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TWENTY-FOUR SERMONS

By L. S. Boardman

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SERMON 1

"I will bring you out" (Ex. 6:6).

"I will bring you in" (Ex. 6:8).

1. Out of sin into righteousness.
2. Out of the glums into the Joy of the Lord.
3. Out of spiritual sickness into spiritual health.
4. Out of worldliness into Heavenly Holiness.
5. Out of worldly entertainments into prayer meetings and revival meetings.
6. Out of stubbornness into yieldedness.
7. Out of discord into harmony.
8. Out of doubts into faith.
9. Out of fear into courage.
10. Out of defeat into victory.
11. Out of carnal pride into sanctified humility.

12. Out of bondage into freedom.
13. Out of selfishness into unselfishness.
14. Out of disobedience into obedience.
15. Out of filthiness into purity.

There has always been a price tag on a holy life. Those who are willing and eager to die out to carnal self, sin, and worldliness, and pay the price, receive the blessing, but the bargain-hunters never come through!

But it is worth all it costs, a million times over, to get and keep a sanctified heart.

There is no neutral position in this war. Those who are only half-heartedly on the Lord's side and not really on the Lord's side at all. Had it ever occurred to you that those who are not on the Lord's side strong enough DO MORE HARM to the cause of Christ than the enemies on the outside do?

Many feeble attempts have been made through the centuries to recapture the fervency and passion of the early apostles. Many reforms and revivals have resulted, but most of them fell short, and failed to last very long. None of them ever quite measured up to the power that fell on that early church at Pentecost and upon the various little worshipping groups thereafter.

In fact the early church itself didn't keep the original zeal as long as one would have expected. It seemed that when the originals died off, those who came on and followed them had a looser grasp on the deeper things of God.

It was hardly a hundred years when God said to the church at Ephesus, ". . . thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent . . ." (Rev. 2:4-5). And some of the other churches weren't doing a whole lot better.

In comparatively modern times many little groups have started up, determined to recapture the fervency of the early church, but none of them ever quite came through and many of them died in infancy, while others grew worldly and grieved God out of their ranks.

I remember the "STANDARD PEOPLE" so called. They realized the importance of holy standards, but they placed so much emphasis on standards, that soon they dried up and had standards and nothing else. They soon expired.

Then there arose up the group that felt that living right was the most important, (and it is important). They called themselves the "DO RIGHTS," but it was surprising how soon most of them were doing wrong, and they fizzled.

The "PILLAR OF FIRE CHURCH" started out on the right track under able leadership and a right emphasis, and they did fine until the fire died down, and the second generation was not able to fan the dying embers back into a flame, and we never hear of them any more.

We wonder what made those original Christians so totally committed, so willing to die, and yet so indestructible? The whole military might of the Roman Empire could not wipe them out any more than the ancient Pharaoh could do away with the infant Moses or Herod destroy the baby Jesus even though he put out a master-minded dragnet to get him.

Those early Christians had so little to do with, and were so pitifully outnumbered, and yet they had a strange power that the world could not understand. They had a mark that the rest of us have never been able to entirely duplicate.

What was their secret? In trying to answer this question, we will borrow an outline of which we do not know the source.

I. THEIR FIRST SECRET WAS THAT THEY HAD A VERY HIGH SENSE OF MISSION IN THE WORLD.

They were determined to plant all of the doctrines which relate to Jesus Christ in the very heart of humanity. They were willing and eager to pay any price, even to their lives, if only they could be sure their objective would be reached. Self-denial was bread for them. They made no concessions with the worldliness about them. They made a clean break with anything and everything that might militate against their objective.

They didn't know how to be still, to settle down, to let up, to relax, to admit defeat, to spare themselves, to surrender, or retreat. They felt they had a great job to do in the world and they were determined to do it regardless of the price they might have to pay.

II. THEIR SECOND SECRET WAS THAT THEY HAD A HAUNTING SENSE OF URGENCY.

They felt the time was short. And it was short for them. It is short for us all. They felt the end was near. THEIR end was near. So is ours! I wonder if we fully grasp the full meaning of the word "URGENCY?" Every one of us must CONCENTRATE or we will never be here long enough to finish the task that God has in mind for us to accomplish here in the world. We have no time to waste on non-essentials. If we don't be careful, our end will come before our work is done.

They carried a torch the devil couldn't extinguish and they knew it. A deep sense of urgency possessed them. And a very deep sense of urgency must possess us. Time is running out for us all. The whole world is seething in rebellion and revolution.

Rebellion against lawful authority has exploded upon the world, and it is a sure indication that the carnal self has never been crucified.

In April of 1982 President Reagan said, "Our next three years are going to be frightening." Those years were frightening. But we wonder if the next three will be any better. Dark, ominous

clouds hang heavy over the whole world. No doubt we are going to face stormy waters. But we can be sure we will never suffer for our faith more than those early Christians suffered.

These storm warnings should create a HAUNTING, and DRIVING sense of urgency in us all. Millions of Professed Christians are not prepared to face the persecutions that are now threatening to break upon the world, and in some quarters behind the Iron Curtain are already raging.

All who have unfinished business with God, should be at it with all haste. If you are here today, you cannot be sure of still being here tomorrow.

III. THEIR THIRD SECRET WAS THAT THEY HAD AN UNDYING SENSE OF DESTINY.

They knew their cause was right. Ours is right also. The same challenge that laid before them then, lays before us now. They knew they were in for great suffering, and they were prepared to face it. They might die, but the cause would live. They might lose some soldiers along the way, and they did, but they would win the war. They knew their cause would be here after they were gone. They felt that being killed for their faith would not be the worst thing that could happen to them. They were sure of the resurrection. All who were in their graves would hear His voice.

They did not draw back from burning at the stake because they knew it was a million times better than burning in hell. They believed in the MARTYR'S CROWN and they were determined to qualify.

Reread the Book of the Acts. Lift the heartthrob out of it. It will humble you. Study Chapter 8. Verse one brought GREAT PERSECUTION. Verse 2 follows with GREAT LAMENTATION. But in Verse 3 they faced it with GREAT JOY. And in Verse 4 they had GREAT POWER. Their power was not something they manufactured. It came down from above when they were FILLED TO CAPACITY with the Holy Ghost.

Notice the contrast when we employ the word "GREAT." We are more inclined to speak of Great camp meetings; GREAT crowds; GREAT preaching; GREAT offerings; GREAT altar services, etc. It is easy for us to come up with misplaced emphasis.

IV. THEIR FOURTH SECRET WAS THAT THEY HAD A GENUINE HOLY GHOST EXPERIENCED AND THEY KEPT THEIR BATTERY CHARGED.

If we face our tomorrows without what they had, we will go down in the storm. God said to the Children of Israel, "I will bring you out." Out of sin! Out of bondage! Out of the carnal state of the unsanctified heart! Out of an up and down experience and a defeated life! Out of compromise and worldly cravings! Out of discouragement, despondency and despair!

God also told the Children of Israel, "I will bring you in." Into a land flowing with milk and honey! Into a realm of PERFECT LOVE. Into an experience of total and enduring deliverance from the carnal mind. Into a state of readiness for the coming rapture of the church when Jesus comes.

You cannot bring yourself out. Millions have tried it and failed. The human, in its own strength cannot stop sinning. The carnal mind cannot stop exploding in tantrums under the right provocation. Carnal people will make all sorts of good resolutions in the interest of self-improvement, only to fail again and again if they are sinful, worldly, or carnal.

Alright, how does the challenge of the Early Christians apply to us, in our day, in a practical way, as we face the world in which we find ourselves?

Let us paraphrase the famous CHINESE PARABLE, and apply it, in trying to find the answer to the above question.

A. YOU WILL NEVER MAKE IT UP IN THE HILL COUNTRY OF HOLINESS, WHERE THE GIANTS ARE, UNLESS YOU HAVE A GENUINE HOLY GHOST EXPERIENCE IN ITS EVERY ASPECT.

You must KNOW for certain your sins are forgiven. You must know you have repented so deeply, so bitterly, and so exhaustively, and stayed with it so enduringly that God can trust you with the experience of the New Birth. You must also know for certain that you have died out to sin (Rom. chapter 6 and I John 1:9). You must be sure you have died out to the world. (I John 2:15-17). You must know for certain the Old Man is crucified and he stayed dead. (Eph. 4:22-24). You must be sure there are remaining in you none of the carnal traits -- that they have all been crucified. (Gal. 5:24). You must have an inner certainty that everything that grieves the Holy Spirit of God has been taken out of your heart. As John Fleming said, "When you got saved God cut down the tree of sin in your life, but when you got sanctified He took the stump out of your heart." You must know that the stump is taken out and that the devil has not slipped it back in on you.

Remember, God can't do anything for you against your will. Your will must become totally and unconditionally surrendered. There are giants to fight up there in that land of Holiness. And you'll never survive by accepting Holiness by faith alone. There has got to be a crucifixion of self before faith can operate. Christ can never have the preeminence in our lives until the "Old Man" is eradicated. He must be "kicked out" and the door shut against him forever.

B. SECONDLY, YOU WILL NEVER MAKE IT UP IN THE HILL COUNTRY OF HOLINESS UNLESS YOU HAVE A DREAM IN YOUR EYE.

Every great accomplishment in the world starts with a dream. If Columbus had not had a dream he never would have discovered the Western Hemisphere. If Magellan had not had a dream, he never would have circumnavigated the Globe. If Lindbergh had not had a dream he never would have made that first non-stop airplane flight from New York to Paris. If Bell had not had a dream, he never would have invented the telephone. And the list goes on and on.

When I see a youth with a dream in his eye, I say, "There is a youth that will blaze a trail through the jungle of this world and he will make a success." Forgetting about self, he will carve the Name of Jesus high over the arch of time! He will push back the most reluctant horizons, discover new worlds, and open up new vistas.

He must have a dream in his eye before he can ever have a gleam in his eye or a fire in his heart. He must have something far greater than himself to live for. He will not let self dominate his thinking or his actions. He dedicates himself to a cause that he knows is more important than he is.

Someone had a dream as to the future possibilities of this church, or we wouldn't be here worshipping this morning. Rev. Parker Maxey had a dream, or this building we are worshipping in would never have been purchased by the Bible Missionary Church. Through the years, pastors came and went, but the dream lives on!

If anyone ever has the enthronement of self in mind, he will never dream this dream we are talking about this morning. The only self that will make life's noblest dreams come true is self-denial and self-expenditure. Anyone that has anything in mind but the cause of Christ and Holiness is selfish. And selfishness can never dream the dream that puts him on the right road up into the Hill Country of the Sanctified Life, in the Land of Canaan!

Whoever you are -- wherever you are -- fasten your heart to some high calling of God and drive toward it! Dream great dreams and dedicate your life to their fulfillment. We must become captivated, and consumed, by an unfading dream, outside of and beyond self-interest if we would ever hope to realize any kinship with the true Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We must dream great dreams that will catch the breath of tomorrow. If you dream the right dream and dream it strong enough it will transform you.

If any personal ambition captures you and diverts your attention, and places your interests ahead of the interests of Christ and His Kingdom, it will ruin you. Find something to live for and die for that you consider more important than you are, or you will be a cipher in this world and a lost "wandering star" in the next. (Jude 13). Only those who live "all out" for Christ will live beyond the rim of time.

If your dream becomes pure enough and strong enough it will keep you from indulging in anything that hinders its fulfillment. We are not referring to so-called "day dreams" or air castle, or something vaguely visionary, but a CAUSE! something that will challenge everything holy that Christ can plant in your heart. Only those who live all-out for Christ will live beyond the rim of time.

C. THIRDLY, YOU WILL NEVER MAKE IT UP IN THE HILL COUNTRY OF HOLINESS UNLESS YOU HAVE A SWORD IN YOUR HAND.

We are in an all-out war against the arch-enemy of God Himself. Communism is only one weak branch of Satan's tactics. Modernism is another. But it is Satan himself who will hurl all his forces against us, and without Christ and the Holy Ghost at the controls in our life, we will never survive.

The spirit of the militant must possess us. Some has said that we must work as though everything depends on us and pray as though everything depends on God. However, our efforts and

labors add up to nothing unless they are mightily anointed of the Holy Ghost. The spineless will never make it in this encounter. The cringing and cowardly won't have a chance to win in this war.

Christ Himself said, "He that has no sword, let him sell his coat and buy one" (Luke 22:36). He probably meant the "Sword of the Spirit" which is the Word of God. (Eph. 6:17).

Winston Churchill, in one of the darkest hours that Great Britain ever experienced said to his people, "I promise you blood, sweat and tears, but there will always be an England!" He felt that if the British people were the kind of people they should be, there would be an England in the world after they were gone.

John Wesley is gone, but Christian Holiness as a vital, real and realizable experience is still with us.

Little crowd, I promise you griefs, heartaches, set-backs, heavy burdens, false brethren, disappointments, but there will always be an experience of Holiness that is reliable -- a baptism of fire that cleanses "deeper than the stain has gone," and that creates all the power we need to win, for Christ hath promised, "ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you . . ." (Acts 1:8).

We must declare an all-out war on sin and Satan, first in our own lives, and then out there in the wicked, hell-bound world, and never let up until our Commanding Officer calls us home, saying, "Well done thou good and faithful servant."

If you go into this war against sin and Satan, you had better mean it. Softies and cream puffs will never make it. There is no place for divided loyalties in this encounter.

Christ will never risk letting you into His Promised Land of Holiness unless you have a militant spirit and a sword in your hand. You must be possessed of the kind of stuff that will push you on up the hill when all odds are against you.

D. FOURTHLY, YOU WILL NEVER MAKE IT UP IN THE HILL COUNTRY OF HOLINESS UNLESS YOU HEAR THE VOICE OF GOD CLEARLY RINGING IN YOUR EAR.

Anything that stifles that voice will ruin you forever. You must be constantly refired by that clear, unfading voice. If you lose that vital contact you will never make it. Nothing less will ever hold you steady and pull you through when the storms of satanic encounter break in all their fury upon you.

Amelia Earhart, high over the Pacific, running low on fuel, missed the refueling base, wandered in circles, lost, when her receiver went dead. At the base they could hear her voice clearly as she panicked, but she could not hear them as they tried to give her instructions and correct her error, and guide her to the base. Remember this: if your receiver goes dead, so you can not detect the voice of the Spirit of God, He will not be able to guide you into all truth, and as a result you will wind up lost in the fog.

Many voices will be calling you -- the voice of pleasure, of sin, of comforts, of ambition, of friends and loved ones, but His voice must silence them all or you will never make a success of the sanctified life. You will lose the battle, and you will lose the war.

We are heaven bound, and we must have no other ambition but to make it. If that vision is fading, you are in trouble. We must not throw up our hands and forsake our call. "Winners never quit, and quitters never win."

E. FIFTHLY, YOU WILL NEVER MAKE IT UP IN THE HILL COUNTRY OF THE HOLY LIFE UNLESS YOU CAN FEEL A THUMB IN YOUR BACK, AND THAT HAND ON YOUR SHOULDER.

It must be the hand of the Holy Spirit. He is the Executive of the Godhead and the Administrator of this dispensation. He must lay the strategy and "call the shots." The very first plans you make in the human, with self in mind will switch you onto the wrong track.

Souls with a wavering commitment will fall out and turn back, but you must not have a wavering commitment if you have any hope of winning this war.

Only as the Holy Ghost motivates you will you be properly and safely motivated. You must be controlled by a "total sell-out" to the Holy Ghost and to Christ, or there will be no hope for you in the Hill Country of Holiness. You will wander hopelessly and purposelessly in the wilderness and live and die, a tragic failure, having missed your call and purpose in life.

F. FINALLY, YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT UP IN THE HILL COUNTRY OF HOLINESS UNLESS YOU MAINTAIN A SONG IN YOUR HEART.

No matter how dark the sky or how wearisome the climb, we must keep a song in our heart.

"At midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them" (Acts 16:25). They had been whipped until their backs were lacerated; they were placed with their feet in rille stocks, and they laid like that until midnight and then the prisoners heard them singing. We must never lose the heavenly music out of our hearts. If we lose that, then everything in life will become drab and dull.

No other religion in the world can keep a song in your heart when everything goes wrong, but the religion of Jesus Christ.

On the last, sad night Christ was to be with His disciples here in the world, after they had eaten the last supper together, and Judas had gone out into the night, Christ and his disciples sang an hymn together just before they departed for the Garden of Gethsemane, in the Mt. of Olives where the betrayal took place. It is significant that Christ approached that awful hour, singing. (Matt. 26:30).

We must never lose our song. There must be within us an undercurrent of joy that cannot be stifled. When the devil has spent himself trying to dampen your spirit, keep singing. When he hears you singing he will know he is not winning the battle for your soul.

In the darkest midnight, your spirit must embrace the dawn.

DeShazer, shot down over Japan during the war, bailed out and was picked up and confined four years in a Japanese prison camp under the most horrible circumstances, until he was a mere rack of bones. Through reading a little New Testament he found the Lord and was gloriously converted. He later stated that in the little wooden shack he was kept in with all of the suffering he was so happy he could hardly contain himself. It is not circumstances that make people happy, it is God in the soul. Regardless of circumstances, we must keep a song in our hearts.

Supposing you lay tonight on the battlefield bleeding and possibly dying. Suddenly, very faintly, you hear several male voices singing:

Jesus, lover of my Soul, Let me to thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high!
Hide me, O my Saviour, hide, Till the storm of life is past.
Safe into the haven guide. Oh, receive my soul at last!

What would you do? You would find yourself crawling, through the dark, over dead bodies, through debris and mud. And you would never stop until you had joined them. There is something powerful and magnetic about singing. There is something captivating about a singing heart. We had better keep a song in our heart through these dark days. Only Christ can keep a song in your heart, as His blessings are administered to us through the Holy Ghost.

A story is told about the famous general of England, Richard the Lion heart. He had been captured by the enemy and hid away in a secret prison. Word leaked out that Richard was imprisoned in a certain city. So, one of his beloved minstrels went from street to street of that city, day after day, singing Richard's favorite song. He would sing and then stop and listen. Presently, one day, from a high window in a tall building the minstrel's song was coming back to him. He recognized that voice. He had found Richard.

