lasting results. Remember, sowing is much harder than reaping. However, the rewards of reaping cause us to forget all the hard work of sowing.

42. Praising the Lord

[Psalm 150:1-6](#)

1. The place of praise—[v. 1](#)
 - Person—"Praise ye the Lord." Not a religion, man, or denomination, but the Lord!
 - Place—"Praise God in his sanctuary." Note the importance of attending church—[Ps. 122:1](#); [Heb. 10:25](#).
 - Power—"Praise him in the firmament of his power." He is all-powerful; He is above all; He controls all.
2. The purpose of praise—[v. 2](#)
 - Goodness—"Praise him for his mighty acts." His blessings to us spiritually, physically, materially.
 - Greatness—"Praise him according to his excellent greatness." His great saving and keeping power.
3. The particulars of praise—[vv. 3-5](#)
The methods of praising the Lord:
 - Trumpet—[Ps. 47:5](#); [81:3](#)
 - Psaltery—[Ps. 33:2](#); [144:9](#)

- Timbrel—[Ps. 81:2](#); [149:3](#)
 - Harp—[33:2](#); [57:8](#); [98:5](#)
 - String instruments. Various types used in Bible.
 - Organ (similar to flute)—[Gen. 4:21](#); [Job 21:12](#)
 - Cymbals. Plates of brass used in praise.
4. The practice of praise—[v. 6](#)
- People—"Let everything that has breath." If man fails to praise the Lord, the stones cry out in praise—[Luke 19:40](#).
 - Praise—"praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord." All Christians should read [Ps. 100](#) often and practice it daily.
- Praise, like prayer or any other worthwhile habit, must be practiced daily to be successful.

43. Forgiveness

[Matthew 5:38-48](#)

The Old Testament was, "an eye for an eye." Jesus taught that we should be forgiving. The Lord's prayer teaches us to be forgiving. Unless we are forgiving, He will not forgive us

1. THE MEANING OF FORGIVENESS

- The Old Testament law was to get even – [v. 38](#)
(We are not under the law, but under grace)
- Turning the cheek – [v. 39](#)
(This is the acid test of Christianity)
- Do more than what is expected – [vv. 40-41](#)
(Give more than what is asked of you. Go the second mile)

If you follow Christ closely, you will be forgiving

2. THE METHOD OF FORGIVENESS

- Giving – [v. 42](#)
(Give more than you receive)
 - The Old Testament was get even and hatred
The New Testament is love
 - Love your enemies
 - Bless them that curse you
 - Do good to them that curse you
 - Pray for them that spitefully use and persecute you
- The real test of Christianity – being good to those that are against you

3. THE MEEKNESS OF FORGIVENESS

- Children of the Father – [v. 45](#)
(God our father. Brothers and sisters in the Lord)
- Easy to love the lovely – [v. 46](#)
(Need God's help to love the unlovely)
- Easy to salute (respect) your brethren, but what does this prove?
(Real meekness is when you love your enemies)
- The secret of forgiveness – [v. 48](#)
(If you are striving to be perfect, you will be forgiving)

Christ is the best example of forgiveness. Upon the cross He forgave those who were killing Him. No

bitterness or grudge in his heart

44. Devoted

[Exodus 20:1-6](#)

Devotion is love in action. Devotion is more than words! Devotion makes us do the unusual thing

1. DEVOTED BY LOVING

- Love for God – [Matt. 22:37](#)
(Do you love Him with all your heart, soul, and mind?)
- Love for others – [Matt. 22:39](#)
(Do you love others as much as you love yourself?)
- Love for the church – [Ps. 122:1](#)
(Are you glad to attend church?)
- Love for the Bible – [Ps. 119:11](#)
(Make the Bible a part of your daily life)
- Love for the lost – [Jer. 20:9](#)
(Do you have a burning desire to see the lost saved?)

2. DEVOTED BY LIVING

- Begins by accepting Christ – [Rom. 10:13](#)
(Not a man, or a church, but made new through Him)
- A new person in Christ – [II Cor. 5:17](#)
(Not "turning over a new leaf" but He changes us)
- Living above all sin – [Rom. 6:14](#)
(No more a slave to sin, but made free through Christ)
- Free from the besetting sin – [Heb. 12:1-2](#)
(The sin that keeps you from the overcoming life)
- Overcoming habits – [John 8:32-36](#)
(We were not created to be bound! He sets us free)

3. DEVOTED BY LOSING

- Losing our selfish plans – [Matt. 6:33](#)
(Jesus' prayer – "Not my will, but thine be done")
- Losing selfish desires – [Prov. 3:5-6](#)
(He will lead us, but we must be willing to follow)
- Losing our selfish life – [Gal. 2:20](#)
(Here's the secret – Christ living in us)
- Losing our life – [Mark 8:34-36](#)
(Letting His life be our life)

Devotion will make you more faithful to the cause of Christ. It is something that you must work at each day

45. Separation

[II Corinthians 6:14-7:1](#)

1. SEPARATED TO GOD – [Rom. 12:1-2](#)

- Presenting our bodies unto God
(This is our reasonable, required service)
- Be not conformed to this world

- (Not joining the sinful, worldly practices)
 - Transformed by renewing (making new) our minds
(This requires careful thinking and meditation)
 - Finding the will of God
(Progressive steps: the good, acceptable, and perfect)
2. SEPARATED FROM SIN – [II Cor. 7:1](#)
 - Filthiness of the flesh – sins of the body
([Col. 3:5](#), "Mortify [cleanse] your members")
 - Filthiness of the spirit – secret sins
(Besetting sin – [Heb. 12:1](#))
 - Perfecting holiness – must work at holiness daily
(“Come out” – [II Cor. 6:17](#). Something you must do)
 3. SEPARATED FROM UNBELIEVERS – [II Cor. 6:14-18](#)
 - Righteousness and unrighteousness differ
 - Communion and darkness differ
 - Belief and unbelief differ
 - Church and idols differ
(The Christian is required to give up some things to be a success)
 4. SEPARATED WITH CHRIST – [Heb. 13:12-15](#)
 - Made holy through the blood of Christ
(What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus)
 - Holiness brings reproach and persecution
(Living holy always brings persecution)
 - If holy on earth, will be rewarded in heaven
(Jesus' words – [Matt. 5:5](#), "Shall see God")
 5. SEPARATED UNTO HONOR – [II Tim. 2:16, 20-21](#)
 - Refuse profane (worthless) babblings
(This means gossip, false stories, etc.)
 - Cleanse yourself – "a vessel unto honor"
(Let your body be a vessel, through which Christ can work)

46. Giving

[Luke 12:16-21](#); [21:1-4](#); [II Corinthians 9:7](#); [Malachi 3:8-10](#)

"It is more blessed to give than to receive" – [Acts 20:35](#)

1. SELFISHNESS AND GIVING – [Luke 12:16-20](#)
 - Selfishness is an inborn sin. Babies too are selfish
 - Selfishness is a deceptive sin. Leads people away from Christ
 - Selfishness is a destructive sin. Destroys spirituality
 - Selfishness leads to worse sins
 - Selfishness is a damning sin. Causes people to lose their souls
2. SACRIFICIAL GIVING – [Luke 21:1-4](#)
 - The widow gave all she had
(This is the mark of real Christianity)
 - It is not how much we give, but how we give that counts
(Giving to show off, or to be praised is wrong)
 - If we are consecrated and given to God, we will also give our money

(You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving)

- Jesus gave his all when He died. What have you given?

(Give till it hurts! He gave all – can you?)

3. SATISFYING GIVING – [II Cor. 9:6-7](#)

- Giving sparingly, we will reap the same
(Money for all things, but the church – it runs by faith)
- Give with a purpose. Not forced to give, but because you love the Lord
- God loves a cheerful giver, until he brags about it
(Lose your reward if you give to be praised by others)
- Suppose God would be stingy with you?
(No sun, rain, health, strength, friends, home, etc.)

4. SYSTEMATIC GIVING – [Mal. 3:6-10](#)

- Tithing was paid before the law was given – [Gen. 14:20](#)
- Tithing was practiced after the law was given – [Lev. 27:30](#)
(They paid tithes on their animals, farms, etc.)
- Tithing was practiced in the New Testament – [Luke 18:12](#); [Matt. 23:23](#)
(Tithing is for us today too! It's for every born-again Christian)

Give as God hath prospered you – [I Cor. 16:2](#)

Three types of giving: 1) Flint, you must strike it before it gives; 2) The sponge, must squeeze it before it gives; 3) Honeycomb, it overflows

47. Meekness

[Acts 6:5-10](#); [7:51-60](#)

Jesus' words about meekness – [Matt. 5:5](#). There is no "I" in meekness

1. RESULT OF MEEKNESS – [Acts 6:8-14](#)

- Fruits – [v. 8](#)
 - Full of faith
 - Full of power
 - Did many great wonders and miracles
- Fearless – [vv. 9-14](#)
 - "Spoke with wisdom and spirit – [v. 10](#)
 - Conviction brings anger – [vv. 11-14](#)

2. REASON FOR MEEKNESS – [v. 15](#)

- Face shone because of FAITH in Christ
(Faith will change our attitude and countenance)
- Face shone because of FELLOWSHIP with Christ
(Moses' face shone after 40 days with Christ)
- Face shone because of FAITHFULNESS to Christ
(Faithfulness brings us nearer to Christ)

3. REALITY OF MEEKNESS – [Acts 7:55-58](#)

- Saw the glory of God – [vv. 55-56](#)
 - We can see His glory through the eye of faith
 - We can see Christ through His Holy Word
- Suffered for God – [vv. 57-58](#)
 - Rejection of Christ brings hatred
 - Stephen taken outside the city and stoned

- Coats laid at the feet of Saul (Later Paul)
4. REWARD OF MEEKNESS – [Acts 7:59-60](#)
- Surrendered – "Receive my spirit"
(His body being killed, but His spirit to live on)
 - Forgiveness – "Lay not this sin to their charge"
(No hate or bitterness toward his enemies)
 - Transported – "He fell asleep"
(His soul taken home to be with the Lord)
- "God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble" – [James 5:6](#)

48. Faith

[Hebrews 11:1-30](#)

1. PERSUADED MINDS – [Heb. 11:1-3](#)
 - Faith persuades us to believe – [v. 1](#)
(It is believing before we see)
 - Faith persuaded these men to believe – [v. 2](#)
(Of all the men in this chapter, it was faith that made them endure for the Lord)
 - Earth was created by faith – [v. 3](#)
(God just spoke, and it came into being)
2. PROMPT OBEDIENCE – [Heb. 11:8](#)
 - Abraham's call – God still calls people
(God's method to reach man is through man)
 - Abraham's obedience – He obeyed God
(Obedience is the real test of Christianity)
 - Faith and obedience will always get results
(Disobedience is the first step in sinning)
3. PATIENT SEEKING – [Heb. 11:9-10, 13-16](#)
 - Patient toward God – [v. 9](#)
(God is leading – be patient, He will lead all right)
 - Looked for a heavenly city – [v. 10](#)
(As Christians, we too look for this heavenly city)
 - The promised city – [13-16](#)
(They did not have the New Testament promises we have about heaven)
4. PERSEVERING COURAGE – [Heb. 11:23](#)
 - Moses' birth – "To deliver the Israelites"
(God always has a man to carry on His work)
 - Moses' protection – "Hid for three months"
(Here we can see God's protecting hand)
 - Moses' parents – "Not afraid of the King"
(God replaces fear with faith)
5. PERSISTENT CHOICES – [Heb. 11:24-26](#)
 - Moses' stand – [v. 24](#), "Refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter"
(Willing to live a life of separation)
 - Moses' choice – [v. 25](#), "Suffer with God's people"
(The Christian life is a life of hardness and suffering)
 - Moses' reproach – [v. 26](#), "Christ was greater than the reproach"
(He knew the meaning of Jesus' words – [Matt. 5:11-12](#))