Until you sing to Christ, you cannot please Him. And you cannot sing TO him until He puts a song in your heart.

My friend, as you launch out into the precarious tomorrows, be sure you have:

1. A high sense of Mission in the world.
2. A haunting sense of urgency.
3. An undying sense of destiny.

4. A genuine Holy Ghost experience
5. A totally surrendered will
6. A dream in your eye.
7. A sword in your hand.
8. A voice in your ear.
9. A thumb in your back
10. A song in your heart.

If you, my friend, let God have His way in your life He will bring you OUT of everything that Satan stands for, and He will bring you INTO the Land of Canaan, the land of the wholly sanctified life. Hallelujah! Amen!

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SERMON 2

"But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy." (I Peter 1:15-16)

"As He is so are we in this world" (I. Jn. 4:17).

"And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." (I Jn. 3:3)

The greatest need in this world today is holy men and holy women. We all need to be holy as he is holy. (I Peter 1:15-16). If we are worldly we are not holy. If we have sinful habits we are not holy. If we tell lies we are not holy. If we are dishonest in our dealings we are not holy. If we quarrel and fight we are not holy.

If we are not holy we have no hope of the Rapture because the Word says, "Every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, EVEN AS HE IS PURE." (I Jn. 3:3).

The cry of the soul, hungry for Holiness is, "O make me clean; O make me clean; Mine eyes thy holiness have seen. Oh, send the burning, cleansing flame, and make me clean in Jesus name."

I picked up a hitchhiker one morning and he cursed and swore because the weather was so cold. I asked him if he loved Jesus. He said, "You bet I do. He's right in my heart. You don't have to stop sinning to love Jesus." There was a young man that didn't know his Bible very well.

Two of the best books I know of to demolish the doctrine of unconditional Eternal Security are, "LIFE IN THE SON" by Robert Shank and "IF WE CONTINUE" by Guy Duty. Do get these books by all means and devour them!

1. HOLINESS IS ATTAINABLE IN THIS LIFE. "That He should grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life." (Luke 1:74-75).

2. HOLINESS IS SUPPOSED TO BE THE NORM OF LIFE. ANYTHING LESS THAN HOLINESS IS ABNORMAL. "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called the way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it: but it shall be for those: the wayfaring man, though fools shall not err therein." (Isa. 35:8).

3. HOLINESS IS OUR SOURCE OF WISDOM. "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." (James 3:17).

4. THE PURPOSE OF HOLINESS: "That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation among whom ye shine as lights in the world."

5. HOLINESS IS NECESSARY TO FIT US FOR HEAVEN. "And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, sir, thou knowest, And he said to me, These are they which came out of Great tribulation and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. (Rev. 7:14).

6. THE REWARD OF HOLINESS: "Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple. And he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them" (Rev. 7:15).

"They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more: neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. (Verse 16).

"For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe all tears from their eyes. (Verse 17).

7. THE GREATEST APPEAL IN THE BIBLE IS THE APPEAL OF A HOLY HEART AND HOLY LIFE: (Matt. 5:43-48). (43) Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. (44) But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you. (45, conditional) That ye may be the children of your father which is in heaven, for He maketh the sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. (46) For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? Do not even the publicans the same? (47) And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? Do not even the publicans so? (48)

Be ye therefore PERFECT; even as your father which is in heaven is PERFECT. (This is Christian Perfection).

8. THE REWARD OF HOLINESS: "Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them."

9. HOLINESS PROVIDES POWER FOR ACCEPTABLE SERVICE. "And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the father, which saith he, ye have heard of me. (V.5) For John truly baptized with water. But ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. (V.6). When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" (v.7) And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the father hath put in his own power. (v.8) But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and in Judaea, and in Samaria and unto the uttermost parts of the earth." (Thus Holiness is definitely related to soul winning).

10. WE ARE TO BE HOLY IN BODY. (Rom. 12:1) "I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

11. WE ARE TO BE HOLY IN PRAYER. (I Tim. 2:8). "I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands without wrath or doubting."

12. WE ARE TO BE HOLY IN OUR CITIZENSHIP. (I Peter 2:9). "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

13. WE MUST HAVE A HOLY HEART. (I Thess. 3:13) "To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in Holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints."

14. WE MUST BE HOLY AT HOME AND IN CHURCH. (I Peter 1:15-16) But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy." (2 Peter 3:11) "Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness.

15. WE HAVE A HOLY BIBLE TO FOLLOW. (Rom. 1:2) "Which He (God) had promised afore by his prophets in the Holy Scriptures, etc.

16. WE ARE TO BE IDENTIFIED WITH CHRIST FOR THE EXPRESS PURPOSE OF MAKING US HOLY. (Eph. 1:4) "According as He hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love." (Eph. 1:4).

17. OH, HOW MUCH WE NEED THE KEEPING POWER OF HOLINESS IN THIS GOD-HATING WORLD! (John 17:1). And now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the

world, and I come to Thee, Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one as we are."

18. HOLINESS PROVIDES DIVINE STRENGTH IN TIMES OF WEAKNESS. (Isa. 41:10). "Fear not thou; for I am with thee; be not dismayed; for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee: I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

19. HOLINESS PROVIDES POWER FOR SERVICE. (Acts 1:8) "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria and unto the uttermost parts of the earth."

20. HOLINESS BRINGS CHEER IN TIMES OF GLOOM AND FEAR. (Matt. 14:27). "But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer. It is I, be not afraid."

21. HOLINESS ASSURES OF GUIDANCE IN TIMES OF PERPLEXITY. (Ps. 32:8) "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way that thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye."

22. HOLINESS ASSURES US OF SPIRITUAL HELP IN TIME OF NEED. (Heb. 13:5-6). "Let your conversation be without covetousness: and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. (v.6) So that we may boldly say, the Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."

23. WE MUST NOT LOSE OUR HOLY MOTIVATION. WE HAVE A WORLD TO WIN. WE MUST NOT EVER SETTLE DOWN AND COAST ALONE., IT IS UP HILL ALL THE WAY TO HEAVEN AND ONE CANNOT COAST UP HILL.

I'll never get over reading the account of how two brothers, John and Bona Fleming got sanctified wholly. They both were soundly converted in a revival meeting and were walking in all the light they had, making wrongs right with everyone they had cheated when they ran into the light of holiness. Let them tell it in their own words:

We did not know anything about the experience of holiness; the preacher preached mostly on hell, as no one was ready for holiness in our town when we struck it. I was standing on my mother's porch one night and a traveling salesman came up and talked to me about the coming of Jesus and about getting sanctified. I knew nothing about it. Up until I was saved I had not read one verse in the Bible. This traveling salesman had good common sense. He said, "Well, do you see that stump where that tree has been removed? If that stump is not taken out, next spring there will be sprouts coming up all around it."

"What does that have to do with me?" I asked.

He said, "John, you have a stump in your heart."

It scared me. He said, "The stump is there. You have had your sins all taken away, but there is the stump. You must have it taken out, or sprouts will come up around your life and pull you back into sin."

We went in Mother's parlor and prayed, "O God, take the stump out, take the stump out, take the stump out!"

Do you know what I believe? If people did not know so much they would get through quicker. They know too much. That was a good prayer, asking God to take the stump out. That man walked in and put his arms around me and said, "John, God will take the stump out."

I rose to my feet and like a flash the Holy Ghost came and blew that stump out. My father sat back, reading his paper and chewing tobacco. I said, "Father, I have the stump out!"

He moved his glasses down on his nose, looked over them and said, "Stump out, what are you talking about?"

"I don 't know," I told him, "but I have it out."

I went to the kitchen and said to Mother, "I've got it. I have the stump taken out."

She said, "I believe you have."

I said, "I cannot stay here."

I went up the street and around the corner, just tearing. Some of the men at the store had been converted, and there must have been twenty-five men gathered there. I said to them, "I've got it! I've got it!"

They said, "What?"

I told them that the stump had been taken out. One man leaned back against the counter and said, "I will have it or die right here."

The crowd began to scatter. Some said, "He has gone crazy."

I shouted them all out of the store and asked God to sanctify that man who was praying. About that time the big, fat traveling salesman caught up with me and I left him at the store. I ran across the field into a home and fell on my knees. The mother said, "What's the matter, John?"

I told her I had the stump out. She fell by my side and said she was going to have it out, too. She is in Heaven today. About that time the big, fat man caught up with me again. I passed him and went to the post office. That is one time Uncle Sam furnished me the whole post office to shout in. The man at the window moved his glasses down and said, "What's wrong?"

I told him I had the stump out and could not keep still, that I would shout as long as I lived. The big fat man caught me again. I ran down the street and some girls said, "Mother, John Fleming has backslidden and gone on a spree."

I got on one that night that has lasted all these years and I hope it will last until Jesus comes.

A big fellow walked out on his porch and I jumped on the porch and said, "I've got it! The stump has been removed."

He said, "John, what on earth is wrong?"

I told him the Lord came and took something out of me and had filled me up. I knew nothing about theological terms, but I knew that I had an experience from Heaven. About that time the traveling man caught up again. I was just hitting the high places. I did not know where I was going. I went down the road like a young mule turned loose, or a stall-fed calf, and the big fat man right after me. The people all along the road were watching. He surely had the holy fire in his soul as well as I.

We reached his home which was out of town a little, just as the servant girl was putting the bread in the oven. I said to her, "I've got it! The stump has been removed."

She said, "Good-bye, old stove, I will have it or die!"

Well, I do not know what became of the bread but she surely got the blessing from heaven.

Bona came home and asked, "Where is John?"

Father said, "I don't know. He has the stump taken out and has gone."

Bona said, "I must see John."

He walked to the kitchen and asked mother.

She said, "He has the stump taken out and is gone."

Bona went upstairs, got down on his knees, laid off a few things and then said, "Amen," and "Praise the Lord," and got up.

He walked out into the room and said, "Father, I've got it."

He was doing his best to believe he had it. Father just moved his glasses down on his nose and said, "No you haven't; go see John."

My father did not believe in holiness, but he knew that Bona did not have what I had. Bona went into the kitchen and said, "I have the stump taken out."

Mother said, "I would not discourage you for the world, but you had better hunt John."

The poor fellow went down the road. He said the hardest job he ever had in this world was to make himself believe he had something he did not have. He went to the livery stable and said, "Boys, I have it."

They laughed and said, "You had better hunt John up."

He tried to make himself believe he had it just like some of you. He went to the preacher's home and was going to tell him that he had it, but when he opened the door and saw Brother Hanks, he said, "Pray for me!" He lost it when he saw somebody who had it.

He said, "I want to see John."

We saw him coming. He looked like a hound that had run all night and been out in the rain all day. This traveling man and I were just shouting and praising God and the people were looking at us. It was pouring down rain, but we did not care. The fire was falling in that home. When Bona came in, I said, "I've got it! I've got it!"

He said, "John, pray for me!"

He got on his knees and the wisdom I used with Bona was just to pound him on the back and say, "Pray, old fellow!"

He would get pretty faint sometimes, then I would say, "Get it, Bona: hold on until the fire falls!"

Directly he got on his feet with one hand up, and the traveling man shouting him on, but that girl who had put the bread in the oven was striking him over the head and telling him not to stop until the stump was out. I have never see such a time from that day to this, as we had there in that room when the fire fell on Bona. The children got scared and thought we were going to tear the house up. We were not tearing anything up, the Holy Ghost never breaks up furniture and He never destroys property. They just thought we were. (The speaker turned to Bud Robinson and asked if he should keep on telling his experience. The answer was, "Keep on until you die of old age." "That answer," said Fleming, "is worth a thousand dollars to me.")

A lot of backslidden preachers have tried to get me to quit giving my experience. Brother Joseph H. Smith said, "Give it everywhere." Brother Kulp said, "Go ahead!" Brother C.C. Brown said, "Tell it over and over!"

Many folk say that I make people doubt. If they give their experience, why should they doubt when I give mine?

Bona and I could not stay in the traveling man's home any longer. We went to where ten or twelve school teachers were boarding. They were acquainted with us. I ran in and said, "Girls, I have got it! God has taken the stump out and He wants to save you!"

Pencils and books began to fly and in five minutes one of those girls was saved. The woman of the house came in and asked us what was wrong. I told her I had the stump taken out, and one of those girls got saved. She said, "I believe it. Pray for me!"

We turned that whole house into a prayer meeting that night. We got through there and started up the street. I want to confess to you that we did not go alone. We had a crowd with us. They filled that preacher's home, the bedroom, kitchen, dining room -- every room was filled. The front porch and the windows were filled. Bona gave his testimony and then said, "Pray!" And everybody in that house but three went on their knees as though they had been shot. The people came on horses and hand cars on the railroad and every possible way. They said that the world was coming to end. Some said that we had the fire and it was going to burn up the world. Thank God! the fire is burning right now.

It was two-forty-five in the morning; the rain was pouring and it was dark, but as we went along we sang, "Oh, This Is Like Heaven to Me." A man's wife heard it and said, "Listen, Papa, what is that?"

Papa rose up in bed and said, "That's the Fleming boys who were so wild."

The man's wife said, "If that is John and Bona Fleming, the boys who used to drink and shoot around here, at this time in the morning, singing, 'This Is Like Heaven to Me', and if those boys have something that will make them sing at this time in the morning, it is time we were doing something." And she fell out on one side of the bed and began to pray.

God called us to preach. I got down on my face and said, "I will preach." I said, "Bona, let's have a meeting."

We knew of a little church down in Fleming County, so I said, "We will go. I have no money but I believe we can make it. We have a one-eyed horse and we will go."

We drove that horse and arrived at the place where we were going to hold the meeting. I had been married only a few weeks but we had the meeting. On the way we stopped at night and had meeting in a home. I could not have quoted a text of Scripture to save me. We just shouted and praised the Lord and told the people that God had saved and sanctified. In ten days many had been saved. They came forward with the offering and gave us four and said it should have been ten. The devil said, "What are you going to do now?"

I said, "I am going to preach."

I knew of a Methodist church we could get into. We went and held a meeting but when we got through they never gave us a penny. They said, "Boys, come back; we enjoy your meetings."

The devil said, "You will starve to death."

We had our next meeting and they gave us one dollar and sixty five cents. We held three meetings on five dollars and sixty-five cents. Again the devil said, "You are starving."

I looked him in the face and said, "I am going to preach the Gospel if I have to live on corn-bread and beans." And from that day to this I have not had a burden for finances. God looked down and saw that there was a fellow who was going to preach at any cost, and He has supplied every need. Brother, if you cannot get any place to preach, I am afraid you have missed your calling or something is wrong.

A fellow left the Presbyterian Church and came to a holiness church and said, "I want you to recommend me to camp meetings."

I said, "You begin in school houses like we did and then you will be ready for camp meetings." But he went back to selling tobacco. I have not gone to but one place in sixteen years where God has not given a revival, and that place they locked me out. I have had thousands upon thousands of people bow at the mourners' bench. I seldom, if ever, close a meeting without some fifty or seventy or one hundred at the altar. I give God the praise for it. He does it all.

I have not been mad since God sanctified me. I used to get so angry they had to lay me on the floor and tie me, but since I have been serving the Lord, I have been stoned and cursed and lied about and everything else, but He has kept me. When God Almighty saves and sanctifies a man He gives him something that will carry him through the floods and the fire and everything the devil can bring against him. You can get something in your heart so clear and definite that the preacher's testimony will not have any effect on you. God can give you something that will send you back home a flame of fire, something that you can take back home to your church and everywhere, so that you can witness for Him.

God has taken us into practically every state in the Union and let us work in the best camp meetings and best churches of the nation and with practically every holiness preacher. Of all the people we have worked with, we have never had trouble with any of them. We give God all the glory for what He has done. He alone knows where Bona and I would have been today had we not found the Lord.

If you do not have God, I want you to know that you can get Him tonight. Is the Holy Ghost showing you that you do not have Him? You have tried to get fired up and warmed up, but if you will let Him, He will give you something that will carry you through. (From "TRUTH ON FIRE" by John and Bona Fleming, pp. 28-38).

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SERMON 3

"LIFE'S GREATEST TRAGEDY"

"THE WICKED SHALL BE TURNED INTO HELL" (Ps. 9:17).

Life's greatest tragedy is to be listed among the wicked of the earth. The "wicked" must not be confused with the "Sinners" out in the world. As far as the Bible is concerned, the wicked seems often to apply to persons in the ranks of the holy, but who do not now have God in their

hearts. They are the tares among the wheat that Jesus referred to. Some have had God but do not have Him any more. Some who have lost God out of their lives still try to carry on in the church as though everything is all right. Some work within the church to destroy it. Satan, for example, he once had God, but now works within the church to destroy it or control it.

Some backslidden souls stay in the church and seek to work within the church, and keep functioning, and try to cover up the fact that they have lost out with God.

It will be noticed that the "WICKED" and the "APOSTATE" are almost synonymous terms in the New Testament. They are still very religious -- sometimes very zealous -- usually warped in their theology. The Cults are full of people who one time had a genuine experience, but now they are listed among the wicked. Same way with many in the "tongues" movement.

If he is an evangelist, he may be very talented. He may be a gifted orator. He may have the ability to move a congregation to tears. But if he has sin in his life, he is wicked. He may preach powerful sermons. He may have a full slate. He may be in great demand. But if he has sin covered up in his life he is not classified as a sinner out in the world. He is a wicked person within the church and if he leaves this world in that condition he will drop into hell.

If he is a pastor, he may be one of the most successful. His church may grow from the teens to the hundreds and sometimes into the thousands. But if he is not himself walking in the light as Christ sheds it across his pathway, he is wicked and will be condemned at the judgment. He may make great headlines in the local paper. He may be one that everyone will speak well of. He may be a great philanthropist and sacrifice Physically and financially to help those in need or in tragic circumstances. But if he is not walking in the Light and obeying God, and live a surrender and holy life he is wicked.

If he is a top official on the local level, or the district level or the general level, he may be most Successful. He may have administrative ability second to none, but if he is not where he ought to be spiritually, and he knows it, but won't do anything about it, but just goes on, riding on his popularity, he is wicked.