Increase your faith. Read the Bible daily – [Rom. 10:17](#). Read and re-read [Hebrews 11](#)

49. Discipline

[I Corinthians 9:24-27](#)

1. DISCIPLINED MIND

- THINKING – [Prov. 23:7](#)
 - Sinful thoughts turn into sinful deeds
 - Your mind needs a daily cleansing from God
- SPEAKING – [Ps. 19:14](#)
 - Average person speaks 18,000 words daily
 - Think before you speak. This will save you heartache
- MURDER BY THINKING – [I John 3:15](#)
 - Hate is equal to murder
 - Love will drive out all hate
- ADULTERY BY THINKING – [Matt. 5:28](#)
 - [Exod. 20:14](#) – God's command
 - Adultery by a thought, an idea, imagination

2. DISCIPLINED HABITS

- EVILS OF SMOKING – [I Cor. 6:19](#)
 - Smoking brings lung cancer – 70 per cent smokers have it)
 - Smoking shortens your life; makes you a slave; defiles the body
- EVILS OF DRINKING – [I Cor. 6:10](#)

(In the same class as thieves, covetous, revilers, money stealers)

 - Results of drinking – [Prov. 23:29-32](#)
 - Deceived by drinking – [Prov. 20:1](#)
 - Separation by drinking – [Rom. 13:13](#)
- EVILS OF DANCING – [Prov. 6:27-32](#)
 - Dancing is the mother of divorce, broken homes
 - 800,000 fallen women in America, 80 per cent because of the dance
- EVILS OF MOVIES – [II Cor. 6:17](#)
 - Most movies are sex, crime, murder, etc.
 - Movie stars are very poor examples for our youth, and unworthy to support with Christian's money

3. DISCIPLINED BODY

- EXAMPLE OF THE BODY – [I Cor. 9:27](#)
 - By keeping your body clean and under control
 - Through your body, you can win people to Christ, or drive them away
- CLEANSED BODY – [Rom. 6:12](#)
 - Sin must be cleansed – a daily spiritual bath
 - Only the blood of Christ can cleanse us
- SURRENDERED BODY – [Rom. 12:1-2](#)
 - Christ must have first place in your life
 - Christ must have first place in your plans

50. Hope

[John 14:1-6](#)

1. SINCERE HOPE – [John 14:1-3](#)
 - Christ's words, "Let not your heart be troubled"
(Have faith in Christ and His words – don't worry)
 - Faith in Christ, "Ye believe in God, believe also in me"
(Notice belief in God and Jesus is important)
 - Preparation, "I go to prepare a place for you"
(Jesus, the carpenter on earth, now building us a home in heaven)
 - Sure words, "I will come again"
 - Shall see Him – [I Thess. 4:13-18](#)
(See Him as He really is. Know Him by the nail prints)
2. SANCTIFYING HOPE – [I John 3:3](#)
 - Changes us now – [I John 3:3](#)
(If we have this hope, we will cleanse ourselves daily)
 - Bodies will be changed – [I Cor. 15:51-52](#)
(Our earthly body will be changed into a heavenly body)
 - Should live a pure life – [Matt. 5:8](#)
(Pure heart will make pure lives)
3. The more we look for the Lord's coming, the better Christian lives we will live
4. SATISFYING HOPE – [Rev. 21:2-4](#)
 - The beautiful city – [v. 2](#)
(John saw the beautiful city as a bride adorned for the bridegroom)
 - The joy of heaven – [Rev. 21:3-4](#)
(The six no mores of heaven)
 - The light of heaven – [Rev. 21:22-26](#)
(There will be no night there. Jesus will be the light)
 - The requirement – [Rev. 21:27](#)
(A place for the pure and holy people)
5. SURE HOPE – [Rom. 5:1-11](#)
 - Justified by hope – [Rom. 5:1](#)
(This really means that He forgives and forgets our sins)
 - Hope through love – [Rom. 5:5-11](#)
 - Hope in times of trouble – [Rom. 5:3-4](#)
(Are you discouraged? Jesus is coming – cheer up)
 - In the Old Testament, people looked forward to Jesus' birth. Now, we look forward to His second coming

51. Love

[I Corinthians 13](#)

1. PRE-EMINENCE OF LOVE – [vv. 1-3](#)
 - Speak like angels, but no love, we are nothing – [v. 1](#)
(This love must be shown daily toward others)

- Understand all things, but no love, we are nothing – [v. 2](#)
 - Have charity, but no love, we are nothing – [v. 3](#)
(May give all we have, but without love, it is nothing)
2. PRINCIPLES OF LOVE – [vv. 4-8](#)
- Never impatient, "Suffers long"
 - Never unkind, "And is kind"
 - Never jealous, "Exalts not itself"
 - Never shows off, "Is not puffed up"
 - Never self-important, "Seeks not her own"
 - Never gets angry, "Slow to anger"
 - Never critical, "Thinks no evil"
 - Never irritable, "Rejoices in truth"
 - Never holds a grudge, "Bears all things"
 - Never self-righteous, "Believes all things"
 - Never gives up, "Endures all things"
3. PERMANENT LOVE – [vv. 9-12](#)
- Real love never fails – [v. 8](#)
(Other things may fail, but real love never fails)
 - Real love will live forever – [v. 8](#)
(Permanent love lives on forever)
 - Real love rewarded by God – [v. 12](#)
(Our love toward Him and others will be rewarded)
- Example of love can be seen in a mother's love. A child may commit terrible sins, yet the mother's love never dies
4. POWER OF LOVE – [v. 13](#)
- Love is greater than faith
(A person may have great faith, yet not have love)
 - Love is greater than hope
(All people hope to go to heaven, yet all people do not have love)
 - Jesus asked Peter, "Do you Love me?" He did not ask him, "Do you have faith or hope?"
"If we love one another, God dwells in us, and His love is perfected in us" – [I John 4:12](#)

52. Waiting On God

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint"—[Isaiah 40:31](#)

We live in a RUSH AGE! Everyone seems to be in a hurry. As Christians, we must take time each day to wait on (before) God. Jesus told us to enter into our closet and shut the door—[Matthew 6:6](#). When we take time for God, our lives will change. People will see Christ in us.

1. THE PEOPLE—"They that wait."
 - Dedication—[Psalm 55:17](#). Here the Psalmist says that he sought God evening, morning, and at noon. A dedicated person will find time to wait before God!
 - Detained—[Acts 2:4](#). Here 120 people waited for 10 days, then God poured out His Holy Spirit to the waiting people. Time spent in waiting before God is not wasted time!
 - Divine—[Psalm 46:10](#). Be still, allow God to speak to you. Prayer is not all *talking*—it is *listening* also! Do you allow God to speak to you?
2. THE PERSON—"Upon the Lord."
 - Saviour—speaks of DIVINITY. Jesus being the Son of God. Jesus being equal with God—

[Philippians 2:5-11](#). He is above all gods! He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords!

- Lord—speaks of DISCIPLINE. God must at times discipline us. Correcting us—[Hebrews 12:5-7](#). When we wait on God, He will take the things out of our lives which are not pleasing to Him.
 - Master—speaks of DEDICATION. When God speaks to us, we obey Him fully. We take up our cross and follow Him—[Luke 9:23](#).
 - King—speaks of DISCIPLESHIP. There are many Christians, but few disciples. Notice Jesus' words—[John 14:23](#). If we really love Him, then we will be His disciple.
3. THE POWER—"Shall renew their strength."
- Physical strength—[Philippians 4:13](#). Notice we can do all things if Christ strengthens us. This strength comes as we wait before God in prayer.
 - Personal strength—[Isaiah 41:10](#). God will strengthen us for every task we face.
 - Powerful strength—[Ephesians 3:16](#). Here it tells of being strengthened in the inner man. This is the strength that sends us forth to do God's work! (Waiting on God is the best tonic or vitamin pills you can buy! Try it, and see how God will strengthen.)
4. THE PROMISE
- The Power—"Shall mount up as wings of eagles." Meaning we are overcomers. We are victorious. We are a success!
 - The Persistence—"Run and not be weary." Strength to do His Work, and be able to work overtime! His Work demands extra effort, therefore, He gives extra strength.
 - The Promise—"Walk and not faint." Going forth in the power and the anointing of the Holy Spirit. This comes about as we wait before God!

Jacob prayed all night! His name and life was changed—[Genesis 32:24-30](#). Wait on God at home. Don't be in a hurry—allow God to speak to you. By doing this, you will find God's Will for your life!

53. Prayer

"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."—[James 5:16](#)

There are many promises in the Bible. However, for each promise there is a condition which we must meet. For example the promise of [I John 1:9](#). God will forgive our sins, but we must confess our sins. Also notice the promise of [Jeremiah 29:13](#). We will find God, if we search Him with all our heart. If we meet the conditions God gives to us, He will keep His promises.

1. THE PURITY OF PRAYER—"Confess your faults one to another."
- Confess our shortcomings—[Galatians 6:1](#). A real Christian will be willing to confess his sin and shortcomings, and forgive others, too.
 - Confess our sins—[James 4:17](#). Many sins are committed by doing nothing! There are sins of commission and sins of omission.
 - Confess our slothfulness—[Psalm 41:4](#). David confesses his sin. He sinned because of his slothfulness. Read [II Samuel 11](#).
 - Confess our stubbornness—[I Samuel 15:23](#). A disobedient and a stubborn person loses the touch of God upon his life. Many are stubborn and will not forgive. They hold bitter feelings and grudges. Read very carefully and memorize [Ephesians 4:32](#).
2. THE PRACTICE OF PRAYER—"The effectual fervent prayer."
- Daily.
 - David's prayer—[Psalm 55:17](#)—three times daily.
 - Daniel's prayer—[6:1](#)—three times daily.
 - Psalmist prayer—[Psalm 72:15](#)—notice: prayer continually.
 - Determined.
 - Personal prayer—[James 5:17-18](#)—notice: "And he prayed again."

- Persistent praying—[I Thessalonians 5:17](#)—attitude in praying.
 - Patience in praying—[Luke 18:1](#)—never give up in praying.
3. THE PERSON OF PRAYER—"Of a righteous man."
 - Sin hinders Prayer—[Psalm 66:18](#). It need not be a "big sin"—anything which opposes God is sin. Anger, gossip, etc., which appear to be "small sins" are big sins to God!
 - Sensuality hinders prayer—[James 4:3](#). Using God's blessings on our fleshly desires. Those in the flesh cannot please God!
 - Selfishness hinders prayer—[I John 5:14](#). Always seek God's will before you pray. Not self-will, but God's will! BEFORE YOU PRAY BE SURE YOU ARE RIGHT WITH GOD AND RIGHT WITH MAN!
 4. THE POWER OF PRAYER—"Availeth much."
 - Fire of God—[I Kings 18](#); [James 5:17](#). Elijah prayed just a simple 63—word prayer and the fire of God fell.
 - Freedom by God—[Daniel 6:16-24](#). Because Daniel was faithful to God in prayer, God remembered him and answered his prayer.

Don't waste your time in praying! Be sure you are right with God. Be sure you are right with man. Only as you have the fruits of the Spirit in operation in your life ([Galatians 5:23](#)) will your prayers be answered. Perhaps your prayers will not be answered immediately, but they will be answered.

54. Learn to Pray

"Lord, teach us to pray."—[Luke 11:1](#)

There are many ways in which we can pray. However, we will list just a few ways, which will be helpful in your daily prayer toward God.