If he is a layman he may be on the official board. He may be a genius as a Sunday school teacher. He (or she) may have one of the best voices for singing that can be located anywhere. He may be a conscientious tither and a good giver to special offerings. He may be a hard worker whenever there is work to be done. He may even be peaceful and cooperative and show a good spirit. But if he is walking behind light and knows it, he is listed among the wicked.

The wicked, according to the Word, are those who come and go from the place of the holy. He plotteth against the just (Ps. 37:12). And he slays the righteous (2 Sam.4:11).

I. THE FIRST WICKED ONE WE WILL MENTION IS THE DEVIL.

"I write unto you young men because you have overcome the WICKED one" (I Jn. 2:13).

"Not as Cain, who was of that WICKED one and slew his brother" (I Jn. 3:12).

"We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that WICKED ONE toucheth him not" (I Jn 5:18).

The field is the world: the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the "WICKED ONE" (Matt. 13:38).

II. ANOTHER GROUP OF WICKED ONES ARE THE DEMONS.

"Then goeth he and taketh to him seven other spirits more WICKED than himself, and they enter in, and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first" (Luke 11:26).

III. THIRD GROUP OF THE WICKED ARE THE APOSTATE JEWS.

". . . even so shall it be also unto this WICKED GENERATION" (Matt. 12:15).

"A WICKED and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them and departed" (Matt. 14:4). Christ was alluding to the apostate Jews in this reference.

IV. A FOURTH WICKED GROUP HAS REFERENCE TO THE ANTICHRIST.

"And then shall that WICKED one be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming" (2 Thess. 2:8).

V. A FIFTH GROUP OF WICKED ONES ARE FALSE PROPHETS AND LYING PREACHERS.

Now, this begins to get down to where we live.

Christ, denouncing the Pharisees who were so WICKED they wanted to kill him. (John 8:40). They were so WICKED Christ told them they were of their father the devil. (8:44).

In Jer. 23:16-27 WICKED prophets are vividly depicted and in verse 19 are referred to as WICKED. Verses 30-32 goes on further to describe them.

They are the arch deceivers. (Matt. 24:5, 23-26; Mark 13:6; 21-22; Luke 21:8; Jer. 14:13-16).

VI. A SIXTH GROUP OF WICKED ONES ARE CHRIST'S OWN SERVANTS WHO HAVE FALLEN BACK INTO SIN AND STILL CARRY ON AS USUAL IN THE CHURCH AND STILL PROFESS EVERYTHING IN THE BIBLE, BUT HAVE LOST THEIR SOULS AND HAVE

"And his lord answered and said unto him, Thou WICKED and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gathered where I have not strawed; (etc.) . . . Cast the

UNPROFITABLE SERVANT into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matt. 25:26).

"Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O Thou WICKED servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desirest me; etc. (Matt. 18:32).

"And cast ye the UNPROFITABLE SERVANT into outer darkness: There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Matt. 15:30).

"And he saith unto him, out of thine own mouth will I judge thee thou WICKED servant (Luke 19:22).

"But them that are without (sinners in the world) God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that WICKED person. (I Cor. 5:13). Note: the wicked are in a different classification than the sinners out in the world. The most WICKED are in the church and are among the righteous.

I present these scriptures to show you the personages you will be associated with in hell if you get a good experience and then lose out in your soul, grieve God out of your life and resort to WICKED practices.

Backsliding begins subtly and gradually, and WICKEDNESS follows. Notice all of the wicked mentioned in the Scripture at one time had a good relationship to God. The DEVIL was created holy but he turned away from pure holiness and rebelled against God.

The demons, wherever they came from (there are different theories), but it is clear that they are WICKED spirits that one time had a good relationship to God.

The APOSTATE JEWS also at one time, and many times, lived righteously before God, but by the time came they were far gone from the ways of righteousness and true holiness.

The FALSE PROPHETS in the Scriptures are always pictures as having been true to God to begin with, but they turned from the holy commandment. (2 Peter 2:21).

Drifting is very dangerous, and yet it is so prevalent, we see evidence of it through every facet of the church world. The story is told of a man from the north who went to Kentucky to buy a race horse and came home without one. Someone asked him why he didn't buy a horse, and he said, "I found a lot of 'has beens' and a lot of 'going to be's', but not too many 'isses'. We fear that in the ranks of Christ there are a lot more 'has beens' and 'going to be's' than there is 'isses'.

When the best and holiest of God's children become lax in their devotional life, and lose the keen edge from their experience, and give in to the pressure of the world and worldly friends and kin folk, and cowardly fail to take their stand, the time comes when they have completely lost out, and many times they keep on professing and laboring in the duties of the church.

It is very dangerous to fall into the habit of grieving the Holy Ghost. The best advice one can give is this: If you slip the least bit in your experience, confess it at once. Do not try to live on with a guilty conscience. Make all wrongs right. Pray your way back into favor with God and be more careful from then on.

When one loses the Holy Ghost out of his life, the unclean spirit that had been cast out comes back and brings seven more WICKED spirits more WICKED than himself and they enter into that man's heart and make him worse than he was before he ever got saved in the first place. (Matt. 12:43-45). Bro. Huffman used to preach from this scripture something like this:

There is the spirit of a false profession, and those spirit of touchiness (super sensitiveness), and the spirit of retaliation and revenge, and the spirit of surmise, suspicion, jealousy and slander.

Then follows the spirit of downright meanness. I have known people that had backslidden from holiness to treat other Christians worse than a sinner would treat a dog. That awful downright meanness!

Then follows the spirit of dryness and apathy. Finally all desire to get back one's lost experience is gone forever. No desire to get straightened out ever comes back. One's appetite for the holy experiences of the past hold no relish.

There is now, nothing left but undisturbed indifference. No sermon will reach him now. No light penetrates the darkened mind and soul. It is easier to get in this hopeless condition than most folk realize, when they never feel guilt for wrong doing, and never receive conviction from the Holy Ghost. Their conscience doesn't seem to ever bother them any more, no matter how cruelly they treat God's anointed. When one gets in this hopeless condition, he may preach as good as he had ever did, if he is a preacher, and have altars lined with seekers. Many are fooled by that into thinking they may still be right with God. But since the gifts and callings of God are without repentance, they may still be able to preach good, and get results, while they have no valid hope for their own soul the way they now are.

People who become genuinely converted and truly sanctified, pray through instantly, but when they lose out, they lose out gradually. People never become lukewarm on any gradual warming up process. They always become lukewarm on their way back down from fervent heat to coldness.

"What I say unto you I say unto all watch" (Matt. 13:37). Watch the spirit you manifest under pressure. Watch the way you feel toward those who have wronged you. Watch your motives. No one can keep right with wrong motives. Watch your ambitions lest they become carnal and worldly. Watch your prayer life and your relish for the Word of God. Watch your Sunday habits. Do only the most necessary kinds of work on the Lord's day, and certainly no buying or selling.

Stay awake and alert to the wiles of the devil. (Eph. 6:11).

"Therefore, let us not sleep as do others, but let us watch and be sober" (I Thess. 5:6).

Dr. J. B. Chapman years ago was holding meetings out in the state of Washington and staying in the home of a rancher. The man had migrated from the east some years before and taken out a homestead in the state of Washington. But he had no water for his stock or his household use. So he always had to hitch his mules onto a tank wagon every so often and drive 5 miles for a load of water. This went on for some time until he longed for an easier way. So he went to the bank, mortgaged his place, and borrowed some money, secured the services of a well driller and they drilled down until they struck a vein of water. He installed a pump in that shaft and did very well until the long hot summer came on and the well went dry. Then again, he had to hitch onto the tank wagon and drive again that long, hard, wearying, time-consuming trip for a load of water. The time came when he got tired of that. He went again to the bank and borrowed money and got the well driller engaged and they drilled down through more layers of rock till they struck the deeper stream. This time when they pulled their drill out they had an artesian well that shot water into the air about 10 feet and never died down summer or winter. It created a stream of water that ran down into a hollow and created a pond. Dr. Chapman asked the man how long that perennial stream would flow. And the man pointed to the staggering heights of the mountain in the distant background that was snowcapped summer and winter and said, "Just as long as snow falls on that mountain in the night and melts during the day, and just as long as water runs down hill, this stream will flow.

The application is obvious. Too many have to drive for miles now and then to a revival meeting and get their soul to get a little splash over from someone else in order to stay alive spiritually at all. Others do very well after an outstanding time of praying through, but then comes a long dry spells and they dry up again. But, thank GOD, there is the Holy Ghost filled ones of whom Jesus spoke when He said,

"But whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: but whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life" (John 4:13-14).

LIFE'S GREATEST LOSS by L. S. Boardman.

Should I lose the Holy Spirit ----- (Judges 16:20-b).

It would be life's greatest loss, ----- (Phil. 3:8).

If I gained the throne of honor ----- (Num. 22: 17, 18).

While I laid aside my cross ----- (Matt. 10:38).

Were I to grieve the Precious Spirit, ----- (Eph. 4:30).

Oh, the tender "Dove of God," ----- (Matt. 3:16-b).

I would rather die an early death, ----- (2 Kings 4:13-20).

And be hurried to the sod, ----- (Gen. 3:19).
Than to miss divine appointments, ----- (Luke 19:41-44).
And thus follow human plans, ----- (James 4:13-16).
And at heart I fail my calling, ----- (I Peter 1:15-16).
And have blood upon my hands. ----- (Matt. 27:24-25).
I might still promote revivals, ----- (Ezra 9:8-b; 2 Chron. 7:14).
And still preach very fine, ----- (I Sam. 10:10-11).
And point folk to the narrow way, ----- (Matt. 7:14).
And hold them to the line. ----- (2 Cor. 13:2).
And with altars lined with seekers, ----- (Acts 2:41).
And most zealous while I preach, ----- (Rom. 10:2).
And sense not the 'Dove's' departure, ----- (Gen. 6:3; Deut. 1:42)
Till He's forever out of reach. ----- (I Sam. 28:15).
While longing to be famous, ----- (Isa. 14:13-14).
Grieving thus the Holy Ghost:, ----- (Isa. 63:10; Eph 4:30).
I might preach with only sentiment, ----- (Isa. 30:10).
That's the kind sore like the most. ----- (2 Tim. 4:3-4).
And avoid repercussions, ----- (John 16:1-3; Acts 7:54-60).
Taking pains to step aside, ----- (I Tim. 1:5-6; Jude 11).
To salve up one's own conscience ----- (Luke 10:29).
When wrongs are rationalized. ----- (Prov. 14:12; 30:12; Rev. 3:17).
Aims to keep the carnal happy, ----- (Eph. 6:6)
And to make them each his friend, ----- (2 Sam. 15:5-6).

What a sad and bitter story ----- (2 Sam. 18:33).
When one's life has reached the end. ----- (2 Kings 20:1).
Eulogizing o'er one's casket, ----- (I Kings 13:30-31).
Will not save him from the 'fire' ----- (Matt. 23:33; Rev. 19:20).
Which is awaiting the false preachers, ----- (I John 4:1; I Kings 13:18).
When at last they shall expire. ----- (I Kings 13:24).
Being called to preach the gospel ----- (I Tim. 1:12; Luke 9:69).
Proved a very perilous day, ----- (Matt. 27:5; Matt. 23:,37,38).
For many preach the truth to others, ----- (2 Tim. 4:2).
And themselves have missed the way. ----- (I Cor. 9:27).
With their eyes upon life's comforts, ----- (2 Tim. 4:10).
And their hearts were lifted up; ----- (I Tim. 3:6).
They despised to join the martyrs, ----- (Rev. 17:6; Acts 7:54-60).
And refused the bitter cup, ----- (Matt. 26:39,42).
Pointing to their many converts, ----- (Acts 2:41).
They supposed that proved the fact, ----- (Luke 10:17,20).
That they'd obeyed the Lord themselves, ----- (Acts 26:19-20; 2 Tim. 4:10).
And never once looked back, ----- (Gen. 19:26; Luke 9:62).
But our Christ -- He holds the road map, ----- (Isa. 30:21).
And He knows just where we've erred, ----- (John 4:16-19,29).
When we failed the path of duty, ----- (Matt. 21:30-31).
And we compromised the Word. ----- (2 Peter 3:16).
Lord, keep the fear of hell upon us, ----- (Matt. 5:29:30).

Lest we take the hireling's way, ----- (John 10:12-13).
And for lust we sell our conscience, ----- (I Tim. 4:2).
While we're slipping every day. ----- (Jer. 8:5).
Standing bold before the people; ----- (I Sam. 10:11-13).
Putting up a stubborn bluff, ----- (Matt. 26:24-25).
While in our secret heart life, ----- (Ps. 19:12).
Things are getting awfully rough. -----(I Sam. 28:15; Acts 1:18).
While working up enthusiasm, -----(I Kings 18:28-29)
And we seem to "ring the bell," -----(Prov. 14: 12).
With true unction all departed, -----(Judges 16:20-b).
Is a tale too sad to tell. ----- (Matt. 23:37-38).
Do we dare to turn the ledger? ----- (Rev. 20:12).
With our motives written down; -----(I John 3:12).
Hireling preacher, heed this warning, ----- (John 10:12,13
Lest you fail to gain the crown.----- (Rev. 3:11).
Prostrate then, we'll fall before Him, ----- (Phil. 2:10,11).
Be it I, or be it you:----- (Rom. 2:11).
At the judgment we must answer -----(Eccl. 11:9).
Why we preach the way we do. -----(Jer. 23:16).
Secret sins and carnal motives, ----- (Eccl. 12:14).
That are too off-shade to tell; ----- (Prov. 27:6; Matt. 26:48-49).
Blind men lauded us to heaven, ----- (Matt. 15:14).
Jesus curses such to hell. ----- (Matt. 22:13-14).

Where the hottest fires are burning, ----- (Matt. 23:14; Mk. 12:40; Lk, 29:47).

There to spend an endless night, ----- (Jude 13).

Having damned our souls and people ----- (Matt. 15; 14).

With a false facsimile of light ----- (Matt. 6:23).

Wicked ambition -- wicked counsel -- Wicked hands --Wicked hearts --Wicked motives -- Ezekiel 22:27 -- Matt. 7:15; Wicked devices (study "devices" In the Scriptures) -- Wicked scheming -- I Tim. 5:13 --Wicked ways -- Wicked servants --Wicked spirits -- Wicked conversations -- Ezek. 28:13,15,17--

"Spiritual wickedness in high places" (Eph. 6:12). Pharisees were wicked at heart (Luke 11:39; Mt. 22:18). Anyone who through jealousy or a grudge, or ambition, or any other evil motive, tries to destroy another's ministry or influence is doing very wickedly. Anyone who passes judgment and acts upon it, on an uninvestigated rumor is doing very wickedly.

Mt. 12:45 ----- demons.

Evil day ----- Zeph. 1:18 -- 1: 9 -- 1:15

Mt. 13:19-38,49 ----- devil

Lam. 1:12 -- 2:22 -- Ezek. 7:19 -- Isa. 61:2

Mt. 16:4 = ----- Jews

Mt. 18:32 ----- wicked servant.

" 21:41 ----- " "

" 25:26 ----- " "

Lk. 11:26 ----- demons

" 19:22 ----- servants

Ac. 2:23 ----- Apostate Jews

Ac. 18:14 ----- ??

I Cor. 5:13 ----- Wicked church members

Eph. 6:16 -----Satan; wicked

Col 1:21

2 Thes. 2:8 ----- wicked Antichrist

" " 3:2 ----- wicked men

2 Peter 2:7 and 3:17 -- wicked Sodom

" " ----- Wicked men -- 2 Pet. 3:17

I Jn. 2:13-14 ----- Satan, wicked one

" " 3:12 ----- Satan

" " 5:18 -----Satan "Ye are of your father, etc.

JESUS SAID: "AND FEAR NOT THEM WHICH KILL THE BODY, BUT ARE NOT ABLE TO KILL THE SOUL; BUT RATHER FEAR HIM WHICH IS ABLE TO DESTROY BOTH SOUL AND BODY IN HELL." WHAT DOES THE WORD "DESTROY" MEAN IN THIS PASSAGE? WHILE PREACHING ON THE SUBJECT OF HELL, I WOULD SOMETIMES ILLUSTRATE IT THIS WAY: IF I SHOULD TAKE A PERFECTLY GOOD CHAIR AND SMASH IT INTO KINDLING WOOD, IF HAVE DESTROYED THE CHAIR BUT I HAVE NOT ANNIHILATED IT BECAUSE I STILL HAVE ALL OF KINDLING WOOD -- NOTHING ABOUT THE CHAIR IFS ANNIHILATED BECAUSE IF STILL HAVE THE KINDLING WOOD, NOTHING ABOUT THE CHAIR HAS BEEN ANNIHILATED, AND YET THE CHAIR IS DESTROYED, THE REASON THE CHAIR IS DESTROYED IS BECAUSE IT IFS RENDERED INCAPABLE OF FUNCTIONING FOR THE PURPOSE IT WAS INTENDED. IT IFS NO LONGER A CHAIR, AND YET IT DOES NOT CEASE TO EXIST.

THE ONLY THINGS THAT WILL BE ANNIHILATED IN HELL WILL BE SUCH THINGS AS LOVE, JOY AND PEACE, BUT NOT THE SOUL NOR THE BODY. THE SOUL AND BODY WILL BE DESTROYED, ONLY IN THE SENSE THAT THEY WILL BE RENDERED INCAPABLE OF FUNCTIONING FOR THE PURPOSE THEY WERE INTENDED, FOR EXAMPLE, THE EYES WERE INTENDED TO VIEW THE GLORIES OF HEAVEN, BUT THEY WILL BE IN HELL RENDERED INCAPABLE OF FUNCTIONING FOR THE PURPOSE THEY WERE INTENDED. THE SAME GOES FOR THE LIPS WHICH WERE INTENDED TO PRAISE AND GLORIFY GOD FOREVER, BUT IN HELL THEY WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO FUNCTION FOR THE PURPOSE THEY WERE INTENDED. IN THAT SENSE, THE BODY AND SOUL WILL BE DESTROYED, BUT NEITHER OF THEM WILL BE ANNIHILATED,

JESUS ALSO REFERRED TO THE LOST ONES IN HELL, SAYING, "AND THE DEVIL THAT DECEIVED THEM WAS CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE AND BRIMSTONE, WHERE THE BEAST AND THE FALSE PROPHETS ARE, AND SHALL BE TORMENTED DAY AND NIGHT FOREVER AND EVER," (REV. 20:10).