1. POSITIVE
"But let him ask in faith, not wavering [doubting]."—[James 1:5](#)
2. PRIVATE
"But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut the door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."—[Matthew 6:6](#)
3. PERSISTENT
"And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint."—[Luke 18:1](#)
4. PERSONAL
"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."—[Matthew 26:41](#)
5. POWER
"Call upon me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."—[Jeremiah 33:3](#)
6. PRAISE
"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name."—[Psalm 100:4](#)
7. PRACTICE
"And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."—[Jeremiah 29:13](#)
8. PREVAILING
"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."—[Matthew 7:7, 8](#)
9. PATIENCE
"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."—[Isaiah 40:31](#)
10. PASSION

"Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin—; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou has written."—[Exodus 32:32](#)

Prayer is breath to the soul! Make prayer a daily habit. Prayer will give you strength to overcome temptations. Prayer will calm your nerves. Pray as a person! Pray as a church. See God's power through prayer.—[Matthew 18:19](#).

55. How to Pray

"Lord, teach us to pray..."—[Luke 11:1](#)

Prayer is like anything else we do—we learn through practice! The Bible teaches us to pray. Prayer is so simple, yet man makes it confusing. Just as we talk to other people, so we talk to the Lord. Many times man wastes time because he does not know how to pray. Prayer should be *definite*. It should be *daily*. It should be with *dedication*.

1. MEANING OF PRAYER

- The Purpose of Prayer—[Job 23:3](#). Job had a great desire to seek and to know God.
- The Promises of Prayer—[II Corinthians 1:20](#). All of God's promises are sure. He cannot lie!
- The Power of Prayer—[Jeremiah 33:3](#). No limit to His power.
- The Purity of Prayer—[James 5:16](#). Notice there is power in prayer when the person is a *righteous man!*
- The Persistence of Prayer—[Luke 18:1](#); [I Thessalonians 5:17](#). Never give up in your praying.
- The Peril of Prayer—[Psalm 66:18](#). It need not be a "big sin" which keeps God from answering prayer!

2. MESSAGE OF PRAYER

- Surrendered Praying—[Matthew 26:39](#), Jesus the Son of God was fully surrendered to God and sought to do His will.
- Sorrowful Praying—[Romans 9:3](#). Paul's heart was broken for the lost souls of men and women.
- Simple Praying—[I Kings 18:25-40](#). Here Elijah prayed just sixty-three words and God answered by sending fire upon the sacrifice.
- Supernatural Praying—[Genesis 18:10-14](#). It was impossible for Sarah and Abraham to have a son, yet with God all things are possible.
- Strengthening Prayer—[Isaiah 40:31](#). Waiting and allowing God to speak to you.

3. METHOD OF PRAYER

- Preparation. Begin by reading the Bible—[Hebrews 4:12](#). The Bible searches the heart. The Bible produces faith—[Romans 10:17](#).
 - Confession—[James 5:16](#)—"... confess your faults one to another."
 - Cleansing—"Search me"—[Psalm 139:23-24](#)
 - Consecration—[Isaiah 6:8](#), "Here am I, send me."
- Praise. "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise."—[Psalm 100:4](#). Daniel prayed and gave thanks—[Daniel 6:10](#). Too often people beg God but never praise Him.
- Petition. "Let your requests be made known to the Lord."—[Philippians 4:6](#)
 - Attention—Use a prayer list. [II Corinthians 10:5](#)
 - Attitude—[Numbers 23:19](#). God cannot lie. He will answer you.
 - Asking—[Matthew 7:7-9](#). Note the steps: Ask, seek, knock.
 - Acceptance—[Hebrews 11:1](#); [11:6](#). Have faith God will answer.
- Passion. Praying for others.
 - Concerned—[Romans 8:26](#). The Spirit praying through us.
 - Consecration—[Mark 9:29](#). Fasting and prayer.

- Constrained—[Psalm 126:5, 6](#); [Acts 20:31](#). Praying with tears.

Prayer makes us strong in the Lord. Prayer makes us patient. Prayer makes us kind. Prayer makes us grow in the Lord. Prayer makes us work for the Lord. Prayer changes things and prayer changes people. No one can remain the same after having daily prayer.

56. The Privilege of Prayer

[Luke 11:1-13](#)

The Bible has much to say about prayer. All the "great men" in the Bible were men of prayer. Enoch walked with God. Abraham walked with God in prayer. Moses prayed for forty days and nights. Christ spent all night in prayer. As He was alone with God He prayed, "Not my will, but thine be done." The Bible tells us, "Pray without ceasing."—[I Thessalonians 5:17](#). No one can be a successful Christian without praying.

1. THE PATTERN—[Luke 11:1-4](#)

- The Request—[v. 1](#). The Disciples ask Christ to teach them to pray. We should not ask to teach us HOW TO pray, but TO pray. As we pray daily, we will learn how.
- The Rule—[vv. 2-4](#). The model prayer, or "The Lord's Prayer."
 - The Father—"Our Father which art in heaven."
 - The Name—"Hallowed be thy name."
 - The Will—"Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done."
 - The Provision—"Give us this day our daily bread."
 - The Forgiveness—"Forgive us our sins as we forgive others."
 - The Prayer—"Lead us not into temptation."

2. NOTE THIS PRAYER IS DIFFERENT THAN THE LORD'S PRAYER IN [MATTHEW 6:9-13](#). It is good to pray the Lord's prayer; however, we should learn to pray other prayers as well.

3. THE PARABLE—[Luke 11:5-8](#)

- The Problem—[vv. 5-6](#)—A man was in need of bread. God is interested in all our needs, and will meet them—[Philippians 4:19](#). He does not give us all we want, but will meet our every need—[Psalm 37:25](#).
- The Peril—[v. 7](#). Not willing to help. Some people are so busy with self that they have no time to help other people. Notice the words in [I John 3:17](#).
- The Persistence—[v. 8](#). Because of this man's importunity, the man would rise and give him the needed bread.
 - Determined prayer—[James 5:16](#). This type of prayer would bring results.
 - Detained prayer—[John 15:7](#). Abiding in Christ.

4. THE PROMISES—[Luke 11:9-13](#)

- Simple Promise—[v. 9](#). Note the simple steps: Ask, seek, knock. Prayer is so simple that even a child may use it. Prayer is not only words. It is our heart's condition before God.
- Sure Promise—[v. 10](#). Those who ask receive; those who seek find; and those who knock have the door opened unto them. God's promises are sure—He will answer prayer!
- Sincere Prayer—[vv. 11-12](#). When a son asks for bread, the father does not give a stone. If the son asks for a fish, the father will not give him a serpent. GOD GIVES US WHAT WE ASK FOR, PROVIDING IT IS IN THE WILL OF GOD.
- Steadfast Promise—[v. 13](#). If earthly fathers give good gifts to their children, then how much more will God give good gifts to His children.

Don't give up when you pray. God will answer, if you pray in His will. His promises are true—[Numbers 23:19](#). Call upon God and He will answer you—[Jeremiah 33:3](#). For each promise in the Bible there is a condition which we must meet. Make it a daily practice to pray!

57. The Action of Soul-Winning

To win people to Christ, we must GO WHERE THEY ARE! The last command of the Lord was to GO—[Mark 16:15](#). Jesus also told us to compel them to come in—[Luke 14:23](#). Staying at home and praying will not win souls! Hoping that people will accept Christ will not save souls. THERE MUST BE ACTION—WE MUST GO WITH THE GOSPEL!

1. EVANGELIZING

Use these verses first from the book of Romans.

- Problem of Sin—[Romans 3:10](#). No people are born righteous.
- People Who Sin—[Romans 3:23](#). All people are born as sinners.
- Pardon from Sin—[Romans 5:8](#). While yet sinners, Christ died for us.,
- Punishment for Sin—[Romans 6:23](#). The wages of sin is always death. The word "death" means separation from God.
- Proof of Salvation—[Romans 8:16](#). The Holy Spirit shows us that we are children of God.
- Plan of Salvation—[Romans 10:9, 10](#). Notice the twofold plan here: (1) Confess with thy mouth, and (2) Believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead.
- Promise of Salvation—[Romans 10:13](#). Even if there is no "good feeling," if a person calls on Christ, HE WILL BE SAVED!

2. ENCOURAGEMENT

Use these verses from John, showing how Christ will save His people.

- The Promise—[John 1:12](#). Calling on Him and accepting Him makes us Sons of God.
- The Person—[John 3:16](#). Christ has already provided salvation—now we must accept.
- The Punishment—[John 3:18](#). If we don't believe, we are already condemned, or judged!
- The Problem—[John 3:36](#). If we believe in Him, we have life! If not, we have God's wrath, or judgment upon us!
- The Proof—[John 5:24](#). The change which takes place.
- The Pardon—[John 6:37](#). He will turn none away. He forgives all!
- The Plan—[John 14:6](#). The simplicity of coming to Christ. Not through a church or a man—but through Christ.

3. ENDURANCE

After showing these Scriptures and praying with them, then show these verses how God will keep them AFTER THEY ACCEPT CHRIST!

- Power—[I Peter 1:5](#). All of God's power is available to keep us after we accept Christ. We do not stand alone—[Philippians 4:13](#).
- Purpose—[II Timothy 1:12](#). We must purpose (decide) we will live for God. Compare with [Daniel 1:8](#).
- Promise—[Jude 24](#). He is able to keep us perfect!
- Plan—after salvation, follow these simple steps:
 - Read your Bible daily—[Psalm 119:11](#); [Joshua 1:8](#)
 - Pray daily—[1 Thessalonians 5:17](#); [Luke 18:1](#)
 - Attend church regularly—[Psalm 122:1](#); [Hebrews 10:25](#)

Take time with each person. *Allow them to read the verses in the Bible.* If they are Catholic, allow them to read from the Catholic Bible. Remember the Bible produces faith—[Romans 10:17](#). Using reasoning will not get the job done. Always use the Bible. Underline these verses. Have a small New Testament with these verses underlined, so you may find them easily.

58. The Approach of Soul-Winning

"Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves."—[Matthew 10:16](#)

The approach to soul-winning is very important! This will either cause the people to be interested, or cause them to be against spiritual tilings. Remember, we are not making church members—we are leading them to Christ. It takes wisdom in approaching people. If we need wisdom, ask God and He will give it to us—[James 1:5](#). Lack of wisdom drives people away from Christ.

1. THE SPIRIT

- Led by the Spirit—[Acts 8:26](#). An angel told Phillip to go into the desert to win a man to Christ. Compare with [Galatians 5:16](#), seeing how we should walk in the Spirit, then we'll be led by the Spirit.
- Learn from the Spirit—[John 16:13](#). The Holy Spirit will guide us unto all truth! He will help us learn how to win souls.
- Love through the Spirit—[Acts 20:21](#). Paul who before his conversion killed Christians now loves and sheds tears over lost souls!
- Look through the Spirit—[John 4:35](#). The harvest is ripe—we must win people to Christ NOW! Satan has blinded many—[I Corinthians 4:4](#).

2. THE SCRIPTURES

- Plan of Scriptures—[Romans 10:17](#). The Scriptures always produce faith. Don't depend upon feelings—use God's Word at all times.
- Promise of Scriptures—[Hebrews 4:12](#). There is power in God's Word. If you will faithfully use God's Word, it will lead men and women to Christ.
- Power of Scriptures—[John 5:24](#). When believing on the Scriptures, a man's life is changed. He will not face the sinner's judgment, he passes from death to life!

ALWAYS USE SCRIPTURE WHEN WITNESSING. USING REASONING OR MAN'S WAY OF CONVERSION WILL NOT PRODUCE LASTING RESULTS.

3. THE SOUNDNESS

When witnessing remember to talk about:

- Christ not the Church—[John 14:6](#). Christ is the way to heaven. Look at the wrong way—[4:12](#). Tell what Christ can do for all men—His changing power.
- Salvation not Sin—[II Corinthians 5:17](#). Show what happens when a person experiences the new birth—[John 3:1-8](#). Never talk against sin. Talk about salvation.
- Righteousness not Reform—[Ephesians 2:8-9](#). It is through Christ that we are saved. We cannot save ourselves, nor be saved through good works.
- Hope not Holiness—[John 14:1-6](#). After salvation comes holiness! No one can live a holy life until first he accepts this hope in Christ.