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SERMON 4 THE POWER OF UNCONSCIOUS INFLUENCE

It has been my policy for many years to put something about holiness into every sermon. I think it is an excellent idea.

(Jn. 20:1-8) We are all familiar with the background behind these verses. Christ had been crucified and buried. Mary Magdalene was first to the sepulcher on the first day of the week. She found the stone rolled away from the mouth of the sepulcher. She ran and hunted up Peter and John and told them the body had been taken away. They both ran to the sepulcher. John, younger, and more nimble, got there first, but he did not venture to enter the sepulcher. He only stooped down and looked in. But when Peter came up he bolted right in, Peter fashion. "THEN" -- there is my text -- the word "THEN". "Then went in that other disciple."

Why did he go in "THEN". Why did he not go in before then? Why did he not wait till later? Why did he go in at all? What made him go in just "then"? Now comes my subject -- It was the power of unconscious influence.

Peter did not say, "John, come on in." He didn't say anything. He probably didn't even realize that he influenced John, but he did. The power of unconscious influence is forever working in our lives. Is a power that we cannot turn off. There is no way to stop it. One's holy influence can be a tremendous blessing in the world, but carnal influence and worldly influence can bring lethal tragedy.

It is sad when husbands and wives wrongly influence each other. A few years ago, Dean and Peggy Alexander left the ministry, backslid and went back into awful sin. One night they dropped into a revival meeting and got under conviction. Peggy begged to go to the altar and get back to God but Dean was stubborn and would not go so neither went. The next night Dean wanted to go and Peggy got stubborn, and again they neither went. The third night, with another worldly couple, they went out and spent the evening in sin and in drunkenness. Dean and Peggy took the other couple home and then drove home in the midst of an awful fight. Dean dropped her off at home and peeled the rubber for about 2 miles, missed the road at a high rate of speed and hit the end of a bridge and was hurled out into eternity. Wrong influence two nights in a row!

Sometimes parents wrongly influence children. In Prince Edward Island, in a tent meeting two backslidden Nazarene preachers, Lloyd and Henry Oliver prayed through and got back to God, gloriously. Years have gone by and Lloyd has stayed true. Henry went home. His father was outraged and told Henry that if he would give up that religion he would have the farm and all the stock and machinery, but if he stayed with that religion he would get nothing. Henry backed down, went back to sin and drinking and the last I knew had never gotten back to God.

Worldly preachers have a terrible influence. When we left our former church connections our District Superintendent begged and begged me to stay with them. I said "Brother _____ until you put a television in your house I doubt if there was a single pastor on

your district that had one. But as soon as the news got out that you had a TV practically every one of your pastors bought one." (Incidentally, a few years later, after being a District Superintendent for more than twenty years, the church took his credentials because of moral charges.

AS HUMANS WE ARE CONSTANTLY, UNCONSCIOUSLY AND UNAVOIDABLY TOUCHING THE SPRING OF MOTION IN ONE ANOTHER. It is a sobering thought.

I knew a mother whose baby lived only one hour. One would think that baby was one person that wasn't in the world long enough to leave an influence. However, more than 40 years later, the mother, an old lady by now, sat one day looking at the picture of that baby and burst out weeping.

One hot summer day we were driving through Tennessee and we wanted an ice-cold 7-up and stopped at a little store with nothing but 7-up in mind. Upon approaching the store there stood a farmer in the doorway eating an Eskimo Pie. He stepped aside as we entered, but said nothing. Immediately we changed our mind and bought an Eskimo Pie. The man never dreamed he influenced me, but he did. We went down the road in that intense heat and some of that chocolate coating slid off the ice cream and got on my suit. The suit had to go to the cleaner. A few days later we had to go and pick up the suit and pay out money to get it cleaned -- still being affected by the influence of a man who was totally unaware of it.

OH! THE SUBTLE PULLING POWER OF HUMAN INFLUENCE IS FRIGHTENING AND OFTEN DEVASTATING. People live by imitation. We draw streams of human souls. When their eyes follow us, it is not long until their feet are following us. Their opinions are affected by our opinions. There is a terrific suction when a huge liner goes down at sea.

When the Titanic was ripped open in the icy waters of the North Atlantic in 1912 and sunk, there were a few life boats and they were soon loaded to capacity with human lives. But when the ship took her final plunge beneath the waves some of those little boats were too close to the vortex and the suction pulled them in and they up ended and followed the big ship to her grave.

Nobody ever went to hell alone. Every word we speak has its effect. Every move is consequential. Every attitude is dynamic. People unconsciously take on the attitude we manifested, make the decisions we made, form the prejudices we had, take on the habits they saw in us, dislike the people we dislike and lose confidence in the people we had lost confidence in. When we have a wrong influence on someone they may never be the same again. We are the thermostat which controls the moral and spiritual temperature around us.

WE ARE NOT JUST SOLITARY INDIVIDUALS HERE IN THIS WORLD. With every step, humanity feels the jolt. The church where we worship is affected. In Deut. 20:8 God let the ancients know that those soldiers with a bad influence needed to be sent home before the battle took place or they would lose the war. And in the 7th chapter of Judges God sent 31,700 home and then Gideon won the war with three hundred. There could be a terrible chain reaction that sets in when the ranks start breaking.

When I was a child on the farm my father used to lay away several bins of apples in the cellar for winter use. Long before spring some of them would begin to rot. Dad and I would sit down there four hours at a time picking over those apples, removing the affected ones and salvaging what we could. When a good apple was found laying against a rotten one, the good one would be wet. We always wiped it dry before putting it back into the bin. My dad told me that if we left it wet from the rotten apple, then the good one would start rotting quicker. In other words, it was necessary to wipe off the bad influence of that rotten apple. The same goes for a person with a rotten attitude.

THINK OF THE TRAGEDY OF THE LONG LASTING EFFECT OF A BAD INFLUENCE. Your influence will live on and reap a harvest for years after you are gone. Some of the forces you set in motion will never stop. Whether you are asleep in the bed at night or in the grave, the forces you set in motion are out there reaping a harvest for weal or woe.

Years ago when my oldest boy, Chuck, was in high school I fell under an intense burden and fasted for a week. After several days his mother said to me, "Darling, do you know that Chuck started fasting when you did and he tells me he will continue fasting as long as you do? He told me last night he was so weak it was hard for him to climb the steps into the high school building." I was shocked. I never dreamed he was fasting, but my unconscious influence was at work.

His sister, now in her 44th year has never served God since she was a very small child. One day I was talking to myself and saying, "Well, at least, if she is finally lost I can say one thing; it was not my fault." I did my best. God rebuked me for the statement. He said to me, "Don't ever again say it was not your fault." In the early years of her childhood, before you died out to your old carnal nature and were sanctified wholly your shallow prayer life, your carnal spells, your influence in general had its mark on that tender little life. Son, never again let me hear you say you did your best to get her started right and that it was not your fault she is not saved today.

ONE SOUL-SHAKING FACT IS THAT THE ONES WHO FOLLOW YOU DOWN THE WRONG ROAD MAY NEVER FOLLOW YOU BACK WHEN YOU TURN AROUND. While pastoring in New York State years ago there lived a Mr. White whom I visited in his home numbers of times. He was in his middle or upper seventies. He had such a bad heart the Dr. had given him extremely strict orders as to how to arise slowly from the bed or chair and how to walk across the room. He was expected to drop dead any minute. One day while making a call on this dear old man I told him about a revival which was going on in my church at that time. I said to him, "Mr. White, I know you can't come to this meeting because of your health, but I am sorry you are not well and strong; then you could come." His face clouded as he looked sternly at me and said, "I wouldn't come if I were well and strong. I don't believe in revival meetings. I don't believe in any of that religious stuff." Shocked and hurt, I asked, "Mr. White, tell me, why do you feel the way you do about revival meetings?" He replied, "When I was a small boy our home was broken and I was taken to be reared by my Aunt and Uncle. They were very religious people. They went to church twice every Sunday and to prayer meeting on Wednesday night. They went every night when revival meetings were going on. They had family prayer in the home every day and grace at the table. But when they would get mad at each other and get into a fight it was awful. And then and there I made up my mind that there was nothing to this religious business." A shocking story indeed! For there was an old man tottering on the edge of the grave and of eternity as well,

rejecting flat out the salvation of Christ which could have saved him from a burning hell because of a bad influence from two professed Christians -- an influence that had followed him and controlled him for sixty years and has long since followed him into eternity and will curse him forever.

Years ago while we were pastoring a Nazarene church in Saratoga Springs a man named Comacho was pastoring a non-holiness church in the same city, and we became quite good friends. Comacho was a charming personality but he was bitterly opposed to second blessing holiness. One day he confided in me a story which had come to me from various sources across the years. It concerns a very unfortunate episode in the life of a man who has been considered across the entire Holiness movement as perhaps the greatest Holiness evangelist of his generation. This dear, holy man of God was at one time under long-standing, devastating pressure, intense enough to have destroyed weaker souls. His faith was strong, but his nerves were shattered and his emotions were unstable. He had words with a railroad ticket agent over some sort of misunderstanding and Comacho was standing in line and overheard the entire disagreement. The dear man, whom we all knew as "Uncle Bud," went from that station and up the street when God spoke thus to him: "Son, you didn't very kindly to that ticket agent did you?"

"No," he answered, "will you forgive me?"

"I will if you will go right back and ask his forgiveness and tell him how sorry you are that you spoke sharply to him." Bud went directly back in all humility and did a good job of making amends. But the tragedy was that by the time he got there, Comacho was gone." And more than twenty years later, and long after Uncle Bud was in heaven, Comacho was out there preaching against holiness, trying to convince people that there was no such thing as pure, holy heart sanctification, and using one of the strongest advocates of Holiness in the church of that generation to prove his point. How tragic, that in an unguarded moment, under devastating, long-term pressure, one of the strongest voices of second blessing holiness in the world is used, long after the dear man is dead and gone, to discount in the minds of hearts of people, the very thing that the precious, sanctified man had given his life to promote.

Many years ago we held a revival for a dear man in whom we had the utmost confidence. He was outstanding in prayer and carried an intense burden throughout the meeting. We had the sweetest of fellowship. However, on the early Monday morning after the meeting closed he took me down to the local bank to get my check cashed, and on the way he told me one of the filthiest jokes I have ever heard. I was shocked. I couldn't believe my ears. But across these many intervening years, never once has this man's name crossed my mind but what that joke slaps me in the face. It won't go away. I missed it. I should have rebuked him. Then, had he repented in bitter tears, and corrected his fault and overcome his weakness, the matter could have been hidden so far back in my subconscious mind, and buried beneath mountains of holy activity until it would never have bothered me again. However, he and I have never had occasion to work together or even associate together as we live hundreds of miles apart, and the last impression he made on my mind was the one I have related, and I can no more erase it from my memory than I could "un-ring" a bell."

Again, it was many years ago in a revival meeting. An old, retired gentleman fell under deep conviction for wrongs he had done against the church when he thought he was doing right. It so happened that many year previously they had erected a new church edifice and on the day of dedication the District Superintendent, publicly handed the keys to the new church to this gentleman, the chairman of the board of trustees at that time and said in substance, "I am giving you the keys to this church and I am investing in you as the head trustee the responsibility to keep this church on track. And if at any time you feel that things are not going as they should I shall expect you to be in touch with me and together we can work out a solution to the problem."

Time rocked on and the time came when he felt that the church was not making the progress it should, so he got in touch with the Superintendent, who paid him a visit, had a long talk over a fancy steak dinner in a swanky restaurant and concluded that probably the best solution would be to have a change of pastors. Plans were made and worked out. The old pastor was dismissed and a new one arrives, only to repeat the cruel treatment again and again. When the dear man walked to the front of that church, faced the congregation with two streams of tears flowing down his face he confessed, "I have personally been responsible for removing eleven preachers in seventeen years." Then he called the pastor to join him before the people and shook his hand warmly and promised, "My dear brother, I want you to know I am through with that business forever. And as an observer across many years I happen to know he kept his word.

IN CONCLUSION: How long has it been since you influenced somebody against somebody against somebody with an evil motive? How long has it been since you hurt somebody's opinion of somebody with an evil motive? How long has it been since you wrongly influenced someone and they began to throw away their God-given convictions? Someone watched you and knew what you professed and they lost their faith in God?

St. Francis of Assisi said, "For in the example is the force that changes the world." It is not our testimony unless it is backed up by a holy life.

Your influence cannot possibly count for the best when you are carnal. To be carnal is to be influenced by it and controlled by it, rather than by Christ. No one's influence can count for the best without the Baptism with the Holy Ghost and fire. All one has to do is to profess holiness and show a bad spirit and his influence for good and for God is ruined.

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SERMON 5 THE BOOK OF JUDE

The Book of Jude is a book of contrasts. It is called "THE EPISTLE OF APOSTASY." It is also an "EPISTLE OF HOLINESS." This book points to the highest heights of holiness, and to the deepest depths of apostasy.

The difference between one's reaching the heights of holiness and avoiding the deepest depths of apostasy, from which there is no return, is the difference between obeying God, praying

through, walking in the light, on one hand, and on the other hand, continuing on in sin and rebellion against God.

NOTE SOME OF THE CONTRASTS IN THE BOOK OF JUDE:

In verse 1 we find the SERVANTS of Jesus Christ, called of God and answering the call. In verse 4 we find "UNGODLY MEN" who crept in unawares, denying the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

In verse 1 there are those who are SANCTIFIED BY GOD THE FATHER. In verse 4 there are those under eternal CONDEMNATION.

In verse 1 there are those PRESERVED IN JESUS CHRIST, AND CALLED. In verse 4 there are those who would TURN THE GRACE OF GOD INTO LASCIVIOUSNESS -- the most awful sin.

In verse 2 we find MERCY MULTIPLIED for the saints. In verse 4 we find the most fearful CONDEMNATION and DENUNCIATION upon the ungodly.

In verse 2 we find DIVINE LOVE. In verse 18, UNGODLY LUSTS.

In verse 3 there are the BELOVED. In verse 16 there are the COMPLAINERS.

There is in verse 3 the COMMON SALVATION. And in verse 13, THE BLACKNESS OF DARKNESS FOREVER.

In Verse 3 there is the FAITH ONCE DELIVERED UNTO THE SAINTS. In verse 16 there are the MOCKERS, WALKING AFTER THEIR OWN UNGODLY LUSTS.

Verse 29 presents THE WISE GOD. Verse 7, STRANGE FLESH.

In verse 5 we are reminded that GOD SAVED HIS PEOPLE OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT. In verse 5 HE DESTROYED THEM THAT BELIEVED NOT.

THE MOST HOLY FAITH appears in verse 29, and FILTHY DREAMERS in verse 8.

In verse 20 we find people PRAYING IN THE HOLY GHOST. In verse 12 there are people that are likened to CLOUDS WITHOUT WATER and TREES WITHOUT FRUIT.

Verse 20 presents the LOVE OF GOD. Verses 14 and 15 we see the same LORD GOD COMING TO EXECUTE JUDGMENT UPON THE UNGODLY AND SINNERS.

In verse 24 we are assured that HE IS ABLE TO KEEP US FROM FALLING AND TO PRESENT US FAULTLESS BEFORE GOD WITH EXCEEDING JOY. In verse 6 THE ANGELS KEPT NOT THEIR FIRST ESTATE.

MICHAEL, the ARCHANGEL appears in verse 9, and the DEVIL (SATAN) in the same sentence.

Verse 2 is saturated with MERCY, but verse 6 speaks of CHAINS UNDER DARKNESS UNTO THE JUDGMENT OF THE GREAT DAY, and the VENGEANCE OF ETERNAL FIRE IN VERSE 7.

Verse 3 speaks of THE BELOVED. Verse 7 speaks of the SODOMITES who CORRUPTED THEMSELVES.

Verse 24 speaks of those who were PRESENTED FAULTLESS. Verse 15 are people of UNGODLY DEEDS, loaded with FAULTS and SINS.

Verse 24 speaks of those IN HIS PRESENCE WITH EXCEEDING JOY. Verse 15 remind us of those who have no joy. They GRIPE, MURMUR, and give HARD SPEECHES. The EXCEEDING JOYOUS are contrasted with the ETERNAL COMPLAINERS.

The WISE GOD appears in verse 25, but the MOCKERS in verse 18.

The GLORY and MAJESTY is predominant in verse 25. But the SENSUAL and DEVILISH take over in verse 19.

The war which is raging between Satan and God is very graphically portrayed here in this single chapter in Jude. This conflict shows up in every strata of human life. The battle ground is in the hearts of all humanity. Every responsible human soul will place themselves on one side or the other and will win or lose.

Be encouraged, dear ones. This mortal conflict will one day be over forever. Every human soul in the world will finally be forever fixed on one side or the other.

(If any minister will take each of the "key" words from this chapter, and follow them through the scriptures with STRONG'S EXHAUSTIVE CONCORDANCE, noticing every time each appears, and what is said about it, that minister will have an almost exhaustless supply of the most excellent evangelistic preaching material available).

LET US NOW NOTICE SOME MORE VIVID CONTRASTS WHICH APPEAR IN THE BOOK OF JUDE:

There is contrasted HOLINESS and APOSTASY. Holiness points to HEAVEN and sin points to HELL.

There are the HOLY PEOPLE with their HOLY HEARTS and HOLY LABORS. There is in contrast the WICKED AND CARNAL PEOPLE with their sinful hearts and labors. One group endeavors to promote the kingdom of God. And the other the cause of the Devil.

We notice the HOLY PURPOSE of God's people, contrasted with the SINFUL PASSIONS of the wicked ones.