4. SIMPLICITY

- Christ the Way—[14:6](#); [John 10:10](#). Along with this use [Romans 10:13](#), "Whosoever shall call UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD...."
- Christ the Truth—[John 8:32](#), [36](#). Only Christ can set a man free from sin. Church membership can't do it.
- Christ the Life—[John 10:10](#). Jesus is the bread of life. John says, "In him was life"—[John 1:4](#).

Three important steps in APPROACHING PEOPLE ABOUT CHRIST: (1) Watching. Watching for opportunities to witness. (2) Wanting. Wanting to witness. If we don't want to witness, we will never win others. (3) Wisdom. At all times use wisdom. This comes only through God.

59. The Appreciation of Soul-Winning

Why don't Christians love the sinners? There are several reasons:

1. Lack of patience. Impatience is a lack of maturity. A mature Christian will be patient with the sinner and the backslider.
2. Lack of prayer. You cannot pray without God touching your heart and giving you a love and compassion for the sinner.
3. Lack of persistence. It is easy to quit and give up. However, Christians should never, never give up on a person.
4. Lack of passion. No love, no concern for the lost. Without loving the sinner, we will never win him to Christ.

1. DIVINE LOVE

- Compassion—[Exodus 32:32](#). Moses' great love and compassion for his people. Do you have love for the lost souls of men and women?
- Concern—[Romans 9:3](#). Paul was willing to be accursed for his people. This love came from God. Do you have this same love?
- Crying—[Jeremiah 9:1](#). The Prophet sheds tears over the lost souls of his day.
- Christ-like—[Matthew 9:38](#). When Christ saw the many people, His heart was broken, and filled with compassion.

2. DEDICATED LOVE

- People—[John 4:4](#). Jesus went through Samaria. These people and the Jews were enemies. Yet Jesus loved them.
- Patient—[Acts 20:24](#). Nothing discouraged Paul.
- Pleasure—[Acts 5:41](#). Joy to suffer for the Lord. All the beatings and persecution could not keep them from serving Christ.

3. DETAINED LOVE

- Prayer—[Matthew 9:38](#). Pray for workers to enter the Lord's work. Love for the lost will cause us to pray daily.
- Preaching—[Acts 4:31](#). After prayer comes the power to witness. Praying makes you more powerful in witnessing—[Luke 24:49](#).
- Power—[Luke 24:49](#). Jesus told His followers to tarry until they be filled with power.

4. DETERMINED LOVE

- Patience—[I Corinthians 13:4](#). Notice that love suffers long and is kind. There is no excuse for a Christian in losing his patience.
- Pure—[I Corinthians 13:5](#). Real love is not easily provoked. It does not become angry. This is pure love!
- Persistent—[Jeremiah 20:9](#). The Prophet was persecuted, yet he could not keep quiet. There was a fire burning in his bones. This is a love that does not *give up* or ever *keep quiet!*

To really have a love for the lost, you need to have a fourfold love:

1. For God—[Matthew 22:37](#). He must be first in our plans, ambitions, and desires. How much do you really love God? Love for God will cause us to love others.
2. For prayer—As you get near to Jesus, you will have the same love He had for the sinner.
3. For the Bible—[Joshua 1:8](#). This is the plan for success. Loving God's Word will show you how to love others.
4. For people—[Jeremiah 20:9](#); [Matthew 22:39](#). This love comes only from God. Be interested in people. Be concerned.

READ OVER AND OVER AGAIN [I CORINTHIANS 13](#). LET THIS LOVE GET INTO YOUR DAILY ACTIONS!

60. The Attitude of Soul-Winning

"And He said unto them, Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also..."—[Mark 1:38](#)

Your attitude—*feeling* and *thinking* will either make you a success or a failure as a soul-sinner. Notice these three attitudes which keep many Christians from winning souls:

1. Defeated attitude. Feeling it's too hard to win people to Christ. These people are defeated before they begin.
 2. Discouraged attitude. If you witness to a person and they do not accept Christ—don't be discouraged. Jesus did not win all people to whom He spoke concerning the things of God.
 3. Disappointed attitude. Many people give up too quickly. Never, never give up!
1. PRAYERFUL ATTITUDE
 - Direction—[Galatians 5:16](#). Walking in the Spirit. Being led by the Spirit. Being filled with the Spirit—[Ephesians 5:18](#). The result of the Spirit-filled life is personal soul-winning.
 - Dedication—[Acts 9:6](#). Paul prayed, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" This dedication made Paul a great soul-winner. Soul-winning should be first in the lives of all Christians!
 - Demanding—[John 9:4](#). Time is short. We must use our time wisely in reaching the lost—[Psalm 90:12](#).
 2. POSITIVE ATTITUDE

Never tell people they can't drink, smoke, etc. BE POSITIVE!

 - Thinking—[Mark 9:23](#). The hardest person can be won to Christ. As we think, so are we—[Proverbs 23:7](#).
 - Testimony—[Acts 4:2](#). Preach Christ. Tell what He has done, and what He can do. Paul preached Christ to the Jews—[Acts 9:20](#).
 - Talking—[Acts 16:31](#). Paul told the jailer to believe in Christ. He did not say, "stop sinning." He was positive, and the jailer and his family accepted Christ.
 3. PLEASANT ATTITUDE

Remember, no one wants a sour, sad, and complaining religion.

 - Concern—[Matthew 9:36](#). Jesus saw the people and had compassion upon them. HE WAS CONCERNED WITH THEM.
 - Considerate—[Matthew 10:16](#). Always use wisdom. Don't visit a person too early in the morning or too late at night. If they are busy, don't force yourself upon them.
 - Christ-like—[John 8:11](#). Never be critical. Never argue. Be kind to them. Never talk against their religion or church.
(REMEMBER A SPOON OF HONEY WILL DRAW MORE FLIES THAN A BARREL OF VINEGAR! Sweetness always wins friends!)
 4. PASSIONATE ATTITUDE
 - Christ-like love—[John 3:16](#); [John 13:15](#).
 - Constrained love—[II Corinthians 5:11](#). Knowing of God's judgment, we love man and seek to lead him to Christ.
 - Consuming love—[Jeremiah 20:9](#). Having a fire in your heart. Many Christians don't have fire—they have smoke in their hearts. Some Christians have "ice cold" hearts.
 - Consecrated love—[Acts 20:21](#). Love that breaks our hearts.

Too many Christians accept defeat too easily in winning souls! This is the wrong attitude. Never, never give up—where there is life, there is hope! Remember, your *feeling* and *thinking* will help you succeed or fail!

61. The Love of God

[I John 4:7-10, 16](#)

God is love. His love is beyond measure. His love is eternal. He loves all people. He is against sin, but loves the

sinner. He loved us before we even loved Him. He sent His Son to die upon the cross for His enemies. Man makes many changes, but God's love never changes. Let's look at three phases of His love:

1. DIVINE LOVE

- His Personality—"... for God is love..."—[I John 4:7b](#). His love reaches to all people of all classes.
 - The high class—[John 3:1-16](#). Nicodemus was a rich man.
 - The low class—[Mark 1:41](#). Jesus touches and heals a leper.
 - The outcast—[John 8:3-11](#). Time for the lowest of sinners—note: "Go and sin no more."
- His Purpose—[II Peter 3:9](#). It is His desire that all accept Him and His way of salvation. He doesn't want to see any lost.
- His Patience—[Romans 5:8](#). He died for us while we were yet sinners. He loved us and died to save us. How many of us would die for an enemy?

2. DEDICATED LOVE

- To the Salvation of Man. "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ..."—[Ephesians 2:4-5](#). Man being lost is not God's fault, since He loves all!
- To the Soul of Man—[Jeremiah 31:3](#). Here the Prophet says that God has loved man with an everlasting love. Though men may reject God, still He loves them. God loved the soul of man and sent Jesus into the world to save man's soul.
- To the Security of Man—[Isaiah 26:3](#). This peace God gives us as a result of God's love to man.

3. DYING LOVE

- Enduring Love—[John 3:16](#). The greatest of all verses of the Bible.
 - Loving—"For God so loved the world." The word "world" here means all mankind.
 - Giving—"That he gave his only begotten Son." God's Son, who was with Him in heaven came into a sinful world to suffer and die! Real love always gives!
 - Saving—"That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." All we must do is BELIEVE!
- Eternal Love—[John 5:24](#). Note the steps: (1) Hearing His Word, (2) Believing on God who sent Him, and (3) Should not be judged, but have eternal life.
- Enjoyable Love—[John 15:13](#). Because He laid down His life, we may have life, an enjoyable life.

Notice the words of John, "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren"—[3:16](#). The answer to the world's problems is for us as Christians to love God—[Matthew 22:37](#). Then we will have a love for:

1. The church—[Psalm 122:1](#). Church will be enjoyable for us.
2. The Bible—[Psalm 119:11](#). We will long to hide it in our hearts.
3. Prayer—We will love to pray—[I Thessalonians 5:17](#).
4. Others—[Matthew 22:39](#). God first, neighbor as self.

62. The Holiness of God

"... Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty, which was, and is, and is to come."—[Revelation 4:8](#).

"... Ye shall be holy: for I the Lord your God am holy."—[Leviticus 19:2](#)

God is holy! He is perfect! God could not look upon Jesus when He was dying on the cross. Christ had all the sins of the world upon Him. God cannot stand sin. Man tries to "bring God down to their level." But God wants people to "come up to His level" of holiness. Peter tells us, "Be ye holy; for I am holy"—[I Peter 1:16](#).

- HIS PERSONALITY IS HOLY
- Perfect—[Hebrews 5:9](#). Christ was made perfect. Both God and Christ had no beginning and will have no end. Man has sought to find fault in Him and His Word, but can find none.
- Personality—[Isaiah 6:1-8](#). Isaiah saw the holiness of the Lord. Notice Isaiah's words, "I am

undone." When we see how *holy* God is, we will see how *unholy* we are!

- Position—[Psalm 24:3](#). Notice here who shall stand in HIS HOLY PLACE. God is holy! Heaven is a holy place for holy people.
- Purity—[Hebrews 4:15](#). Christ was tempted as we are, yet without sin. He is pure and without spot.

2. HIS PROMISES ARE HOLY

- Surety—[Numbers 23:19](#). God is not a man. God does not change His mind. God will keep His Word. His Word is sure. "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever"—[Isaiah 40:8](#).
- Sinless—[James 5:16](#). Notice we must confess our sins and be righteous, then the Lord will answer prayer and keep His promise.
- Standard—[John 15:7](#). For every promise there are conditions which we must meet. Here we must "abide in him."
- Settled—[Titus 1:2](#). God can't lie! God can do many things, but He cannot lie! He will keep His promises.

THERE ARE REQUIREMENTS WHICH WE MUST MEET IN ORDER FOR HIM TO ANSWER OUR PRAYERS—THESE REQUIREMENTS ARE HOLY!

3. HIS PLAN IS HOLY

God's plan for His people is holy. Note these steps!

- The Plea—[II Corinthians 6:17](#). "Come out" and be separate, or live different than sinners and the world.
- The Purging—[II Corinthians 7:1](#). Notice here, "cleanse self" from all filthiness of the flesh.
- The Plan—[I John 2:15-17](#). Loving and taking part in the world. The "world" means the pleasures and the sins of the world.
- The Purity—[Hebrews 12:14](#). Necessary to live a holy life if we expect to see God.
- The Persistence—[I Timothy 5:22](#). Abstain from all the appearance of evil and sin.
- The Practice—[5:22](#). Keep THYSELF pure!
- The Promise—[Matthew 5:8](#). Only the pure in heart will see God. If we can't live pure now, we would feel out of place in heaven.