We hear one crowd PRAYING, while the other crowd is BLASPHEMING God.

The motivation of the first crowd is the HOLY PRESENCE of their HOLY GOD. The secret of the wicked is the DEMONIC PRESENCE AND PRESSURE OF THE DEVIL AND HIS DEPUTIES.

PERFECT LOVE and PERFECT SWEETNESS is contrasted with PERFECT HATRED and PERFECT BITTERNESS.

The HOLY LIFE versus the WICKED and SINFUL LIFE.

There is COMPASSION from the heart of God on one hand, and CRUELTY AND MALIGNITY from the heart of Satan on the other.

There is contrasted the FLESH HATERS, HATING EVEN THE GARMENTS SPOTTED BY THE FLESH, with the FLESH LOVERS, SODOMITES AND FORNICATORS.

Jude pictures the righteous as being CAREFUL and CAUTIOUS, while the wicked are RASH and HEADSTRONG. The first goes GOD'S WAY, and the latter ones go THEIR OWN WAY.

God's children pictured here FEAR GOD and SIN and HELL. The devil's crowd seem to fear none of these, but there is no fear of God before their eyes.

Verse 24 paints a vivid picture of HOLY SECURITY "He is able to keep you from falling." In contrast we see here the awful and eternal INSECURITY of the wicked, with such words as "Waves of the sea, driven of the winds and tossed," and "Everlasting chains of darkness," and "vengeance of eternal fire."

One can find no hope of security anywhere in this chapter, for the wicked, or in any other chapter for that matter.

The SANCTIFIED hate even their own human faults, weakness and blunders and will be constantly warring against them to overcome them. On the other hand, the wicked do not care how many bad habits they have (even downright SINFUL habits). They actually enjoy their sins and hate to put them away.

Another thing we notice in verse 24 is the EXCEEDING JOY of God's children. Their EXCEEDING JOY SHALL KNOW NO LIMITS when they, (the bloodwashed) "FINISHED PRODUCT," stands in His Presence at last. But for the wicked, the Bible promises nothing better than WEEPING and WAILING and GNASHING OF TEETH, and the "BLACKNESS OF DARKNESS FOREVER. (James Moffatt refers to this blackness of darkness as "The Nether Gloom."

ETERNAL LIFE is always contrasted with ETERNAL DEATH; ETERNAL DAY with ETERNAL NIGHT; ETERNAL LIGHT with ETERNAL DARKNESS.

HERE ARE A FEW MORE CONTRASTS WHICH SHOW UP IN THIS CHAPTER:

There are two distinctly different types of people. (One can enlarge on this).

These people have two entirely different likes and dislikes (Enlarge on this also).

They feed at two entirely different tables, wield two entirely different kinds of INFLUENCE, enjoy two entirely different kinds of PLEASURE, carry on two entirely different kinds of CONVERSATION. There is the difference between the REDEEMED and the REPROBATES.

One LOVES HOLINESS and the other LOVES SIN. One loved everything HEAVENLY, and the others love everything EARTHLY and SENSUAL. One heads for the prayer meeting, while the other heads for some den of iniquity. One seeks only to PLEASE GOD; the other seeks only to GRATIFY SELF and the CALL OF THE FLESH. One is PRESSING UPWARD against great odds. The other is COASTING and DRIFTING aimlessly with the tide.

One crowd looks upon Christ's BLOOD as a thing MOST HOLY and SACRED. The other crowd CURSES CHRIST and TRAMPLES the BLOOD, as though it were an unholy thing.

In verse 11 The TRAGEDY CROWD went the way of CAIN, instead of lining up with the BLOOD-WASHED and SPIRIT-FILLED. They also tried to DESTROY those who obeyed and loved God.

Others, like Balaam, desired only MONEY and FAME in this life and would do almost anything to get them.

Still others, like Core, with their spirit of INDEPENDENCE. They lay rough hands on God's anointed to persecute them.

Core is a picture of carnality running the church. Verse 4 explains how certain carnal people with their carnal spirit and carnal influence creep into the church, and seek to get control. And when they get control God goes Out and devil comes in. And humanist takes over.

Many times the church will still grow with the worldly element in control, but it will grow WORLDLY and COLD. Jude says they are like clouds that float over the dry, arid desert and produce no rain. They know nothing of the glorious times of refreshing in the presence of the Lord.

Such clouds promise nothing and produce nothing. They are like a tree with no fruit -- a disappointment from start to finish. They are STERILE, NON-PRODUCTIVE, and worthless, like WANDERING STARS, clear out of orbit, out of step with God, plunging blindly on with no Divine Purpose, no Divine guidance, and no eternal hope.

Some of the most holy men and women the church has ever produced backslid and finally wound up in an apostate condition.

With this in mind, the Apostle warns us in the Book of Hebrews, "LET US THEREFORE FEAR LEST A PROMISE BEING LEFT US OF ENTERING INTO HIS REST, ANY OF YOU SHOULD SEEM TO COME SHORT OF IT" (Heb. 4:1).

Notice the next verse. The WORD OF GOD did not profit them since it was not mixed with faith in them that heard it.

Years ago a Brother F. pastored one of the larger and stronger churches in the Holiness ranks. He had a craving for money. He borrowed a thousand dollars from one of his church members and put it into the stock market and doubled it over night. He paid back the thousand he had borrowed and put the thousand he made back into the market and doubled it again. He then got it into his mind that he could make a million dollars in two or three years, and he set out to do it, and they told me at the time that he did reach his goal. But he lost God out of his heart, divorced his wife, took off with some young "fling" he ran onto and lived with her for some years. Finally becoming ill he consulted a physician, who said to him, "Mr. F. if you have any business that needs to be fixed up, you had better be at it because you are not going to be here very long."

That shook him. He paid off his "live in" woman and sent her away and returned to his deserted wife, and soon died with his head in her lap.

Remember, sin does not pay. Someone has truthfully said, "The devil always pays with counterfeit money." No statement was ever more true.

WHAT THEN?

When the great busy plants of our cities
Have turned out their last finished work;
When our merchants have sold their last order,
And dismissed the last tired clerk;
When our banks have raked in their last dollar,
And paid out their last dividend;
When the Judge of the earth shall say, "Closed for the night,"
And calls for a balance -- what then?

When the choir has sung its last anthem,
And the preacher has made his last prayer;
When the people have heard the last sermon,
And the sound has died out on the air;
When the Bible lies closed on the pulpit,
And the pews are all emptied of men,
And each one stands facing his record,
And the Books will be opened -- what then?

When the actors have played their last drama,
An the mimic has made his last fun;
When the film has flashed its last picture,
And the billboards displayed their last run;
When the crowds seeking pleasure have vanished,
And gone out in the darkness again;
When the trumpet of ages is sounded,
And they stand up in judgment -- what then?

When the bugle's call sinks into silence,
And the long marching columns stand still;
When the captain repeats this last order,
And they've captured the last fort and hill;
When the flag has been hauled from the masthead,
And from far fields all men are called in;
When each man who rejected the Saviour
Is asked for a reason - what then?

-- Author Unknown --

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SERMON 6

SCRIPTURE, I Tim. 5:4 "But if any . . . have children . . . let them learn first to shew (show) piety at home, and to requite (reward) their parents: for that is good and acceptable before the Lord." "LEARN PIETY AT HOME!" (Also Prov. 22:6).

The garden of Eden must have been a most beautiful place when God first created it. Surely flowers could never have been more beautiful than the ones God planted there with His own creative genius. The only home more beautiful will be the eternal home called Heaven which Christ has gone to prepare for those who love him.

But in the meantime we have earthly homes. When the devil lives in these homes and runs them it is awful. When Christ lives in these homes and runs them it is glorious. Homes are the next thing to heaven on earth when all of the members are sanctified wholly.

Even the birds, the animals and the fish have a place which they can call home. The Bible tells us that the hole in the ground is a home for the fox. And the next in the tree is the home for the bird. The deep, dark pool in the river is the home for the fish.

We know that the HOME is the FOUNTAINHEAD of our society. No society can rise higher than the average home. The reason our society is in such chaos today is because of the general breakdown in the morals at home.

Our society rests on 4 pillars, the home, the school, the church and the government. If these four institutions would all function properly, righteously and Godly, this world would be a wonderful place in which to live. What would our world be like if sin and Satan were cast out of every home and every heart in the world. It will be that way one of these days when Christ sets up His Kingdom and reigns here upon the earth. The home is unquestionably the most important of these four institutions. When the home becomes corrupt, then all society becomes corrupt. Society cannot rise while the homes are falling. Many homes know nothing but quarreling, discord, hatred and bitterness. It takes more than lumber and bricks and mortar to make a happy and ideal home.

I. IT TAKES LOVE -- THE LOVE OF GOD TO MAKE AN IDEAL HOME.

For human love to be at its best each heart must be baptized with the love of God shed abroad in the heart by the Holy Ghost. When I see the way many people live at home, hear the conversations and feel the atmosphere, it is enough to break one's heart.

Years ago Mel Trotter told of two young lads that were very close friends through college days. One wanted to be a farmer. He loved the country and the labors associated with the farm. He went into farming and made a success. The other went into business and became one of the most wealthy multi-millionaires of this country. After many years this farmer decided to visit his former chum. They had been as close as brothers. So he went to NEW YORK CITY to pay his friend a visit. He found him putting up in one of the most expensive suites in one of the great high rise apartments. They had a wonderful visit that evening talking over old experiences and comparing notes.

Finally the farmer's wife took their two daughters to their room and got them ready for bed. They came out just before retiring and climbed into their father's lap and smothered him with kisses. Then they jumped down and started back to their room when their daddy said, "Girls, this is my best friend of years ago. We are as close as brothers. Come back and kiss my friend good night. Rather shyly they climbed upon his knee and planted a kiss upon his cheek and then slipped back to their mother who was waiting for them in the bedroom.

Presently tears began to stream down the rich man's cheeks. He said to his friend, "Bill, will you let those little girls kiss me tomorrow night again? That is the first mark of affection I can remember for years." He continued, "Bill, I can write a check for as large amount as any man in America. I am an extremely wealthy man, but I don't know what love is. I get lonely living here. My wife and daughter are over in Paris and moving in high society, and I thought I'd like to visit them, so I went over. And they were ashamed of me and were sorry I came. They said to me, 'You are not fit to move in the circles we are moving in.' I saw I wasn't wanted so I slipped over to England where my boy was. He was getting a crowd of young people together on his private yacht. He saw me and waved his hand said, 'Stick around Dad. We'll be back after a while.' All they care about me is to keep them supplied with money they want for their high life. I would much rather be poor if need be and have love in our home.

II. IT TAKES HARMONY TO MAKE AN IDEAL HOME: COMPATIBILITY.

It takes harmony and happiness to make an ideal home. We talked some time about the discord, the bitterness, the hatred, that is in the homes up and down this land. There must be harmony in the hearts for harmony in the home. When God has truly saved and sanctified all the hearts within a home, and love reigns, the LOVE OF GOD, then there will be holy harmony.

Mrs. Ackerman, years ago, traveled around the world looking for happy homes. She went into the palaces of the rich. She went into the homes of the nobility of England. She went into the palaces of the kings. She went into the White House in Washington. You know what she reported after traveling around the world, looking for happy homes? She said she had only found six homes that were truly happy. I believe one of the six was a humble cabin in the south where some black people lived.

That is why we preach Old Time Religion. That is why we preach holiness. Holiness is the greatest harmonizer in the world. When harmony is established in the heart, then harmony can be maintained in the home.

Sin and the carnal nature with its selfishness and stubbornness and worldly pride is the source of all the trouble in the home life of the people of the world. The Bible calls it the "root of bitterness." Jesus went to Calvary, then to the tomb, then back to heaven, and sent the blessed Holy Ghost, so we can have our hearts cleansed from that awful root of bitterness.

Christ also puts harmony in the church when He is allowed to do so. Many churches do not know what harmony is. Lots of people in some churches are no longer melted together -- they are FROZEN together. Would you believe it if I should tell you that where there is discord and disharmony and discontentment and disgrace and dissatisfaction and distrust and dissension in the home or in the church, the individuals involved are not saved and sanctified wholly. If they ever did have a genuine experience, they are in a backslidden state now. We have always been taught that holy people do not quarrel among themselves. They may disagree about something but they love one another and they fight only sin and Satan and hypocrisy, but they love one another, with the love of God shed abroad in the heart by the Holy Ghost. They will not always see just exactly alike, but they won't fall out with one another either. People who have been "Crucified with Christ" will fight for the cause of Christ, but they will not fight for their own rights.

Husbands and wives that are filled with the Love of God, enjoy being together. They respect each other's rights, and convictions. When love is not paramount in the home there is not much left to hold the home together. One nurse who works nights in the hospital with my wife said the reason she works nights is to get away from her husband. She explained, "He is not that interesting."

I tell you Holiness is the great healer of hearts and homes because the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, the Intercessor is there and is in charge. There is nothing more beautiful this side of heaven than a Christ-filled-home, with every member of that family serving the Lord with all the heart, soul, mind and strength.

Satan knows if he can destroy our homes he can destroy our churches and our schools and finally our nation. The home is supposed to be the bulwark, holding back the awful forces of sin

and corruption which are out to destroy us. It is easy for us to get too busy, too worldly, too materialistic to have the homes we ought to have. It takes Godly fathers and Godly mothers to make Godly homes. Every child has a right to a Christian heritage and a godly environment in which to grow up and build holy character.

Parents, I want you to know when your little child is born and you hold that little bundle of dimples in your arms, forces are set in motion that will never die for time and eternity. That child will live in heaven or in hell forever. That child will bless you or blame you for all eternity. I wonder if we always feel the seriousness of bringing an immortal soul into the world; a soul that will never die.

I believe if all of the professed Christians in the world would suddenly become REAL Christians, and pray through, we would be able to push back the forces of Communism and Modernism and Humanism, and capture many souls with revival before it is too late. But the trouble is, too many professed Christians are themselves worldly and sinful, and they don't have the prayer life strong enough to hold things together and keep them going straight.

III. IT TAKES HARD WORK AND DILIGENCE AND VISION TO MAKE A GODLY HOME.

Noah loved his wife and children. God told him an awful storm was coming and the entire world would be inundated with water. Noah desired to save his family. So he got busy. He went into the woods and went to falling trees and hewing timbers to build a boat to save his family from the flood waters that were coming upon the earth.

I believe it took all of Noah's time when he was not eating and sleeping for over a hundred years to build that enormous boat. And if you and I get ourselves and our families ready for the storm of tribulation that soon will hit this world, so we can escape "all of these things that are coming upon the earth" by way of the Rapture, we had better keep busy doing the things of God, and leave a lot of time-consuming things alone. We must build a wall around our children and it will take a lifetime and all there is of us to do it. Noah was determined his family were going to be saved.

Years passed, and Old Noah got tired hewing those huge timbers and putting that enormous boat together, but he stayed with it. While the worldlings around Noah who would not listen to his preaching, were spending their time and money in sin and folly, Noah was putting his huge boat together. They laughed and jeered and mocked, but Noah kept on working. He meant to save his family. Noah warned them but they would not listen.

I don't know what Moses' father, Amram was doing, but I know what his mother, Jochabed was doing. She formed a little basket-boat with her own hands, and pitched it within and without so it would not leak and floated it in the edge of the river among the bulrushes, which kept it from drifting down stream, and set a watch. The cruel king set out to murder all the boy babies under 2 years of age, but God and Moses' mother were determined this one was going to live, and he did.

The wrath of God will again be poured out on the world that was then destroyed by water. This time it will be destroyed by fire. If we get ourselves and our families and neighbors ready for the judgments that are coming upon the earth, we won't waste our time and money on a lot of silly things.

If we can save our souls and our children from the wrath of God and the judgments of God and a burning hell it will be worth it all. It is worth all it costs to be true.

Many of the old-time mothers of the past prayed 4 or 5 hours a day. They were building a wall around their children to keep the devil from dragging them down into sin and into hell forever.

If those mothers of the past had had televisions and had been hooked on soap box operas and the children hooked on the "shoot-em-ups" we never would have had the great Holiness movement as we know it. The great Methodist Church that stood for "sky blue Holiness" for over a hundred years would never have been born. The great Welch Revival would never have been heard of nor the great Finney and Moody revivals.

Samuel's mother was a great mother of prayer. No wonder Samuel became one of the greatest prophets that ever lived. And there was Moses' mother. (Some of us men wouldn't amount to a hill of frost-bitten beans were it not for the godly mothers and wives which God in His mercy permitted us to enjoy.

IV. IT TAKES INTERCESSORY PRAYER AND FAMILY ALTAR TO MAKE A HAPPY CHRISTIAN HOME.

If we get too busy to serve God we are too busy. It takes a backbone like blue steel these days to fight off Satan and his worldliness, and humanism, and ungodliness.

I remember the saintly H. Robb French telling about his mother. She said, "Papa, we are going to have family worship in our home every day. And what is more: we are not going to have an old dry family worship. We are going to have fire from heaven falling on our family worship. And look at the mighty Holy Ghost preacher she brought into the world and raised for God. When Bro. French was 4 years old his mother lined up the chairs and a child knelt at each chair and she told them to talk to Jesus just as they would talk to her. At the tender age of four years Rob French left a puddle of tears on the chair and God saved him. The joy of the Lord came into his little heart. He lived into his eighties and never one time backslid. He was genuinely converted at four years of age at their family altar. His mother gets much of the credit for Rob turning Out as he did. That mother prayed also for the salvation of her unsaved husband at the family altar, and she got him in and he too became a great preacher.

Think of the difference between Abraham and his nephew, Lot. Wherever Abraham went he built an altar and made sacrifice. I can't recall Lot one time ever building an altar and worshipping God with a sacrifice. Notice the great difference between the two families they produced. You can't rear your children for God without a real family altar where God comes down your souls to greet and glory crowns the mercy seat. It is better to miss some meals than to miss the

family altar. I don't want anything to pollute my home, or my mind or my heart, or that of my children. There have been parents that have opened fire and declared war on anything and everything that might pollute the tender minds or morals of their children. God bless such parents.