Since God is holy, all Christians should live a holy life. Holy in: (1) Our Conduct—[Galatians 5:16](#); (2) Holy in our Character—[I Corinthians 9:27](#); and (3) Holy in our Conversation—[1 Peter 1:15-16](#). Since God is holy HE DEMANDS THAT WE LIVE HOLY!

63. The Judgment of God

[Hebrews 9:27](#). Death comes to all, then comes the judgment of God.

God is love. But God is also a God of judgment. God's judgment is the "pay day" for what we have done. God has appointed a day in which He will judge the world—[Acts 17:31](#). The Bible says that God will judge the secrets of men according to the gospel—[Romans 2:16](#). Also the Bible says that man will give account of himself before God—[Romans 14:12](#). You will be judged according to how you live. You must reap what you sow—[Galatians 6:7-8](#).

1. JUDGMENT UPON SELFISHNESS

- Pride—[14:12](#). Notice the five "I will's" in these verses by Satan. Pride is sin and this sin put Satan (Lucifer) out of the glories of heaven.
- Punishment—[Jude 6](#). One-third of the angels along with Satan were put out of heaven. Jesus said that hell was prepared for the devil and his angels—[Matthew 25:41](#). Also notice that the followers of Satan will be cast into hell—[Revelation 12:9](#). Peter tells us that God did not spare the angels who sinned—[II Peter 2:4](#).

2. JUDGMENT UPON STUBBORNNESS

- Deception—[Genesis 3:1](#). Satan comes in a form of a serpent to deceive Eve in the garden.

- Doubt—[Genesis 3:4](#). Satan puts doubt in the mind of Eve saying, "Ye shall not die." Satan always brings doubt and unbelief.
- Decision—[Genesis 3:6](#). Eve saw the tree and wanted it. The Bible warns against lust—[James 1:14-15](#). Eve knew better, but disobeyed!
- Degradation—[Genesis 3:7-12](#). Sin brought fear, so Adam and Eve hid from God. Sin always brings shame and sorrow.
- Destruction—[3:1](#). A curse upon the whole world because of sin!
- Denouncement—[Genesis 3:23-24](#). Adam and Eve are driven from the garden. SIN ALWAYS separates from God.
- Disobedience—[Romans 5:12](#). By Adam and Eve sin entered into the world. Because of this, all are sinners—[Romans 3:23](#).

3. JUDGMENT UPON SIN

- The Sin—[Genesis 6:1-16](#). Notice how man was continually sinful ([v. 5](#)). Also that God was sorry He made man ([v. 6](#))!
- The Stubbornness—[Genesis 6:3](#). Noah preached for 120 years, still man refused to accept God's plan of escape.
- The Surrender—[Genesis 7:14-15](#). All the animals obeyed, but man did not! An estimated 137 million people lived then, only eight saved!
- The Separation—[Genesis 7:16-24](#). God closed the door and judgment came upon those who rejected God's plan.

4. JUDGMENT UPON THE SENSUAL

God sends judgment upon those who use sex in the wrong way!

- Adultery—[Exodus 20:14](#); [I Corinthians 6:9](#); [Matthew 5:28](#)
- Fornication—[Ephesians 5:3](#); [Revelation 21:8](#); [I Corinthians 6:18](#)
- Perversion—[Romans 1:24-27](#). Notice God "gave them up."

5. JUDGMENT UPON SLOTHFULNESS

- Postponing—Now is the day of salvation—[Proverbs 27:1](#). Seek the Lord while He is near—[Isaiah 55:6](#). Refusing warning shall be destroyed suddenly and without warning—[Proverbs 29:1](#).
- Punishment—[Revelation 20:11-15](#). (1) The Judge—[v. 11](#). (2) The Judged—[vv. 12-13](#). (3) The Judgment—[vv. 14-15](#).

Judgment is coming. Notice Christ the righteous judge—[Psalm 96:13](#). Christ is the just judge. Many will be ashamed at Christ's coming—[I John 2:28](#). They will be ashamed to face Him. God keeps good books—[Malachi 3:16](#). Only those who live for God will not be ashamed to be judged! ARE YOU READY?

64. The Jealousy of God

[Exodus 20:3-5](#).

God is a jealous God. He wants *our best!* He wants *all we have!* He will not be satisfied with second place—He must be first—[Matthew 6:33](#). He wants to be King, Lord, and Master. If He is not LORD OF ALL, then He is NOT LORD AT ALL!

1. HE WANTS OUR TALENT

- Divine Talent—[Philippians 4:13](#). God gives us ability to do all things. All talent comes from God. USE IT FOR GOD!
- Dedicated Talent—[Ecclesiastes 9:10](#). Whatever we do, we should put our whole heart into it. Indifference and half-hearted attitudes should have no place in the lives of Christians.
- Demonstrated Talent—[Judges 7:21](#). Gideon's victory came about because "every man was in his place." It takes every person with his talent to make God's work a success.
- Destroyed Talent—[Judges 14-16](#). Samson was given a talent to save God's people. However, playing with sin caused him to lose it.

2. HE WANTS OUR TIME

- Time to Worship—[John 4:24](#). Both at home and in church.
- Time to Wait—[Isaiah 40:31](#). Allowing God to speak to us. Too many people do all the talking when they pray.
- Time to Work—[John 9:4](#). We cannot wait, we must work NOW!
- Time to Warble—[I Thessalonians 5:16](#). Always rejoicing in the Lord. A sad Christian is a poor example of Christianity!

3. HE WANTS OUR TITHES

- The Curse—"Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me..."—[Malachi 3:9](#). God placed a curse because they did not pay tithes.
- The Command—"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse..."—[Malachi 3:10](#). The storehouse is the church. All needs are met when all people bring their tithes into the church.
- The Compensation—"... and prove me now wherewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it"—[Malachi 3:10](#).

4. HE WANTS OUR TONGUE

- Thinking—[Proverbs 23:7](#). We should have the mind of Christ.—[Philippians 2:5](#). We may commit sin by thinking—[Matthew 5:28](#); [I John 3:15](#).
- Talking—[Psalm 19:14](#). Each word should be acceptable in the sight of the Lord. Notice the words of James, "Swift to hear, slow to speak..."—[James 1:19](#).
- Testimony—Your testimony will be affected by how you think and speak.

The wisest man that ever lived said, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths"—[Proverbs 3:5-6](#). When Christ is first, you will have a happy life, but also will be pleasing the Lord. MAKE HIM FIRST IN YOUR LIFE, PLANS, AND AMBITIONS!

65. The Faithfulness of God

"Know therefore that the Lord thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations"—[Deuteronomy 7:9](#)

"I will sing of the mercies of the Lord for ever: with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations."—[Psalm 89:1](#)

Notice the words of Paul, "God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord."

—[I Corinthians 1:9](#). Also, "If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself."—[I Timothy 2:13](#).

Peter tells of "the faithful creator"—[I Peter 4:19](#).

1. FAITHFUL IN SAVING

- Promise—[John 6:37](#). None will be turned away, who call upon Him.
- Pardon—[Psalm 103:3](#). Notice He forgives *all our iniquities!*
- Persons—"He is able to save completely all who come to God through Him. Since He will live forever, He will always be there to remind God that He has paid for their sins with His blood"—[Hebrews 7:25](#) *Living New Testament*.
- Purgings—[Isaiah 1:18](#). Sins made whiter than snow.
- Perfection—[I John 1:7](#). Cleansing from all sin!

2. GOD IS STILL, AND ALWAYS WILL BE, IN THE SAVING BUSINESS!

3. FAITHFUL IN SECURING

- Promise—[I Peter 1:5](#). Kept by God's power until the end.
- Perfection—[Jude 24](#). Present us perfect before the Father.
- Persuaded—[II Timothy 1:12](#). Keep us until we meet Him.

- Power—[Philippians 4:13](#). Power to do all things for Him.
 - Personal—[Hebrews 10:25](#). Faithful is God, who has promised.
4. HE WILL KEEP US IF WE REMAIN IN HIM. SOMETHING FOR US TO DO!
5. FAITHFUL IN SATISFYING
He will satisfy, and meet our every need.
- Physical Needs—[III John 3](#). God wants us to be strong in body.
 - Spiritual Needs—[Matthew 5:6](#). Will meet our needs if we are hungry.
 - Material Needs—[Psalm 103:5](#). He satisfies our mouths with *good things!* Also see [Psalm 37:25](#).
 - Financial Needs—[Philippians 4:19](#). God does meet all needs, but He does not give us everything we want!
6. PERMIT HIM TO MEET ALL YOUR NEEDS!
7. FAITHFUL IN STRENGTHENING
- Strength to Face Sin—[Romans 6:14](#). Sin has no power over us. Compare with [I Corinthians 10:13](#).
 - Strength to Face Sorrow—[Psalm 46:1](#). God is always near to all the sorrowing and those who face trouble.
 - Strength to Face Sarcasm—[Psalm 56:11](#). Not fearful what man may say or do to me.
 - Strength to Stablish—[II Thessalonians 3:3](#). He will stablish us and keep us from all evil.

HE WILL GIVE US STRENGTH TO FACE EVERY SITUATION IN LIFE!

You can depend upon the faithfulness of God. He does not lie!—[1:5](#). God does not change His mind—[Numbers 23:19](#). He is faithful to us even if we are unfaithful to Him. Are we faithful to God? Suppose God were only as faithful to you as you are to Him?

66. The Justice of God

"For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him."—[Romans 10:12](#)

"Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons."—[Acts 10:34](#)

God is just to all people. He has no pets—He treats all people the same. In [John 3:16](#) notice the word "whosoever," which includes all people. The Psalmist says that God is faithful to all generations—[Psalm 119:90](#). Some feel that God loves the Jew more than the Gentile. This is not true! The Psalmist says, "Though the Lord be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly"—[Psalm 138:6](#).

1. HE IS JUST IN SALVATION

- The Sinners—[Romans 3:23](#); [Isaiah 53:6](#). All men are sinners. There are no exceptions.
- The Simplicity—[Romans 10:13](#). Anyone who calls upon Christ will be saved. The rich class, the poor class, the outcast!
- The Saviour—[II Peter 3:9](#). The Lord is not willing that *any* person should perish, or be lost without Christ.
- The Saving—[John 3:1-8](#). Since *all* men are sinners, *all* must be born again by the power of God.
- The Solace—[Matthew 11:28-30](#). Notice invitation is for *all* people.

2. HE IS JUST IN SUFFERING

- The Purpose in Suffering—[Romans 8:28](#). God has a reason. We may not know why, but God is fair and works things for good for you.
- The Plan—[Psalm 119:75](#). Through affliction, or sickness, the Psalmist learns more about God. Sickness sometimes can be a blessing to us.
- The Promise—[II Timothy 3:12](#). Note: *All* who live godly shall suffer persecution.

GOD MAY NOT REMOVE THE SUFFERING, BUT WILL BE WITH US IN THE TIME OF SUFFERING.

3. HE IS JUST IN SICKNESS

[II Corinthians 12:7](#). Paul proves God's justice in sickness.

- The Plan—[v. 7](#). Paul had a thorn in the flesh. This kept Paul humble before God.
- The Prayer—[v. 8](#). Paul prayed three times for the sickness to depart. However, it remained.
- The Purpose—[v. 9](#)
 - Patience—"My grace is sufficient for thee."
 - Perfection—"My strength is made perfect in weakness."
 - Power—"Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

The Psalmist said, "Before I was afflicted I went astray"—[Psalm 119:67](#). Sickness draws people near to God.

4. HE IS JUST IN SEPARATION

Death comes and separates us from friends we love.

- Surety of death—[Hebrews 9:27](#); [Ecclesiastes 8:2](#). Some day we must all face death.
- Sinner's death—[Romans 6:23](#); [Mark 8:36](#); [Revelation 20:15](#)
- Saint's death—[II Corinthians 5:8](#); [Psalm 116:15](#)
- Separation after death—[Revelation 20:11-15](#). Note the "small and the great." No one escapes God's judgment.

God gives all fair treatment. Man has a choice. He chooses to accept God or to reject God. If he refuses God's love, then there is no other hope! God's provisions are for all people. HE IS A JUST GOD!

67. Revival

"Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people."—[Jeremiah 9:1](#)

"But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd."—[Matthew 9:36](#)

Revival brings us near to Christ! We cannot be near to Christ without having a love and compassion for the lost! The closer we get to Christ, the greater our love will be for the lost. When people don't witness, it shows they are not living close to Christ!

1. SEEKING THE LOST

- The People—[John 3:1-8](#). Man must be born again. He must be changed by the power of God—[II Corinthians 5:17](#). There is only one way for man to come to Christ—[John 14:6](#).
- The Problem—[Romans 10:14](#). Man must hear before he believes in Christ. Faith comes by hearing God's Word—[Romans 10:17](#). David said, "No man careth for my soul"—[Psalm 142:4](#).
- The Peril—[John 4:35](#). We should "lift up our eyes" and look upon the lost. Satan blinds many people's vision. Note the words of Solomon—[Proverbs 29:18](#).

2. SORROW FOR THE LOST

- Concern—[Exodus 32:32](#). Moses willing to lose his own soul to see his friends forgiven of their sins.
- Compassion—[Psalm 126:6](#). Shedding tears over the lost. Paul shed tears for three years night and day—[Acts 20:31](#).
- Constrained—[Romans 9:3](#). Paul, willing to be accursed, so that others may be saved.

3. SEEKING THE LOST

- The Command—[Mark 16:15](#). Though this command was given 2,000 years ago, is for all people today, we must put *GO* in the *GO*spel!
- The Call—[John 15:16](#). Not all people are called to be ministers, or missionaries, but all are called to be soul-winners! Some do not hear the call. Others hear the call but fail to obey it!
- The Compensation—[Psalm 126:6](#). God will reward us for our work! There is joy in heaven when

someone is brought to Christ—[Luke 15:7](#). Also there is rejoicing on earth!

4. SAVING THE LOST

- Saved from Sin—[II Corinthians 5:17](#). The new birth changes us from sinners into saints!
- Saved from Separation—[John 5:24](#). Though we face death, we have the hope of living eternally with Christ.
- Saved from Satan—[I John 4:4](#). Greater is Christ, who is in us, than he (Satan) who is in the world.

If there is no love in your heart for the lost—you need revival! If we do not love the lost, then we need to get close to Christ, and He will put in our hearts a love and compassion, which will make us soul winners! The lost are depending upon us! Christ is depending upon us—we must work now—tomorrow may be too late!

68. Ephesus—the Church Without Love

[Revelation 2:1-7](#)

The Ephesian church was the Apostolic church—[Acts 18:9](#); [19:17](#). It was this church which "turned the world upside down"—[Acts 17:16](#). This church was praised by Christ for its works, patience, faithfulness, its knowledge of God's Word, and separation from sin. However, it had lost God's love, or ITS FIRST LOVE! They were so busy doing good things that they had no time to love and worship Christ.

1. THE CHURCH—[vv. 1-3](#)

- Christian Church—[v. 1](#). They were praised by Christ for all the good things they were doing. God remembers our good works—[Malachi 3:16](#).
- Cleansed Church—They were cleansed by Christ's blood. They knew the meaning of [II Corinthians 5:17](#), and [I John 1:7](#).
- Consecrated Church—[v. 3](#). They were living a dedicated Christian life. They were not willing to give up their faith. They knew the meaning of Paul's words in [Romans 12:1, 2](#).

2. THE CHARGE—[v. 4](#)

They lost their love for God. Doing this, they lacked love in:

- Praying. Love causes you to pray. If you love Him, speak to Him!
- People. Love for God will cause us to love people. When you lose your love for God, you lose your love for others.
- Perfection. Love for God will encourage us to be perfect in our living for Christ.
- Persistence. When we lost our love for God, we are not persistent in our daily Christian living.

3. THE COMMAND—[vv. 5-6](#)

- The Wrong—[v. 5](#).
 - Sin—"Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen."
 - Spirituality—"Repent, and do the first works."
 - Sorrow—"If not repent, "else I will come unto thee quickly, and remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent." Meaning God's judgment upon the church.
- The Warning—[v. 6](#). Nicolaitans, meaning, "Balaamites" who induced the Israelites to sin, through lust. See [2](#); [Numbers 31:15-16](#).

When Christians sin, they too need to repent! Too often, Christians think they can live the way they please!

4. THE CONSECRATION—[v. 7](#)

- Realization—[v. 7a](#). Listen as God, through the Spirit, speaks to you. Some people do not live close enough to God to hear His voice. However, remember, Satan has a voice and deceives many people. Be sure you know God's voice.
- Reward—[v. 7b](#). This speaks of heaven. All who are faithfully living the Christian life will be rewarded with heaven as their home. Complete consecration always brings a reward.

The message to the Church of Ephesus is for all churches today! Many today know the teachings of the Bible, yet they have no love. Knowing the Bible is all vain, if we do not have love—[I Corinthians 13:1-3](#). The greatest need among Christians today is to have more love, because the greatest of all is love—[I Corinthians 13:13](#).

69. Smyrna—the Suffering Church

[Revelation 2:8-11](#)

The word "Smyrna" means "myrrh" a sacred perfume. This was used in embalming, associated with death. This is a picture of Christians, who would have to suffer, and be willing to die for the Lord. Peter told us how important it was for Christians to be willing to suffer for Christ—[I Peter 4:12-16](#). This suffering means persecution. Jesus spoke of this in [Matthew 5:10-12](#). Also Paul spoke of this in [II Timothy 3:12](#).

1. THE CHURCH—[v. 8](#)

- Leader—"Unto the angel [leader] of the church." These words in [verses 8-11](#) were for the Christian people of the Smyrna church.
- Lord—"These things saith the first and the last." This means the Lord, who is first and last, having no beginning, nor ending.
- Life—"Which was dead and is alive." Christ is the life. He spoke of us sharing this life with Him—[John 11:25-26](#).

2. THE COMMENTS—[v. 9](#)

- Suffering—"I know thy works and tribulation." God knew how they had suffered for the sake of the gospel.
- Sorrow—"And thy poverty." Many of these suffered poverty because of their stand for the Lord. Sometimes the sinner has much more money than the Christian!
- Slander—"And I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews." This means these people pretended they were Christians, yet persecuted those who stood for the Lord.
- Satan—"But are the synagogue of Satan." This should be made in these words, "THEY SUPPORT THE CAUSE OF SATAN."

3. Christians are misunderstood, hated, and persecuted for the sake of Christ—however, Christ suffered for us, so we must suffer for Him.

4. THE CONSISTENCY—[v. 10](#).

- Fearless—"Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer." Don't be fearful. Don't worry. God will take care of you.
- Fire—"Behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days." The Bible speaks of this as "BEING TRIED AS BY FIRE."
- Faithfulness—"Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." There is a great need for faithfulness in every Christian life!

5. THE CONSECRATION—[v. 11](#)

- Listen—"He that hath an ear." God has given us two ears—just one mouth. Listen twice as much as you speak. Also your mouth is made to close—but the ears should always remain open!
- Learn—"Let him hear what the Spirit says unto the churches." Learn by listening to the Holy Spirit.
- Liberation—"He that overs shall not be hurt by the second death." This means we are not separated from God.

Consecration always brings us near to Christ and brings satisfaction.

Let's consider some of these questions. (1) Are you willing to suffer for the Lord? (2) Have you overcome the world and sin? (3) Have you been living a faithful Christian life? (4) Does your faith make you stand for the Lord? SURRENDER YOUR LIFE FULLY UNTO THE LORD!

70. Pergamos—the Compromised Church

[Revelation 2:12-17](#)

Pergamos represents the Catholic Church. Much of its teachings are the teachings of man. They believe the words of the Pope to be equal to the Bible. In fact, some place the teachings of the church equal, and even to be above the teachings of the Bible. For 1,000 years it was a sin to eat meat on Friday, but in 1966, they said that it was no longer a sin! You will see that the Catholic Church is a CHANGING CHURCH! They believe the Pope to be infallible. *Yet, the Pope is just a man!*

1. THE CHURCH—[v. 12](#)

- Catholic Church. They did not start until about A.D. 300. Read the book of Acts and you'll see the Protestant Church was the first Church—not the Catholic Church!
- Controlled Church. It is controlled by man's traditions. We will list some: (1) Prayers for the dead and the sign of the cross—A.D. 310 (2) Worship of Mary—A.D. 431 (3) Doctrine of Purgatory—A.D. 593 (4) Worship of the cross, images and relics—A.D. 788 (5) Rosary, or Prayer beads—A.D. 1090 (6) Church traditions declared of equal authority with Bible—A.D. 1545 (7) Apocryphal books placed in the Catholic (Douay Version) Bible—A.D. 1546 (8) Virgin Mary Immaculate Conception proclaimed A.D. 1854.

These are just a few of the changes in the CHANGING CHURCH!

2. THE CONSECRATION—[v. 13](#)

As all churches, they *started good*. All churches start good, but time changes them and makes them modern!

- They Were Faithful to God in the Beginning.
- They Were Followers of God in the Beginning.
- They Were Firm unto God in the Beginning. However, starting good does not always mean you remain good!

3. THE COMPLAINT—[vv. 14-15](#)

There have been many churches, which started true according to the Bible. But down through the years they have changed. There has been compromise, a changing of the truth to please people. When man begins to add, or take away from God's Word, it leads to trouble!

- Sin—[v. 14](#). Those who followed Balaam were guilty of committing the sin of fornication. These people accepted this sin as being alright!
- Sensuality—[v. 15](#). They followed Nicolaitans (Greek word for Balaam). God is against this sin! —[I Corinthians 6:9-10](#).

God demands holiness—[Hebrews 12:14](#); [Revelation 21:27](#). God cannot stand sin. Only the pure in heart will see God—[Matthew 5:8](#).

4. THE CHARGE—[v. 16](#)

Here we see the word repent—meaning a need for a change!

- Change Your Attitude. Your feelings and thinking toward God.
- Change Your Action. Walk in the Spirit—[Galatians 5:16](#).
- Change Your Affections. Get in love with the Lord—[Matthew 22:37](#).
- Change Your Appetite. Seek after God—[Psalm 42:1, 2](#); [Matthew 5:6](#).

This church failed God by letting compromise change the church. We dare not compromise to please people—we must always seek to please God! We must obey God's Word and his teaching, or we will become modernistic in our teaching and life. LET'S OBEY GOD'S TEACHING—NOT MAN'S TRADITIONS!

71. Thyatira—the Church in Sin

[Revelation 2:18-29](#)

The church at Pergamos compromised their standards. The Church and State were united. This led to the

Council at Sardica, which led to the establishing the Papacy (Pope and Catholic Church) in A.D. 327. The letter to Thyatira pictures a phase of the church which began with the first Pope in the sixth century and continued to the Great Tribulation under the Antichrist.

1. THE CHURCH—[vv. 18-19](#)

- The Christ—[v. 18](#). The letter to Thyatira is from Christ Jesus.
 - Son of God. On earth He was Son of Man, now He is glorified.
 - Eyes like flame of fire. Symbol of being all places.
 - Feet like brass. Symbol that He has power to do all things.
- The Commendation—[v. 19](#). They were filled with charity, service, faith, and patience. HOWEVER, ALL THESE GOOD WORKS DO NOT PRODUCE CHRISTIANITY—Salvation produces good works, but good works do not produce salvation!