Did you ever hear of one called "little mother," Mrs. Ballington Boone. She said a request came to me to visit the prison 20 miles from my home. The prisoner's mother called and said, Mrs. Boone, my boy is to be hung tomorrow. He won't see me. He won't allow me in his presence He won't see a preacher, but he will see "little mother." She asked, will you come? She said "Yes, as quickly as I can." She drove on the prison ground. It was dark. She found the boy's mother dressed in black, pacing back and forth among the shades trees. She said, "Oh, Mrs. Boone, my boy is to be hung tomorrow. God only knows how I love him, but he has refused to see me. I wonder if you would intercede for me. Tell him I love him." "Well," Mrs. Boone said, "that is a strange stipulation. I'll do the best I can for you."

She went in. She said he was quite a noble young man. He talked courteously. He seemed kind to Mrs. Boone -- little mother, as they called her. Finally she said, "Son, your mother ---" That is as far as she got. He burst into a rage and cursed and damned and raved like he was mad. She laid her hand on his arm and said, "Son, don't do that. In all of my experience in prisons, I have never seen anything like this. Why is it you curse so when I mentioned your mother? He said, "Mrs. Boone, my mother taught me to play progressive euchre in her own parlor with the church members. It got into my blood and I went down to a gambling den and began to gamble for money. I got to drinking with the rest. I was intoxicated that night and shot my best friend. Mrs. Boone, my mother is responsible. I would never have been a gambler if it had not been for my mother."

Do you have anything going on in your home that is out of harmony with God's Holiness?

Do away with the pictures and reading materials that would not want Jesus in person to walk in and look at.

V. TO HAVE A HAPPY HOME THERE MUST BE UNSELFISH LOVE AND RESPECT ONE FOR ANOTHER.

One cannot imagine Christ creating disharmony when all the individuals involved have Christ dwelling and reigning in their hearts.

Years ago Rob French told about a home where there was an 18 year old boy named Horace. Bro. French had a friend that knew this family well. It was the time of the evening chores. Somebody set the milk pail in the path from the barn to the house and the dog came along and got into the milk and ruined it. Father said, in an angry voice, "Who put that pail of milk down there in the path?" The children said, "Horace did it." Horace said he did not do it. He was guilty of some things, but he didn't do that one.

His father very angrily said, "Horace, did you set that pail of milk down there?" He said, "No, father, I did not do it." His father hit him across the face and said, "You are lying to me. You did do it."

(Let me pause here long enough to say, I do believe in discipline, and severe discipline, when it is necessary but God says, "And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." When parents punish their children unjustly they are provoking them to wrath, causing them to hate their parents and religion and God, and is a direct violation of God's command, in Eph. 6:4.)

But let us get on with our story. Horace said, "I was 18, and something rose up in me like a tiger, and I gritted my teeth with rage and with my fists clenched I turned on my father and said, 'Father, don't you ever lay a hand on me again.' My father saw I was beside myself with anger and he turned and started for the barn. I followed him every step of the way, saying, "Don't you ever lay your hand on me again." Horace said, "When I got to the barn I broke and said to myself, What have I done? I almost hit my father. This will never do. I can't stay here any longer. There is going to be serious trouble."

Horace went into the house and tied up a few things and started out the door. Instinctively his mother knew something was wrong. "Horace, where are you going?" "I'm leaving home." Hot tears fell on her cheeks as she threw her arms around him and begged him not to go. But he tore away from his mother and out the door and down the path he went. He felt he would never return. He later said, "My feet and heart were never so heavy." When he went up the hill he felt he would never again see the house in which he was born.

The twilight shadows were just gathering. I could barely see the roof of the house above the trees in the orchard, and I said to myself: "My mother won't sleep a wink tonight. My little brothers and sisters will cry themselves to sleep tonight." He said, "I stood there for a few minutes and I heard a voice calling, 'Horace, Horace,' and it was coming closer. Finally I saw my father's form merging from the trees. The closer he came the faster he ran. He fell upon my neck and sobbed like a child and shook like a leaf in the wind. He said, "Horace, I am sorry. I was mad when I hit you. Horace, if you will forgive me and come back, I promise you that things are going to be different at our home."

They wept a while and then locked arms and started back. I can believe the angels in heaven were rejoicing about that time. Horace said, we went into the house and Father took the Bible from the shelf and began to read a passage, but there was a different tone in his voice as he read the Word of God that night. His father closed the book and went to his mother and put his face up against her cheek and said, "Mother, I have professed a lot of religion around here, but I have not always lived like Jesus, and I want you to forgive me. He then went to the four smaller children and asked their forgiveness

Horace said, "Then he came to me and hot tears fell on my cheek and I thought I would die. He said, 'Forgive me my son, I have professed a lot of religion around here haven't lived like Jesus. "Now," he said, "we'll pray." Horace said, I had heard my father pray for years but the tone in his voice that night I had never heard before. Then when he had finished, Mother tried to pray between her sobs. Then the children were broken up and sobbed out their little prayers. And Horace said, "It came my turn to pray, and I prayed clear through, and God saved me at the family altar that night. Not only that but he called me to preach."

Is your home what it ought to be. Are you what you ought to be?

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

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SERMON 7 STONES IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

Matt. 26:36-46

Many stones have become famous throughout history. PLYMOUTH ROCK is forever famous because the Pilgrims are said to have landed upon it in 1620. The most Sacred Rock of all time is the huge, gray, limestone rock upon which it is believed Abraham offered Isaac and where David built an altar. Many other stones and rocks have been lost but not forgotten. If we still possessed the stone that was in David's sling that brought Goliath down, and if we knew for sure it was that very same stone, millions wouldn't purchase it.

How about the two stone slabs on which God chiseled the TEN COMMANDMENTS? or the stone that was rolled over the mouth of the sepulchre where Christ was buried? There are many other incidents in history where a stone or stones played a very important role. Remember the stones that were hurled at Stephen when he preached his last sermon and made them angry. (Acts 7:58-59). Paul, for a similar reason, barely escaped death from flying stones. (Acts 14:19-20).

But let us journey to the Garden of Gethsemane tonight and examine three stones which were seen there on the night of Christ's betrayal and apprehension.

Jesus had just finished eating the last supper with His disciples. Judas had been exposed as the betrayer, and had hurried out to visit the Chief Priests and close the deal which betrayed his Master into the hands of the murderers. A great heaviness had settled over Jesus as He and His little group of eleven retreated to the garden. Jesus took Peter, James and John farther into the garden than the others: then He retired for prayer alone. Three times He returned and found them sleeping, and chided them.

I. THE FIRST STONE WE WILL MENTION IN THE GARDEN THAT NIGHT WAS IN THE BREAST OF JUDAS, THE BETRAYER.

That heart, one time flesh, had turned to stone through a three-year process of hardening, in which resentment against his Master had climaxed in bitterness which knew no limits. The prophet Jeremiah, one time, looked out upon a sea of faces which he declared were ". . . harder than a rock" (5:3). Hearts and faces always soften and harden at the same time and for the same reason. One's countenance often reveals the bitterness of the heart. Such was the case of Cain when his "Countenance fell" (Gen. 4:5), and Laban when his countenance was changed toward Jacob. (Gen. 31:2,5). Under the same preaching, and the same sermon, one person will be wiping tears from his face while another will be gritting his teeth and setting his jaw. One will hit the altar, weeping violently while another will walk out and slam the door in anger and disgust. Resistance to Gospel

truth and rebellion against revealed light always has a very grievous hardening effect on the individual. Judas' heart had become petrified. Many times he had quarreled with the other disciples and Jesus seemed invariably to take their part, and Judas was building up within his heart a tremendous wall of resentment, until he was literally "boiling".

Then also, according to some scholars, Judas had long since nursed the hope that he himself might be the Messiah. That awful hardening process climaxed when Judas fully realized that his carnal ambition would never be a reality. His jealousy knew no bounds. His heart finally became so hardened and so cold that he was able to perform the most dastardly deed of all history. It would almost make Benedict Arnold look like a gentleman!

If any of us betray Jesus Christ in any manner, we become little Judases also, and we will be in hell with him forever. The hardening process is most subtle, gradual and dangerous. It sometimes slips up on people so stealthily that they scarcely realize what is happening until it is too late to recover. And like Judas, they will do things they would never have dreamed of doing. All honest preachers who hew to the line and cry out against sin, carnality and worldliness, have seen many souls back up on light, and the hardening process sets in and works relentlessly until it renders its victim too hard to ever hope to soften. The most dangerous thing a person can do is to back up on revealed truth. He would have no other alternative but satanic lies to live by. Revealed light is always accepted or rejected and leaves the individual better or worse. The heart, one time tender, will always become as hard as stone when its owner rejects Jesus Christ and his demands for discipleship. (Luke 14:26).

So, the first stone we see in the garden, was creeping stealthily, cat-like along the pathway, followed by armed soldiers, seeking His betrayed Master. Presently he finds Him.

One could understand Judas' becoming so bitter and hateful that he might say to those soldiers, "When locate Him I will run up and kick Him in the shins. Grab Him! Or imagine him saying to them, "When I see Him I will go up and slam Him across the face. But it is almost beyond our imagination that Judas could devise such a false, -- such a sham-mockery, -- such a counterfeit sign false affection, -- as to employ such a generally accepted sign of the warmest affection, when actually, a kick in the stomach would have been a much more honest expression of his real feelings, than a kiss on the cheek.

We wonder how a heart could become so hard. Some of the world's greatest haters of Christ, one time loved Him dearly. There was Julian the famous apostate. Dr. Owen, in his book FROM ABRAHAM TO THE MIDDLE-EAST CRISIS, reminds us, "When Julian was vainly striving to check Christianity he was obliged to lead a campaign against the Persians, in which he met with many reverses. When the Roman rear guard was thrown into disorder by a charge of the new Persians, Julian rushed into the midst of the fray and was shot by an arrow. While he was endeavoring to draw it out, he was pierced by another in his fingers. Fainting and bloody he fell from his horse and was carried to his tent where on that night, in 363 A.D., he drew forth the arrow from his wound, and as the blood spurted forth he is said to have exclaimed, "There! Take thy fill, Galilean! Thou hast conquered at last!" A traitor he lived and vanquished, he died!

Must we be reminded that every soul in the world that turns traitor to Jesus Christ will be conquered at last. Remember, every unsanctified heart is carnal and contains the element of rebellion against God. (Gal. 5:17). Therefore, it is impossible to reject Gospel light and not become gospel-hardened. The most flinty stones that people ever carry in their breasts are carried by those who one time had warm, tender feelings toward Jesus Christ. But rebellion ruined their faith.

Lucifer, himself, who became Satan, the devil, at one time, back in heaven, was as tender and sweet, and kind and loyal and as trustworthy as the Creative fingers of the Father could make him. Of all the created angels in heaven, God spent Himself, (speaking reverently), He spent Himself when He created Lucifer. We believe that if anything could have been done to make Lucifer's heart more nearly after the perfect image of God Himself, God would have done it. Lucifer went from the best to the worst from the top of every fine quality, to the bottom, in total rejection and violation of it all.

When our fore parents listened to Satan in the Garden of Eden there was then planted in their hearts ". . . carnal mind (which is) enmity (hostile) against God: for it is not subject (obedient; submissive) to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Rom. 8:7). For that reason there is no hope for a soul until the old, rebellious, carnal self is crucified. Paul told us, "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him (Christ) that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin" (Rom. 6:6).

Like Judas; like Julian; like Hitler; like millions of others, hearts can become so hard they can not be made soft. They rebelled until they could not repent. Their hearts became like concrete, and one can pour concrete only once. After it is once set, it cannot be poured into a different form. So is the human heart when Satan has his way with its owner too long. When wet concrete is being carried from the mixing plant to the construction job, it is of paramount importance that the concrete not be allowed to harden in the truck. If it hardens in the truck it can never be taken out and used. Likewise, when transporting a lost soul that is tender and under conviction and hungry for God through the anguish of repentance to the New Birth, and on through the crucifixion of self to the experience of true holiness, it is often noticed that the soul that was at first tender, becomes hardened in the process as there comes a breakdown of obedience along the line. If that truck carrying the concrete breaks down on the road, that load of concrete must be dumped in a hurry or both the concrete and the truck will be ruined. It is the same way with the human soul. If one breaks down on the Christian journey, at the point of faith and obedience, his heart becomes hardened by rebellion and stubbornness, and unless all of these wrong reactions to truth and light are removed in a hurry, the heart will become as hard as stone. Every ounce of resistance against the Holy Ghost is terribly dangerous.

A Baylor University student traveling in Italy entered a watchmaker's shop to have his watch repaired. The student was incredulously amused when the watchmaker said, "Hitler is alive! do you believe it?"

The student replied, "The preponderance of evidence affirming his death is too great to believe he is alive!"

The watchmaker opened his Bible and read the following verse: "And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments . . . And he . . . have mercy on me . . . for I am tormented in this flame" (Luke 16:23,24). Furthermore, the Bible insists that "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God" (Ps. 9:17). Yes, Hitler is alive and so is Judas. The flesh will return to dust, but the soul of man never dies.

The heart of Judas finally became so hard that nothing could soften it. (Heb. 6:4-6). This can happen to anyone. We wonder if the two mothers of Judas and Jesus ever met here on earth, and how they felt after it was all over. Richard Maxwell must have pondered this question when he poeticized the meeting of these two souls in heaven.

THE TWO MOTHERS

Long, long ago, -- so I have been told,
Two angles once met on the streets paved with gold.
"By the stars in your crown," said the one to the other,
I see that on earth you, too, were a mother;
And by the blue-tinted halo you wear,
You too have known sorrow and deepest despair.
"Ah yes," came the answer, "I once had a son,
A sweet little lad, full of laughter and fun.

"But tell of your child," -- "Oh, I knew I was blest
From the moment I first held him close to my breast;
And my heart almost burst with the joy of that day."
"Ah, yes," sighed the other, "I felt the same way."
The former continued, "The first steps he took --
So eager and breathless -- the sweet startled look
"Which came over his face -- he trusted me so, --"
"Ah yes," sighed the other, "How well do I know!"

"But soon he had grown to a tall handsome boy.
So stalwart and kind -- and it gave me such joy
To have him just walk down the street by my side."
"Ah, yes," said the other, "I felt the same pride."
"How often I shielded and spared him from pain;
And when he for others was so cruelly slain,
When they crucified him -- and they spat in his face
How gladly would I have hung there in his place!"

A moment of silence -- "Oh, then you are she, --
The mother of Christ," and she fell on one knee.
But the blessed one raised her up, drawing her near,
And kissed from the cheek of the woman, a tear.
"Tell me the name of the son you loved so,
That I may share with you your grief and your woe."

She lifted her eyes, looking straight at the other,
"He was Judas Iscariot. I was his mother."

-- Richard Maxwell.

THE SECOND STONE WE SEE IN THE GARDEN ON THAT AWFUL NIGHT OF BETRAYAL WAS IN THE PERSON OF SIMON PETER WHOM CHRIST RENAMED "CEPHAS", A "STONE".

Peter's carnality was not as hateful, stubborn, rebellious and bitter as that of Judas, but was more of the nature of inherent moral weakness which showed up on many occasions before Pentecost cured him. The real rock-like character of Peter was never fully realized until the fire of Pentecost purified and empowered him. Peter had always wanted to do right, but his weakness, his cowardice and his impetuous nature kept him up and down in his experience most of the time until after Pentecost.

In John 1:42, when Jesus first came in contact with Peter, the minute He laid eyes on him, he said, "Thou art Simon, the son of Jonas: thou shalt be called Cephas which is being interpreted, a stone."

For three and a half years Jesus, the Master-sculptor had been chiseling on that ugly, clumsy, awkward stone. Just as the sculptor can look at a block of marble and see a lovely angel in that marble, so did Jesus look Peter through and through, and He could see something of infinite worth, but it took a lot of chiseling to remove all that militated against the perfect image. The keen eye of the Master could see in Peter what the rest of the world could not see. And when Christ and the Holy Ghost got through working on Peter, he who would have been the world's biggest flop, became one of God's choicest apostles.

It is amazing the beauty which can come into a person's life when Christ is permitted to chisel away the ugly, sinful habits, worldly lusts and carnal condition. The vilest then becomes pure and holy. We must not draw back from the Great Sculpture's chisel, even though it hurts sometimes. Christ removes from us only those things that would destroy us. The more the Master chiseled away at Peter, the more like the Master he became. Christ has a vision of what every one of us might become if we do not draw back from the cutting edge of His chisel. Every time through those three and a half years that Peter came out with some stupid remark or action (sometimes downright sinful) the Master would get out His mallet and chisel and work him over, getting him prepared for the crisis of Pentecost. Sometimes it looked as though there wouldn't be much left of the original Peter, and there wasn't! But what was left of this "Solid-Rock-Personality" was worth his weight in gold. Then when the purging fire of Pentecost fell on that Rock, it finished the job, so that Peter with a pure, sanctified heart could carry on a holy ministry and mature and ripen into the final stage of his advanced Christian life. Thus the former "stumbling stone -- the "Rolling stone" became one of the great corner stones of the Christian faith. Peter's faith in the Deity of Christ became a rock, so solid that Christ could rest His Kingdom on Peter's noble confession, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Matt. 16:16).

Then with Peter's faithful labors, his written epistles, and his final martyrdom, he proved himself to be the "Rock in a weary land," and Christ's hopes for him were amply rewarded.

The secret of any successful Christian life is in Pentecost, without which we all would be a "big flop." The genius in any Christian life lies in what Christ, the Master Sculptor removes from us of sinful habits, worldly lusts, hateful dispositions, selfishness with all wrong attitudes and ambitions. In short, He takes from us everything that would bar us from heaven and land us in hell. Peter made a great success of the Christian life, right at the point that Judas made the greatest failure. Judas resisted the chisel and Peter welcomed it.