2. THE COMPLAINT—[vv. 20-23](#)

- Sin—[v. 20](#). Jezebel. She was a very wicked woman—[I Kings 16:28](#); [II Kings 9:30-37](#). She was the most wicked woman in the Bible. She encouraged people to commit fornication.
- Sorrow—[v. 21](#). God gave her an opportunity to repent, but she refused to do so. She loved her sins more than God. In the end, this woman, who not only sinned, but persecuted God's Prophets, was killed, and the dogs ate her body—[II Kings 9:30-37](#). Compare this with [Romans 6:23](#); [Ezekiel 18:4](#); [Revelation 20:11-15](#).
- Separation—[v. 22](#). All who took part of this immorality were put in the same class with Jezebel. Notice the people who are guilty of the sins in [Galatians 5:19-21](#) and [Revelation 21:8](#) cannot enter heaven.

3. THE CHARGE—[vv. 24-25](#)

"Hold fast until I come."

- Hold Fast to Your Faith in Christ—[Hebrews 11:6](#).
- Hold Fast and Be Faithful unto Christ—[Revelation 2:10](#).
- Hold Fast and Be Firm in Your Convictions—[James 4:7](#).
- Hold Fast and Follow Christ—[Matthew 4:19](#).

Don't try to play church. Don't take the "indifferent attitude"—but mean business and serve God with all your heart!

4. THE CONTINUANCE—[vv. 26-29](#)

- Power—[v. 26](#). Those who overcome will be given power. This means we will reign with Christ forever.
- Protection—[v. 27](#). This should be translated to read, "He shall be their shepherd." Meaning, He will lead, direct, and protect.
- Promise—[v. 28](#). This means some special reward will be given to those who overcome and live a successful Christian life.
- Personal—[v. 29](#). Listen to what the Spirit has to say. Stay open unto Him, and be obedient!

This letter, though written to Thyatira is for all people TODAY! Perhaps this applies to our generation today more than any other, since we have looser living today than any other generation. So many today say, "We are broadminded"—However, this is an excuse for low moral and sinful living.

72. Sardis—the Dead Church

[Revelation 3:1-6](#)

Sardis is a picture of the Protestant Church which came into view in the fifteenth century. After the early church, approximately A.D. 300, the Catholic Church came into existence. From then till about the fifteenth century is known as THE DARK AGES. Then we see Martin Luther taking his stand and the beginning of the Reformation. However, today there is a desire for the Protestant and the Catholic Church to unite into one. A live Protestant Church could not unite with the Catholic Church.

1. THE CHURCH—[v. 1](#)

This church was living on a name without any reality!

- Dead to Christ's Call.
 - They were deaf in the Spirit.
 - They were dead in the Spirit.
 - Dead to Christ's Command.
 - The command to worship Christ—[John 4:34](#).
 - The command to work for Christ—[Mark 16:15](#); [John 15:16](#).
 - Dead to Christ's Compassion.
 - Not looking upon the lost—[Matthew 9:36](#); [Proverbs 29:18](#).
 - Not loving the lost—[Psalm 126:5-6](#); [Acts 20:31](#).
2. THE COMPLAINT—[vv. 2-3](#)
- Realization—[v. 2](#). Meaning "get right with God." Their works were not perfect before God. It's terrible to be dead spiritually, but worse to be *dead and not know it!*
 - Repentance—[v. 3](#). Repent means a change!
 - Change your living—Live fully for Christ.
 - Change your loving—Love Christ first above all things.
 - Change your looking—Look unto Christ for help.
 - Change your learning—Learn of Christ—not sin and evil.
3. THE CLEANSING—[v. 4](#)
- Cleansed Talking—[Psalm 19:14](#); [Proverbs 23:7](#). You are known by the way you speak. Cleanse your talking daily.
 - Cleansed Traits—[Galatians 5:16](#). If a person walks in the Spirit, he will not take part in sinful habits.
 - Cleansed Testimony—[I Corinthians 9:27](#). Self-control is needed daily to make an effective testimony.
 - Cleansed Temper—[James 1:19](#). Think, think, before you speak!
4. THE COMPLETENESS—[vv. 5-6](#)
- Salvation—[v. 5](#). We will be in heaven. Christ will not blot our name out of the book. Notice Paul's words in [Philippians 2:12](#), warning us to *work out our salvation*.
 - Spirit—[v. 6](#). Listen to the Spirit. Stay open to Him Keep your heart and mind open to the Spirit. Allow Him to speak to you.

A church is dead because the members are dead! Many churches are becoming clubs. There is no spiritual life. There is no room for holiness. There are no high standards. There is a form of godliness, but no power. Paul tells us to avoid these kind of people—[II Timothy 3:5](#). When the Spirit of God is present, there will be liberty and freedom—[II Corinthians 3:17](#).

73. Philadelphia—the True Church

[Revelation 3:7-13](#)

Philadelphia means "brotherly love." Philadelphia was the true church. True to God's Word and God's teaching. This describes the church of past, present, and future. Of the seven churches, only two pleased God: Smyrna, The Suffering Church, and Philadelphia, The True Church. The Philadelphia Church is the church contending for the faith—[Jude 3](#).

1. THE CHURCH—[v. 7](#)

- The Cleansing—"These things saith he that is holy." Compare with [I Peter 1:15, 16](#). Live holy toward Christ daily.
- The Character—"He that is true." Jesus said, "I am the way, the *TRUTH* and the life..."—[John 14:6](#).
- The Creator—"He hath the key of David." Christ the Creator with God—[John 1:3](#).

- The Control—"He that openeth, and no man shutteth, and no man openeth." He controls all things.
2. THE COMMENDATION—[vv. 8-9](#)
 - Praise—"I know thy works." They were GOOD works.
 - Promise—"I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it." The door of SALVATION!
 - Power—"Thou hast a little strength." Enough to live for God. This strength comes only from the Lord"—[Philippians 4:13](#).
 - Purpose—"Hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name." Not ashamed of the Lord—[16](#).
 - Perish—[v. 9](#). Will make those, who profess to be Christians to fall down and admit they are wrong. See [Philippians 2:10-11](#).
 3. THE CONSECRATION—[v. 10](#)
 - Protection in Temptation—[I Corinthians 10:13](#).
 - Protection from the Tribulation—[I Thessalonians 1:10](#); [5:9](#).
 - Peace in Trials—[I Peter 5:7](#).

If we are faithful to Him, He will be faithful to us!
 4. THE CHARGE—[v. 11](#)

Christ is coming soon—hold fast (tight) to what you have!

 - Hold Fast to Your Salvation. There is only one way—[14:6](#). It is not of good works—it's a gift—[Ephesians 2:8-9](#).
 - Hold Fast to Your Surrender—[Genesis 15:10-11](#). The birds tried to steal Abraham's sacrifice, but Abraham drove the birds away.
 - Hold Fast to the Standards—[II Timothy 3:5](#). Having a form of holiness, but no power. Stay away from this type of people.
 5. THE COMPENSATION—[v. 12](#)
 - Success—"Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of God." See [Revelation 2:10](#).
 - Security—"And he shall go no more out." See [John 5:24](#).
 - Surety—"And I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God." Speaks of heaven. See [Revelation 20](#).
 - Satisfaction—"And I will write upon him my new name." We will become like Christ—[I John 3:2, 3](#).

The message of this church is for us today! We need more Christians, who are true to the Bible. True Christians will produce true churches. As we have true churches, we will reach more people with the gospel.

74. Laodicea—the Modern Church

[Revelation 3:14-22](#)

Laodicea is a picture of the modern, or apostate church. The modern church has a form of religion, but no power. Paul spoke of this in [II Timothy 3:5](#). Laodicea is a picture of the church in the last day, just before Christ comes. Today in most churches, there is a drifting from God. There is a compromise to change the Bible to please people. However, keep in mind that MAN SHOULD RISE TO THE LEVEL OF THE BIBLE—NOT BRING THE BIBLE DOWN TO HIS LEVEL!

1. THE CHURCH—[v. 14](#)
 - Character—Laodicea represents the modern, or we could call it the "worldly church." The church should change the world instead of the world changing the church.
 - Comment—God is speaking, "These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God." As God spoke to this church, so He wants to speak to all churches. He will speak through the Bible, Spirit, and Pastor—LISTEN!
2. THE COMPLAINT—[v. 5](#)

"I know your works...."

- Looseness. They were modernistic. Notice [II Timothy 3:1-5](#). When a church lowers its standards, they ask for trouble, and displease God.
 - Lukewarm. They were neither hot nor cold. Jesus told us that if we are not for Him, we are against Him—[Mark 12:30](#).
 - Lack. There was a lack of the fire of God in their lives. They were cold in their experience with God.
3. THE CHARGE—[vv. 16-19](#)
- Despised—[v. 16](#). Rejected by God. He would spue out of His mouth.
 - Destitute—[v. 17](#). Notice these people:
 - Wretched. This means awful, or terrible in their condition.
 - Miserable. They had no peace or security.
 - Poor. They were poor in their experience to God.
 - Naked. Not clothed in God's righteousness.
 - Dedication—[v. 18](#). Having God's touch upon the life will solve all the problems mentioned in [verse 17](#).
 - Discontent—[v. 19](#). Repent, or "get right with God." Jesus taught of repentance in [Luke 13:3](#).
4. THE COMMUNION—[v. 20](#)
- Intreating—"Behold I stand at the door and knock"—[Matthew 11:28](#).
 - Invitation—"If any man hear my voice, and open"—[Romans 10:13](#).
 - Influence—"I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me"—[I John 1:7](#).
5. THE CONSECRATION—[vv. 21-22](#)
- Success—[v. 21](#). As Christians, we must overcome. Overcome these things: (1) Sin, (2) Self, (3) Satan. MUST OVERCOME DAILY!
 - Spirit—[v. 22](#). Listen to the Spirit as He speaks! Keep your heart, Spirit, and mind open to God.

We have modern churches because we have modern Christians. The church can be no greater than its members. We need to stick to the "old time religion." It will change our character, churches, and nations!

75. The Normal Church

[Acts 2:41-47](#)

God wants every church to be a "normal church." What is normal? The dictionary says, "conforming to a standard." God has given the standard of His church. When we compare the church in the book of Acts with our churches today, we fall so far short of God's standard. There are so few *normal* or *ideal* churches today! Since the church is not normal, it fails to grow and win the lost to Christ! So, Satan leads many astray! NOTE FOUR THINGS A NORMAL CHURCH WILL BE:

1. A GROWING CHURCH

"They were added daily"—[Acts 2:47](#).

- Growth in Attention—[Acts 2:42](#). They continued in the Apostles' doctrine! The Apostles' doctrine was true to God's Word!
- Growth in Attendance—[Acts 2:46](#). They were daily in the Temple. The church meant more to them than anything.
- Growth in Affection—[Acts 2:45](#). They sold what they had and shared it with others. This love came from God to do this!
- Growth in Attitude—[Acts 5:29](#). Rather obey God than obey man! They had one main desire—TO PLEASE GOD!

2. A GOING CHURCH

"They went every where"—[Acts 5:42](#).

- People Could Not Stop Them—[Romans 1:16](#). Paul was not ashamed of the gospel. He did not

allow criticism to stop him.

- Prisons Could Not Stop Them—[Philippians 4:11](#). Wherever he was, Paul was content. Paul and Silas were happy in jail—[Acts 16:20-33](#).
- Persecution Could Not Stop Them—[Acts 20:24](#). Paul could say that despite his sufferings, none of these discouraged him.
- Problems Could Not Stop Them—[Acts 6:1-15](#). All threats and even being murdered could not make Stephen give up serving Christ.

3. A GLOWING CHURCH

The early church had something—they changed their world—[Acts 17:6](#).

- The Power—[Acts 11:26](#). It was the world that called Christ's followers Christians. They saw Christ "in them."
- The Prayer—[Acts 4:13](#). Peter and John, though ignorant, saw the beauty of Christ in their lives. This came because of prayer!
- The Persuasion—[Acts 26:28](#). They had power to make people think. The power they used was promised to all people—[Acts 1:8](#).

4. A GROANING CHURCH

The Prophet Isaiah tells of this groaning in [Isaiah 66:8](#).