As for Peter, the chisel cut deep every time the Master sternly chided him. The true crucifixion of self always cuts deep. The chisel cut deep into Peter the first time Christ ever spoke to him, saying "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men" (Matt. 4:19). The chisel cut deep into Peter when his wife's mother's fever left her and she was instantly healed of her sickness. (Matt. 8:15). The chisel cut deep on the Mt. of transfiguration when Peter got over-enthusiastic and God's voice from heaven rebuked him. (Luke 9:35). The chisel cut deep the night Peter, the only man in history, other than Christ himself, who ever walked on the water. That was a tremendous experience. (Matt. 14:28-31). It cut deep when Christ cursed the fig tree for its barrenness and Peter saw it dry up from the roots. (Matt. 11:12-14, 20-21). It cut deep on the night that Jesus was betrayed by Judas, apprehended by the soldiers and taken into custody. (Matt. 26:47-50). It cut deep when Jesus picked up the soldier's ear that Peter had whacked off and put it back onto the man and healed it without a scar. (Luke 22:50-51). It cut deep when Peter denied his Master, was false to his commitments, displayed such base treachery and cowardice, confirming it with blasphemy. (Matt. 26:33-35). It cut deep when, after Peter's denial of Christ, when Jesus turned and gave Peter that meaningful look which sent Peter out into the night, alone, weeping bitterly. (Luke 22:61-62). It cut deep when Peter watched his beloved Master hanging, dying on the cross, as the sky grew black and the rocks rent and Jesus declared "It is finished:" and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost." (John 19:30). It cut deep on the morning of the resurrection when Peter with John ran to the garden and examined the interior of the sepulchre and they realized that the body of Jesus was gone. (John 20:2-6). It cut deep when Christ made a personal visit to Peter after the resurrection. (Luke 24:34). It cut deep when the disciples toiled all night and caught nothing, and then the resurrected Christ appeared on the shore, and at His bidding they cast on the right side of the ship and caught so many fish that they could not haul them into the boat, but had to climb out of the boat and drag the catch to shore. (John 21:1-23). It cut deep when Peter, standing with the others on the Mt. of Olives, received the Great Commission and then craned their necks as Christ ascended and disappeared into heaven. (Luke 24:50-51).

That relentless chisel never went so deep into the heart of Peter as it did on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Ghost fell on the waiting disciples and Peter with the others was cleansed of his carnal nature and "purified by faith" (Acts 15:9), and baptized with the Holy Ghost and fire. (Acts 2:1-4).

The Master finally finished the job of working on this great Rock-Personality, and lay down His mallet and chisel when Peter was finally nailed to that Roman cross, head downward, and closed his eyes on earthly scenes and opened them in the New Jerusalem. The chisel had done

its final work and would never be used again throughout eternity as far as this great apostle was concerned. The finished product went to his eternal reward!

Wouldn't you have thought that Christ would have chosen a fellow with less problems than Peter? But really, are there any of us, when Christ first found us, with less problems? We all had the problem of sinful habits and carnal nature. And we all needed the Sculpture's chisel and needed it badly! And when our carnal nature is destroyed, there yet remains our human nature, and there is another whole set of problems.

THE THIRD ROCK IN THE GARDEN ON THAT ILL-FATED NIGHT WAS THE "ROCK OF AGES" HIMSELF.

When the yellow moonlight filtered down through the branches of the olive trees, we see Him, yonder, prostrate, groaning, heaving, rising and falling alternately, crushed under the weight of the sin of the world.

He was that "Spiritual Rock", said the apostle Paul, from which gushed water in the wilderness to slake the thirst of the Children of Israel, centuries before. (I Cor. 10:4).

Even though Moses looked forward across the centuries and saw the Person of Christ and said he was a "Rock, and his work is perfect" (Deut. 32:4) - in spite of that revelation, He still was "a stone of stumbling, and rock of offense" (I Peter 2:8), to the disobedient. Millions have stumbled over this Rock, but it was not necessary, for the Bible says there is none occasion of stumbling to the one who walks in the light. (I John 2:10).

He is the "Rock in a weary land; a Shelter in the time of storm!" "On Christ, the solid Rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand." He is our Rock and Fortress. (2 Sam. 22:2). He is our Rock and there is no rock like Him in all the world. (I Sam. 2:2). He is the Stone which the builders rejected, and has become the head of the corner. (Luke 20:17).

The apostate world has produced its Bolshevism, Natzism, Socialism and Communism, but all of the anti-Christ "isms" soon fall into decay. None of these, or any other "isms" can hope to outlive the "Faith of our fathers, living still in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword!"

Christ is the Rock that Daniel saw, which, without hands, struck the feet of the great metallic man, representing mighty civilizations, causing the whole apostate structure to crumble into dust, to be carried away by the wind of God's judgment. (Dan. 2:34-35). "And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder" (Matt. 21:44).

God is called a "Rock" nearly fifty times in the Old Testament. And in the New Testament Christ asserts His ineffable Deity, saying, ". . . upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matt. 16:18).

He is the Chief Cornerstone of all Biblical truth, declared the great apostle. (Eph. 2:20). It has been said, "The greatest achievement in life is to attain unto His likeness." Surely there is no greater aim and no greater realization!

In conclusion, we recognize three prominent "stone-personalities" in the Garden of Gethsemane on that sorrow-stricken night. There was the stony heart of Judas Iscariot and the chiseled and ever softening heart of Peter. One turned from stone to flesh and the other from flesh to stone. And while Peter was getting steadily better, Judas was becoming steadily worse. And the changing process of these two disciples had been going on for a long time. And finally, there was the third Stone -- the Stone which Daniel said would one day "fill the whole earth" (Dan. 2:35). This was the Rock of the Deity of Jesus Christ.

An appeal: Have you, my friend, yielded to the chiseling of the Master Sculptor? Have you submitted yourself to the cutting edge of His relentless chisel? Remember that reluctant obedience soon grows into open rebellion, and rebellion places one in the camp of the occult, -- controlled by the demons, because the Bible says, ". . . rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry" (I Sam. 15:23).

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SERMON 8 THE HOLINESS OF THE EARLY APOSTLES (Unshakable Assurance)

SCRIPTURES -- Acts 3:1-11; 4:5-22;
TEXT -- Acts 1:8-- "YE SHALL RECEIVE POWER"

I. THESE MEN WERE MIGHTILY BAPTIZED AND ANOINTED OF THE HOLY GHOST!

They had something that they didn't get out of books, or from the lecture halls of some university, or sitting at the feet of Gamaliel. They were possessed of a strange power that the world could not understand. They kept their experience fired up. They kept the anointing red hot. They kept refueling. They didn't leak out or dry up or cool down or go worldly.

II. THESE MEN WERE DIFFERENT FROM ANY THE BIG CHURCH OFFICIALS HAD EVER SEEN BEFORE.

They talked different. They prayed different. They preached different. They acted different. They looked different. They were different. Being baptized with the Holy Ghost and having carnality removed from the heart and the heart filled with holy love, will make one different. They had heard the rabbi preach and pray, but these men were different. Holiness people that aren't enough different to be noticed, are not holiness at all, except in name. When one gets this experience, he will be different.

III. IT WAS PENTECOST WITH ITS BAPTISM OF FIRE THAT MADE THESE MEN DIFFERENT.

Three years at the feet of Jesus was not enough. They were still carnal! Seeing His mighty miracles, even to raising the dead was a marvelous experience, but it was not enough! The resurrection of Christ, and his sudden appearance in the upper room when the doors were shut, and then He vanished -- that must have made a tremendous impact on the lives of these disciples, but that was not enough. They were still carnal! When they saw Him ascend and they craned their necks till he disappeared into the sky, they saw something they had never seen the like of before, but that was not enough!

You may have an outstanding prayer life, but that is not enough. There are a lot of people who pray two or three hours a day, but that didn't do it. They are still having carnal spells. They may have received pardon for their sins and been regenerated but that is not enough. They may be faithful to all of the church services and tithed their money, teach a Sunday School class or sing specials, and get happy while they are doing it, but that is not enough. They may line up with the conservatives, and have high standards and make tremendous sacrifice, but that is not enough!

Christ knew their heart's need and He said to them, "Tarry ye in the City of Jerusalem till ye be endued with power from on high." There is no substitute for the genuine article -- the baptism with the Holy Ghost and fire. You may have gone a long way in your walk with God, but if you haven't made the break through into the sanctified life, you haven't gone far enough.

I, personally had been several years in the ministry, preaching holiness, but that was not enough. I went through college, studied theology, took a whole semester's course on the subject of "Christian Perfection," graduated, got my diploma. I knew the answers, but that was not enough. I had been through an illness which the doctors could not help. I was informed from several medical sources that there was no help for me. But God instantly healed me in a prayer meeting. That was a tremendous experience. But that was not enough. I was still carnal!

I was very well consecrated. I went into hard-scrabble -- started in a pastorate in an empty building and built from scratch. We went for months at a time without a stick of butter or a pound of meat -- self-denial, yes, but that was not enough! I bought an old car for \$15, doctored it up and drove it for two years while preachers all across our district were driving late models. I didn't have to do it. But I felt it was what God wanted me to do. I obeyed Him in that matter, but that was not enough!

I drove that old 27 Whippet summer and winter without a heater and without antifreeze. Every time I took it out I filled it with water. When I would park it for over 10 minutes with a blanket over the front I would drain it and fill it again to go home. Sometimes it would freeze up on the way and I would have to stop beside the road and cover it with a blanket and pasteboard over the radiator till it thawed out. Yes, I was willing to sacrifice for the ministry. But that was not enough. My consecration was in real good shape, but consecration is not the fiery baptism. In the midst of all the voluntary sacrifice I still was full of carnal pride, carnal ambitions and mad fits periodically. I saw my carnality for a long time before I knew how to get rid of it. I knew my

problem, but I didn't understand the cure. When I would have a carnal spell I would pray till I felt better and wait for another storm to hit.

IV. BACK TO OUR STORY -- THE AUTHORITIES WERE PUZZLED AND CONFOUNDED WHEN THEY COULDN'T STOP THE APOSTLES FROM PREACHING JESUS TO THE PEOPLE.

They held a consultation -- a special-called meeting of the Church Board, mind you! but they couldn't get the preaching stopped. When they would jail them, and place them in stocks and chains, with guards, God would send an angel in the night and slip them out. When they would kill such as Stephen, God would raise up a Paul to take his place, and that hurt their cause even worse. The devil turned loose all the fires of hell on them, but they possessed the fires of Pentecost and the church grew by leaps and bounds.

Men and women can still be thus committed. They can be thus empowered. God isn't dead. He isn't even sick. Carnality can die, but it dies awfully hard sometimes. Carnal pride doesn't die easy. Self-centeredness and selfishness doesn't decide to drop off. The devil is just as mean as he ever was and carnality is just as hard to get rid of. The devil and the carnal heart work together against the cause of Jesus Christ.

F. H. Lehman, in his book *THE MAN IN BLACK*, says the devil changed his tactics in trying to destroy the church. He saw he could not stamp the church out by fighting it, so he disguised himself and joined it. In the early days of the church Satan put on a tight-fitting red suit and looked like a boiled wiener. He took a sword and went after the saints. He cut off their heads and burned them at the stake and fed them to lions and nailed them to Crosses and dragged them to death through the streets behind speeding chariots, but he couldn't stop them.

So, in our day he wised up and changed his methods. He sawed off his horns, and bobbed off his tail, and got rid of the red suit. He now wears a black suit, joined the World Council of Churches, got a diploma from the big Theological Cemetery, and now he is pastor of First Church down town. Now the saints of God are not losing their lives at his hand, but they are losing their power.

V. THESE EARLY CHRISTIANS HAD A POSITIVE. UNSHAKABLE ASSURANCE.

Their power did not come to them when they spent three years in the company of Jesus, and saw His miracles, and heard Him preach, and watch Him die, and saw Him raised from the dead. In the scriptures we read, Peter had to have had a tremendous inner certainty to command that lame man to rise up and walk. The cowardly, cringing, apologetic Peter, with his friends, whispering behind locked doors, cursing to making his denial of Christ convincing, before Pentecost. But after Pentecost those unarmed, defenseless apostles walked out into the open and shook the world, frightened the potentates out of their wits, embarrassed the devil, and feared nothing but sin.

No doubt the greatest tragedy that ever hit the Christian Church is when we put young men into the ministry, polished, educated, brilliant, but without the sanctifying power of the Holy Ghost in their lives. They are clever, but not anointed. They have enthusiasm, but not unction. When the

most gifted preacher that ever walked in a pair of shoes tries to operate the work of the Holy Spirit in his own power, with his own wits, it is like trying to fly a lead balloon. He'll never get it off the ground. If he is not sanctified, his people won't get sanctified, and Satan is the District Superintendent of all of the carnal, worldly churches. These early Christians knew where they had been, and they knew where they were going. They might, and did, lose some soldiers, but they were out to win the war. There were a lot of things they did not possess, but they did possess a positive, unshakable assurance, and that was more than the devil or the apostate, Jewish authorities could handle.

VI. ANOTHER THING IN THEIR FAVOR WAS THEY HAD AN UNANSWERABLE ARGUMENT.

The authorities tried to confuse them and embarrass them by insisting, "What you say about this dead man being alive is crazy. We saw him die. It is utterly ridiculous to go around preaching that he came back from the dead." But they had an unanswerable argument. There was the man, above forty years old, a cripple from birth, never took a step in his life -- there he was, leaping, running, jumping, shouting! That was an unanswerable argument. What could the authorities say to counteract that? It was accomplished in the Name of Jesus.

When we see a man like Steve Palm, living in the woods of Santa Cruz like an animal, five years on LSD, convicted of the Holy Ghost in the night, Out in the mountain, converted, back into civilization, sanctified wholly, called to preach, a pastor, evangelist, now Moderator of the California, Arizona District of the Bible Missionary Church. That is an unanswerable argument!

Rhoda Sacra, terminal cancer, within hours of death, liver 2/3 gone, organ after organ internally infected, valves of the heart disintegrated; instantly, completely and permanently healed -- twelve years later a missionary in Alaska! That too is an unanswerable argument!

De Shazer, shot down over Japan, bailed out, captured, imprisoned for four years under the most unspeakable conditions, with ill-treatment and starvation. He was terribly mistreated by a guard one morning, entirely unprovoked, and he said he was angry. He had recently been saved by reading a little New Testament the Salvation Army had gotten through to him. But that hateful guard, pushed his weak, frail, emaciated body through a door and slammed the door with his bare foot outside and the guard kicking his foot with his heavy boot. DeShazer said, "When he finally turned my foot lose, I was angry." He went to prayer and asked God to take the thing out of his heart that made him angry, and made him hate that Japanese guard, and God sanctified him. The next morning when the guard came to DeShazer's little shack. DeShazer smiled, and with what little of the language he had learned, said, "Good morning." At the first the guard ran out and told his buddies that the Deshazer man had lost his mind. Then the pleasant "Good mornings" continued until he and the guard were the best of friends. And then the guard began bringing his good, solid food from the kitchen and Deshazer began to put on flesh and get his strength back. These two men literally fell in love with one another and were photographed standing together after the war in a Christian church. That is an unanswerable argument!

VII. NOT ONLY DID THESE EARLY CHRISTIANS HAVE AN UNSHAKABLE ASSURANCE AND AN UNANSWERABLE ARGUMENT, BUT THEY WERE UNDER THE SPELL OF AN IRRESISTIBLE COMPULSION.

The tribunal lined them up and threatened them, but all they could say was, "We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." The authorities might as well try to stop the sun from coming up in the morning, or the moon from shining in the night as to make these men keep still. Why? Because they were under the spell of an irresistible compulsion! They couldn't keep still. They had seen Jesus in His resurrected body. They had conversed with Him. He ate fish with them by the seashore. He had insisted that they tarry in Jerusalem until they should be endowed with power from on high, and they had done it. The Holy Ghost came! The fire fell! These apostles could take a beating until their backs were bleeding, but they went right back into the streets -- right back into the teeth of death, because they were under the spell of an irresistible compulsion. A feeble testimony means a feeble grasp of this great fiery baptism with the Holy Ghost.

VIII. THE GREAT MAJORITY OF MODERN HOLINESS PEOPLE HAVE NEVER BEEN SURE OF THEMSELVES AT THIS POINT.

They believe in it, but they haven't got it. They would fight for it, and they testify to it, but they don't have it. Their old man has never been crucified. They have the standards and the doctrine, but they do not have the experience.

Too many of our late-model preachers, coming out of our schools have never died Out to self nor gone to the bottom to receive a sanctified heart. They try to hang on to the world with one hand and Christ with the other. They think they have to have a brand new car and a whole house full of the most expensive furniture the first year in the pastorate. When they have to have a full-time job and maybe two, and they have to buy every gadget that's for sale in the store, until they are hopelessly in debt, and their nose to the grind stone and the devil turning the crank, you know they are not under the spell of an irresistible compulsion. We realize Noah had to build the ark. And a lot of our men have to work for a living, but when they go overboard in materialism, extravagances and luxuries, to say nothing of expensive hobbies, then they put the ministry on the back burner and fry their own bacon and eggs up front. The world and the things of the world is too much with them. They have never been sanctified wholly with the same Pentecostal baptism that came to those early apostles.

The modern young preacher has time for making money, fishing trips, hunting trips, and games and hobbies, but little time for study, or to pray, or to make calls, or to hunt for souls. Many of them have their minds channeled entirely in materialism all week, and come to the pulpit Sunday morning, tired out, burned out, with no unction, no conviction, no glory, no burning passion, no tears, no compassion, little or no sermon preparation. It is sickening. Bro. Parker Maxey did not condemn the preachers who have to work, but he did condemn those who are not planning to quit just as soon as they possibly can.

A preacher without the Holy Ghost is like a machine without oil; like a game hunter without any ammunition and like a stove without any fire. For one to get this experience he must have a heart that is so hungry for God and for holiness that he can't stand it any longer to remain

carnal. He also must be dead honest, acknowledge his condition and "face the music." Finally, he must be in utter desperation. Half-hearted seeking never breaks through. The spirit of indifference to this experience has almost universally blanketed the Christian Church. Millions go no farther than "accepting Christ," but they forget that it does no good to accept Christ unless He accepts them. In Matthew 7:22-23 there is the sad picture of individuals who had accepted Christ, but He flatly rejected them because they still had iniquity in their hearts. They had never been sanctified wholly. They heard those final words from the lips of Christ, "Depart" for the lack of a sanctified heart.