- Cry for the Lost—[Acts 20:31](#). Paul had a love for lost souls, which made him weep daily!
- Concern for the Lost—[Romans 8:26](#). The best praying, and the most needed praying is to intercede for the lost. Standing between God and man in sincere, dedicated prayer.
- Compassion for the Lost—[II Corinthians 5:11](#). Knowing the judgment of God—[Revelation 20:11-15](#)—we work to lead men to Christ.

Only a "Normal Church" will reach the lost for Christ. Many of the world's problems today are to be blamed upon the church. Since we do not meet the standard of a "Normal Church" many churches are dying and even closing. To be a "Normal Church" we must have "normal Christians." Christians who live lives like those in the book of Acts. Normal Christians will make a normal church, and a NORMAL CHURCH WILL CHANGE ITS WORLD!

76. Helping Your Church

[Psalm 122:1](#); [Hebrews 10:25](#)

Every church needs help. Every church needs helpers. Too many people are quick to criticize the church but not willing to help it. Many churches do not move forward because of the lack of helpers. There are many ways you may help your church. We will list just six ways.

1. CONGREGATE

- The Importance of Attending—[Hebrews 10:25](#). Living in awful times. We need more of the church today than ever.
- The Inspiration of Attending—[Psalm 122:1](#). Here we see David's inspiration and excitement of attending God's house.
- The Influence of Attending—[Acts 11:26](#). The followers of Christ by attending church were called Christians by the non-Christians.

2. COOPERATION

- Importance of Cooperation—[Acts 2:1](#). All with one accord. As the result, they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Influence of Cooperation—[Psalm 133:1](#). Dwelling in unity brings fellowship and God's blessings.
- Indifference Destroys Cooperation—[I Corinthians 12](#).

3. CONTRIBUTION

- Giving Shows Spirituality—[Malachi 3:8-10](#). Those who fail to follow God's plan of giving rob God.

- Giving Shows Surrender—[I Corinthians 16:2](#). A surrendered person will give faithfully.
 - Giving Shows Sincerity—[II Corinthians 9:7](#). God loves a cheerful giver—he who gives because he truly loves God.
4. CONCENTRATE
- Divine Mind—[Philippians 2:5](#). Having the mind of Christ in us. Only as we think upon the things of God will we have the mind of God.
 - Destroying Mind—[Romans 8:6b](#). To be carnally minded means death, or separation from God.
 - Dedicated Mind—[II Corinthians 10:5](#). Keeping your mind upon Christ while attending a church service.
5. CONSECRATE
- Danger—[Acts 15:26](#). These men endangered their lives for the sake of the gospel.
 - Dedication—[Galatians 6:17](#). Paul had marks, or scars in his body because of living for Christ.
 - Determined—[Acts 20:24](#). All the sufferings and persecution could not keep Paul from giving up Christ.
6. COMPLIMENT
- Promote the Church—[Acts 5:42](#). Notice they never stopped preaching and teaching about Jesus.
 - Praise Your Church—[Acts 8:4](#). They went everywhere and talked about Christ. They could not keep quiet.
 - Protect Your Church—[Matthew 5:9](#). Be a peacemaker. If you hear gossip or criticism, be a peacemaker and stop the misunderstanding.

The church is only what YOU MAKE IT! You are the church. The church can be no better than its members. To have a soul-winning church you must be a soul-winner. As Christians work together, God's church moves forward. Be a helper in your church. Help God's work to grow and overcome evil.

77. Christian Discipline

"Like an athlete I punish my body, treating it roughly, training it to do what it should, not what it wants to do. Otherwise I fear that after enlisting others for the race, I myself might be declared unfit and ordered to stand aside."—[I Corinthians 9:27](#), *Living New Testament*

"But the fruit of the Spirit is... temperance."—[Galatians 5:22, 23](#)

There is a great need for discipline in the Christian life. The dictionary has several meanings: (1) To obey; (2) Subjection to authority; (3) to educate; (4) to bring under control. The Christian must learn to bring self under control—[Galatians 2:20](#). There are several dangers in a Christian having discipline: (1) Selfish ambitions; (2) Selfish desires; (3) Selfish plans. LACK OF DISCIPLINE MEANS A LACK OF CONSECRATION TO GOD!

1. DISCIPLINED HEART

- Cleansed Heart—[Matthew 5:8](#). The Prophet Jeremiah tells of the heart being wicked—[Jeremiah 17:9](#). Therefore it must be cleansed, and brought under God's control!
- Controlled Heart—[Psalm 139:23-24](#). David prays that God would search his heart. Allow the x-ray eyes of God to look into your heart. Allow him to show you what is in your heart and bring it under control.
- Consecrated Heart—[Proverbs 4:23](#). Unless the heart is cleansed and purified, it will be filled with evil and sin—[Matthew 15:19](#).
- Christ-like heart—[Proverbs 3:5](#). Trust in the Lord with all thine heart. Only Christ can change our hearts. Ezekiel tells of the change of heart—[Ezekiel 36:26](#).

2. DISCIPLINED HABITS

- Daily Habits—[Galatians 5:16](#). The only way to have good habits is to walk in the Spirit.
- Dedicated Habits—[Philippians 4:5](#). "Let everyone see that you are unselfish and considerate in all you do. Remember that the Lord is coming soon"—*Living New Testament*.

- Divine Habits—[Matthew 5:16](#). All we as Christians should bring honor and glory to God. If our habits do not bring honor and glory to God, then they are not the right habits!
- Determined Habits—[Daniel 1:8](#). Because Daniel determined not to defile himself, it changed his whole life. Our daily habits do affect our daily lives!

3. DISCIPLINED HEAD

If Satan controls the mind, he will control the person's life!

- Christ-like Mind—[Philippians 2:5](#). All Christians should have the mind of Christ! Notice the words of Jesus, "For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you"—[John 13:15](#).
- Controlled Mind—[Proverbs 16:32](#). Ruling the Spirit, or controlling the mind is more important than the mighty man!
- Cleansed Mind—[Psalm 51:2](#). David asks the Lord to cleanse him. As a person thinks, so is he—[Proverbs 23:7](#).
- Consecrated Mind—[Psalm 19:14](#). Every word and thought should be acceptable unto the Lord.

Do you practice discipline daily? Discipline will lead you near to God. It will make you a better Christian. Discipline is demanding. Discipline may be hard to practice, but it will bring delightful results. The Bible teaches us that we should practice daily discipline. The Bible is filled with many examples of people who failed to discipline themselves, and as the result, they backslid and went into sin!

78. Commandments From Christ

"If ye love me, keep my commandments."—[John 14:15](#)

When a person *loves* Christ he will *obey* Christ! The Bible is filled with commandments from our Lord. Only those who keep these commandments will be in heaven. His commandments are: (1) Simple; (2) Sure; (3) Safe; (4) Steadfast. God *demand*s that we keep His commands! There are many commands, but let's look at just four of these commands.

1. COMMAND OF PRAYER—[Luke 24:49](#)

- The Purpose of Prayer. Prayer will give you power to live for God and to overcome sin! Prayer is not a duty nor responsibility, but a joy and pleasure.
- The Persistence of Prayer. In other words, "Don't give up." Pray until you have power. The longer you pray, the more power you will have.
- The Problem of Prayer. Perhaps the greatest problem is pleasure. Pleasure really means *self*. Time for self and pleasure, but not time for God!

2. THE COMMAND OF PATIENCE—[Matthew 18:21-22](#)

- The Meaning of Forgiveness. This is the *Spirit of Christ*. In the life of Christ, He never fought back. Even on the cross He forgave those who were killing Him!
- The Method of Forgiveness. This is a Consecrated Spirit. It takes consecration to forgive those who persecute you! It takes consecration to "turn the cheek" to your enemies.
- The Men of Forgiveness. This is the *Spirit of Christianity*. If a Christian can't be forgiving, how do we expect the world to see a difference in us?

(Do you have patience? Do you practice patience in your home? At your job? In your driving?)

3. THE COMMAND OF PERSISTENCE—[Matthew 24:13](#)

- Daily Decisions. There are daily decisions to make. There is no place for hoping, nor guessing, but you must *decide daily* to live for God.
- Daily Dedication. Fully surrendered unto the Lord in all phases of our life.
- Daily Denial. Our plans, ambitions, and desires should all be put aside and Christ should be first!
- Daily Determination. Making up our minds daily that we will live for God. It will take determination to make it to heaven!

4. THE COMMAND OF PREACHING—[John 15:16](#)

- The Call to Preach. All born-again Christians are called to be preachers! The word "preach" means *to give forth good news*. All Christians should do this through witnessing.
- The Command to Preach. Christ's command is *to Go!* Though we may pray and give, these will not take the place of going!
- The Challenge of Preaching. Think of the many lost souls! EVERY SOUL WITHOUT CHRIST IS A MISSION FIELD—EVERY HEART WITH CHRIST IS A MISSIONARY!

Are you obeying the commands of Christ? Our love for Christ will be shown by how we obey Him! Words are not enough—it takes action. These are just four of His commands—there are many more. Search your Bible and see if you are obeying Him!

79. Christian Judgment

[II Corinthians 5:10](#)

All Christians must stand before God and be judged. We will be judged for what we do, and what we fail to do. Paul warns us to examine ourselves—[I Corinthians 11:28](#). The more we examine ourselves, the less Christ will have to judge us. All want to go to heaven, but we must remember that we will be judged by Christ.

1. JUDGMENT OF OUR CHARACTER

- Attitudes—[Proverbs 23:7](#). Our thoughts and feelings control us. Your attitudes will make you a success or a failure.
- Actions—[Galatians 5:16](#). Living in the Spirit will make our actions different. We must live in the Spirit daily—[I John 1:7](#).
- Appetites—[Matthew 5:6](#). A hunger for God will change our character. He will fill us, if we are hungry for spiritual things.
- Affections—[I John 2:15-17](#). Loving the world shows a lack of love for the things of God.
- Ambitions—[Proverbs 3:5-6](#). Solomon gave us the words of Jesus in [Matthew 6:33](#) many years before Christ was born.

2. JUDGMENT OF OUR CONVERSATION

- Thoughts—[Philippians 2:5](#). As Christians, we should have the "mind of Christ." Thinking bad is just as evil as doing bad!
- Talking—[Matthew 12:37](#). We will be judged as to how we use our words. We will be justified or condemned by our words.
- Tongue—[James 1:26](#). If we do not control our tongue, then our religion is vain.

NOTE THE SINS OF THE TONGUE: Gossip, lying, slander, profanity, whispering, blasphemy, complaining, judging.

3. JUDGMENT OF OUR CONSECRATION

- Time—[Psalm 90:12](#). Knowing the importance of time, and using it wisely! We give 1/10 of our money to God. Why not give 1/10 of our time to God? This would be almost 17 hours per week.
- Testimony—[II Timothy 2:19](#). Everyone who calls himself a Christian should leave all sin and live a different life. Talk is not enough! God wants all Christians to show what Christ has done.
- Traits—[Acts 4:13](#). The people knew that Peter and John had spent time with Jesus. Our lives should always show Christ.

4. JUDGMENT OF OUR COMPASSION

- Compassion That Stirs—[I Corinthians 9:16](#). Paul was so filled with compassion for the lost that he could not keep quiet.
- Compassion That Serves—[Acts 5:42](#). The Christians went everywhere preaching the gospel.
- Compassion That Surrenders—[Exodus 32:32](#). What compassion! What love. Willing to lose his soul to see his friends saved.
- Compassion That Sacrifices—[Galatians 6:17](#). Paul had scars—marks in body, because he

suffered for the Lord's sake.

When you think of heaven, think of the judgment day! No Christian can escape this great day. There will be sorrow and tears at this judgment. Many Christians will see the many things they could have done for the Lord, but failed to do. Do your best every day for the Lord, then at this judgment, you will be happy and rewarded by the Lord.