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SERMON 9

SUBJECT:

THE HAND OF GOD TURNING THE PACES OF HISTORY
THROUGH THE INSTRUMENTALITY OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE,
THE CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM.

In this message I wish to place emphasis on some of the great secrets of the universe which God holds in reserve until such time as He sees fit to reveal them to the world, through the Jewish people.

(Deut. 29:29) "THE SECRET THINGS BELONG UNTO THE LORD OUR GOD: BUT THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE REVEALED BELONG UNTO US AND TO OUR CHILDREN."

This is a very profound and highly significant passage.

This scripture makes it clear that whenever God sees fit to reveal great secrets to the world, He will make the disclosure through the instrumentality of the Jewish people.

(Isa. 45:3) "AND I WILL GIVE THEE (THE JEWISH PEOPLE) THE TREASURES OF DARKNESS, AND HIDDEN RICHES OF SECRET PLACES, THAT THOU MAYEST KNOW THAT I, THE LORD, WHICH CALL THEE BY THY NAME IS THE GOD OF ISRAEL."

Why did God chose the descendants of Abraham through whom He could control the course of history, clear to the end of time? Perhaps it was because at the time God did the choosing, Abraham was the only man in the world who totally qualified for the awesome responsibility. Abraham wobbled for a while, but finally got his feet down, and proved to be strictly obedient and utterly dependable. If God could have found a more qualified man in the world, no doubt he would have chosen the other man instead of Abraham.

I. THE FIRST GREAT REVELATION I WILL MENTION THAT GOD GAVE TO THE WORLD THROUGH THE JEWISH PEOPLE IS THE BIBLE, THE WRITTEN WORD OF GOD.

The Bible is the greatest Book that has ever been written because God Himself inspired every word of it. God, actually is its author. Peter said, "HOLY MEN OF GOD SPOKE AS THEY

WERE MOVED BY THE HOLY GHOST." (2 Peter 1:21). Through this Book God has revealed many of the most marvelous secrets of the universe to the human race. He told us many things we otherwise would have never known.

God said to the Children of Abraham, "I WILL GIVE THEE THE TREASURES OF DARKNESS, AND HIDDEN RICHES OF SECRET PLACES, THAT THOU MAYEST KNOW THAT I, THE LORD, WHICH CALL THEE BY THY NAME AM THE GOD OF ISRAEL." (Isa. 45:3).

The Bible is the greatest book on science, literature, jurisprudence, morals, ethics and religion ever written. It is an authority on many other subjects as well. The producing and preserving of this great revelation from the very heart of God to the human family, has entrusted to the Jewish people -- the children of Abraham.

In this Book we have the only authentic, and reliable record of the origin and early history of the world. That there is an Eternal Triune God, the Creator and Sustainer of the universe: that there is a glorious heaven to gain and an awful hell to shun. Without this Book we wouldn't know a thing about all of this, and much more. Without this Book we wouldn't have the slightest idea of where the human race came from or where we are going.

REMEMBER: "THE SECRET THINGS BELONG TO THE LORD OUR GOD: BUT THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE REVEALED BELONG UNTO US (THE JEWISH PEOPLE) AND TO OUR CHILDREN."

We must remember that WE GENTILES (being children of Abraham by faith) and beneficiaries through Jesus Christ of all the blessings of the revealed Word, but not producers. All of the mountain peak revelations that have ever come to the world, which are designed to control the course of history, have come through the channel of the Jewish people. When God wishes to turn one of the major pages of history He does it through a member of this chosen family. We must forever recognize the eternal fact that every time God wants to reach down and guide or change the course of history, or reveal another hidden secret of the universe, to the world, He talks through a member of this chosen family. They are God's vehicle of revelation to the world.

II. SECONDLY. THE GREATEST REVELATION GOD EVER GAVE TO THIS WORLD IS IN THE PERSON OF HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON AND THAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH THE INSTRUMENTALITY OF A JEWISH VIRGIN.

Jesus Christ, born of a virgin, cradled in a manger, nailed to a cross, buried in a tomb, but the tomb could not hold him! Again, God employed a Jewish maiden as the vehicle to be overshadowed by the Holy Ghost and thus implanted within her virgin womb the Eternal Son of God, Himself -- the greatest and grandest revelation that has ever come into the world. God the Father could have sent the Holy Ghost to visit a Gentile virgin, but He didn't do it. All great revelations, for all time were to come through the children of Abraham. God kept His Covenant promise and sent this Great Personage, His only begotten Son, into the world through the virgin Mary, one of the daughters of Abraham. This indeed was the greatest revelation of the Greatest secret, through the greatest person that has ever come into this world.

Therefore, "Live with Christ is an endless hope. Life without Christ is a hopeless end." However, His crucifixion calls for ours also. "There can be no increase of Christ, without a decrease of self," as this poem indicates:

Oh the bitter pain and sorrow,
That a time could ever be,
When I proudly said to Jesus,
All of self and none of Thee.

Yet He found me, I beheld Him,
Bleeding on 'th accursed tree,
And my wistful heart said faintly,
Some of self and some of Thee.

Day by day His tender mercies,
Healing, helping, full and free,
Brought me lower, while I whispered,
Less of self, and more of Thee!

Higher than the highest heavens,
Deeper than the deepest sea,
Lord, Thy love at last hath conquered,
None of self and all of Thee!
--Author unknown.

"There will never be a second Saviour to atone for the guilt of rejecting the first."

III. THE NEXT GREAT SECRET WE WILL MENTION WHICH GOD IN COURSE OF TIME SAW FIT TO REVEAL TO THE WORLD WAS THE DISCOVERY OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE. AND AGAIN IT WAS ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH THE PERSON OF A JEW.

This entire Western Hemisphere, including what is now Alaska, Canada, United States, Central America and So. America, had been a secret from the beginning of time. For 5 and a half millenniums God kept this great secret locked up from the then known world by separating this vast area from them by such formidable bodies of water that none dare investigate. Before God revealed this great secret, people clung to the notion and superstition that the world was flat and if they should get out there too far they would fall off into oblivion. And according to the pattern, God again chose a Jew to bring this great revelation to the world. This great event took place in 1492, and the Jew that brought it about was the man we have always called Christopher Columbus. That was the English spelling of his name. He was a Spanish Jew named Cristobal Colon. That was the Spanish spelling of his name. Columbus got the idea that the earth was round and that he could reach the east by sailing west. Born and reared in Portugal and tried for several years to get the king of Portugal to go along with his idea, but was rejected. Then he went to Spain and worked on King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella for 8 years 'till they finally gave in and equipped him with

three ships and man-power from the prisons. Columbus was a very brilliant and gifted and devout man. He was a scholar of Latin, Greek and Hebrew. We do not know if he became a true Christian or not, but we do know that he named the island where he first landed, "San Salvador" which is Spanish for "Holy Saviour." Why else, we wonder, would he have thus named the island.

In Columbus' journal we read that he prayed earnestly to God and poured over many significant passages from both the Old Testament and the Gospels. He made his voyage the same year as the Spanish Inquisition against all Jews. That year all Jews had to change their religion or leave the country. Another indication that he must have turned to Christianity from Judaism. His discovery of the New World radically changed the history of the world. The fact that Queen Isabella befriended Columbus and he escaped the inquisition makes us believe he denounced his former Jewish faith and became a Christian. However, he still was a child of Abraham by birth and blood, and it was through a native Jew that God opened up the secrets of the Western Hemisphere. This took place a quarter of a century before the Protestant revolution under Martin Luther.

IV. THE FOURTH GREAT SECRET WHICH GOD REVEALED THROUGH A CHILD OF ABRAHAM WAS THE DISCOVERY OF A CHEMICAL CALLED ACETONE. BY A JEW NAMED CHAIM WEIZMANN.

Acetone was a chemical that was used in the development of smokeless powder. God, in a most critical hour when it looked as though Britain would lose the war to Kaiser Wilhelm (Bill), raised up Chaim Weizmann, one of the great scientists in the field of chemistry, which helped to turn the tide of the war back into the hands of the Allies. Weizmann was a very brilliant research chemist, and a Jew by birth. He was born, reared and educated in Russian Poland, but by miracle he migrated to England. This gave our Allies the secret of acetone instead of the Axis powers, and turned the war back into our favor. But there is more to it than merely turning the war back into our favor.

David Lloyd George, the Prime Minister of England, offered Weizmann a reward for his sensational achievement in discovering acetone. Weizmann asked that the British Government provided a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine. So, in Nov. 1917 Britain issued the celebrated Belfour Declaration in which it formerly announced its favorable attitude toward the establishment, in Palestine, a national home for the Jews.

Thus the secret weapon of Acetone, a secret known only to God, was revealed through a child of Abraham and led to the establishment of the Jewish State, which was finalized on May 14, 1948, and Weizmann became its first president. This, again fulfilled God's promise to Abraham in Deut. 30:3.

"... I THE LORD THY GOD WILL . . . GATHER THEE FROM ALL THE NATIONS, WHITHER THE LORD THY GOD HATH SCATTERED THEE."

This also proved to be a direct fulfillment of Ezekiel 37:21-22, where God promised, "THUS SAITH THE LORD: BEHOLD I WILL TAKE THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL FROM AMONG THE HEATHEN, WHITHER THEY BE GONE, AND WILL GATHER THEM ON

EVERY SIDE, AND BRING THEM INTO THEIR OWN LAND: AND I WILL TAKE THEM ONE NATION IN THE LAND UPON THE MOUNTAINS OF ISRAEL."

And through a Jew, God turned the tide of the first World War into the hands of our Allies which would be a controlling factor in the future history of the world for all time. It also opened the door, for centuries closed, for the Jews to return to their homeland.

However, this is not the end of Weizmann's influence. His life spanned two world wars. In the Hitler war, Weizmann brought another secret weapon to the United States Government, in the development of synthetic rubber, which proved to be a vital factor in the U.S. war production. Thus, twice in the lifetime of one Jew, the hand of God was seen guiding the course of history through the influence of the children of Abraham. Thus was fulfilled again, what Israel, centuries before had spoken, thus: "THE SECRET THINGS BELONG UNTO THE LORD OUR GOD: BUT THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE REVEALED BELONG TO US AND TO OUR CHILDREN." So, the discovery of Synthetic rubber, in a very critical time, became the fifth secret that God revealed and placed in the hands of the Allied Forces, because they had befriended the Jews and gave them an asylum when the other nations were driving them out and murdering them.

V. THE FIFTH GREAT SECRET WHICH GOD REVEALED TO THE WORLD THROUGH THE CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM WAS THE DISCOVERY OF RADIO ACTIVITY AND THE SPLITTING OF THE ATOM. THROUGH THE FISSION OF URANIUM.

This was accomplished through a Jewish woman named Lise Meitner, a nuclear physicist, formerly a professor in Berlin and a member of the Keiser Wilhelm Institute in Stockholm. She was one of the most distinguished scientists of the twentieth century.

Hitler, it is almost certain, would have gotten the Atom Bomb instead of us, and would have won the war, if he had befriended Meitner and Einstein, who also was a Jew, also a key person in this discovery. Had Hitler capitalized on the great brilliance and genius of these two Jews, he would have certainly won the war.

But in the Hitler purge, Meitner fled Germany in 1938 to escape the gas exterminators. She finally reached America in 1946 and became a member of the atomic research staff. In this capacity she was influential in unlocking the mystery of radio activity and the fission of uranium and the splitting of the atom. And the "A" bomb was born, which brought Tojo to his knees and ended the second World War. The secret of the Atom had been hidden from the beginning of time, and God, through another Daughter of Abraham, was the conveyer of this great discovery to the world.

Thus, Deut. 29:29 comes vividly back to our minds, where we read: "THE SECRET THINGS BELONG UNTO THE LORD OUR GOD: BUT THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE REVEALED BELONG UNTO US AND TO OUR CHILDREN." Also, Isa. 45:3: "AND I WILL GIVE THEE THE TREASURES OF DARKNESS, AND HIDDEN RICHES OF SECRET PLACES, THAT THOU MAYEST KNOW THAT I, THE LORD, WHICH CALLETH THEE BY THY NAME AM THE GOD OF ISRAEL."

Thank God our presidents so far have befriended the Jews. Should one fail to do so, he will fare the same tragic end as Wilhelm and Hitler, for one cannot fight against God and win.

VI. ANOTHER POWERFUL JEWISH FIGURE THAT WORKED WITH MEITNER IN UNLOCKING THE SECRET OF THE ATOM WAS ALBERT EINSTEIN. EINSTEIN IS NOW RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE GREATEST SCIENTIFIC MINDS OF ALL TIME.

Einstein remains unchallenged and the greatest genius in the field of physics the world has ever had. At the age of 16 he taught himself calculus and other advanced subjects. The mentally deranged and morally depraved Hitler, in his diabolical determination to destroy all Jews from the earth, declared, "There will be no more Jewish question, because there will be no more Jews."

And Einstein, with many others got out of Germany while the getting was good, and thus escaped the exterminator. If Hitler had read and believed the Bible he would have known better than to have put his hands on God's chosen people. He should have known that if any man should desire to eliminate the Jews from the world, he would first have to destroy God! For God had declared in Gen. 12:3, "I WILL BLESS THEM THAT BLESS THEE, AND CURSE HIM THAT CURSETH THEE: AND IN THEE SHALL ALL FAMILIES OF THE EARTH BE BLESSED."

Einstein was contemporary with Meitner, and received a very similar treatment from Hitler. It definitely was God's hand that got Meitner and Einstein out of Germany. Soon after World War 2 broke out, the Nazis expelled Einstein from the Prussian Academy, revoked his citizenship, confiscated his property, and set a price on his head.

In that one demonic thrust against a single Jew, Hitler ignorantly turned the secrets which developed the atom bomb over into the hands of the Allies, and then and there he virtually lost the war.

It is shocking and thrilling to note, and will continue to be exciting to the end of time, that as God little by little, reveals the secrets of the universe to the generation in which He declared that knowledge should be increased. HE REVEALED THESE SECRETS THROUGH THE CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM, just as He had promised.

And right now Israel is surrounded by the most bitter enemies, determined to annihilate them. There is Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Sudan, Yeman, Saudi-Arabia, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Muscat, Oman, So. Yeman, and Lebanon, that have pledged themselves unto death to wipe out Israel.

To these seventeen nations we could add the Muslim nations of Turkey, Iran and Indonesia. And if that isn't enough, there is Russia on the North with her greedy eyes on Israel's vast oil deposits and the chemicals of the Dead Sea.

For centuries the world has known that the nation that makes its headquarters in Palestine, will control the Suez Canal, the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula. And that little, nation of Israel, no larger than the State of Vermont, like a speck of dust, surrounded by mountain-sized enemies, all bent on one thing for Israel -- annihilation! What chance have they got for survival? Every

chance in the world! How? Because of the promise God gave them way back in the days of Moses (Deut. 1:29-30): "DREAD NOT, NEITHER BE AFRAID OF THEM. THE LORD THY GOD WHICH GOETH BEFORE YOU, HE SHALL FIGHT FOR YOU. ACCORDING TO ALL THAT HE DID FOR YOU IN EGYPT BEFORE YOUR EYES."

In every major crisis, into which the little nation of Israel has fallen, God whispers another secret to them, which has been locked up from eternity, and which He does not whisper to any other people in the world.

For 3,000 years, every nation and general, ambitious to rule the world hoped to set up headquarters in Palestine, and some of them did hold it for a while, until they were driven out by another just as ambitious as they were.

Another thing which makes Palestine so vitally important is its strategic location, in being a land bridge between three continents, Europe, Asia and Africa. It is generally understood that whoever holds Palestine can in a large measure control the commerce of the world.

The Assyrians, Babylonians and Persians all realized its importance. Alexander the Great, the Greeks, the Romans, the Saracens, the Arabs, the Crusaders, and the Turks all seized the "Middle East" and made it the bulwark of their empire.

In our day Egypt's Nassar planned a total wipe out of the Jews from Palestine. He laid out extravagant and costly plans, boasting that this would be the end of Israel in the Middle East. Israel saw it coming and jumped the gun. In the famous one-week-war Israel wiped out 1/3 of the Egyptian army, captured the Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip. Israel killed between 2,000 and 3,000 Egyptian soldiers, captured 5,600 and only lost 171 and 4 prisoners.

Nassar was Bewildered and the world was shocked. From 1948 to the end of time, mark it down, any nation that lays a hand on Israel will have God to contend with.

VII. THE NEXT JEW WORTHY OF MENTION IS ROBERT OPENHEIMER. AN AMERICAN-BORN PHYSICIST, EDUCATED IN HARVARD AND CAMBRIDGE AND TAUGHT IN THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA.

Openheimer is remembered for his contribution to the Quantum Theory, but he also was a pioneer in cosmic rays and relativity.

Openheimer led a group of outstanding scientists in an effort which was crowned by the successful testing of an atomic bomb in Alamogordo.

THEN CAME THE GREAT SECRET WHICH GOD REVEALED THROUGH ANOTHER JEW AND BROUGHT THE HYDROGEN BOMB INTO THE WORLD, THROUGH THE GENIUS OF EDWARD TELLER.

VIII. THE SEVENTH GREAT SECRET WHICH GOD REVEALED THROUGH THE JEWISH PEOPLE BROUGHT THE HYDROGEN BOMB INTO THE WORLD. THROUGH THE GENIUS OF ANOTHER JEW, EDWARD TELLER.

Teller also fled Germany from Hitler's gas exterminators. He went first to Denmark, and from there to the United States. He took with him one of the greatest scientific brains of all time. It was Teller who gave to our Allies the hydrogen bomb, which at that time was the greatest explosive power the world had ever known. Because we befriended the Jews, and because Germany and Russia and their Axis nations sought their elimination, we were given all of these world controlling Secrets instead of them. The Atom bomb was given us to put Japan on her knees and bring the Second World War to a close. The hydrogen bomb was given us to keep peace in the world. Russia would have taken us over years ago had it not been for their fear of the hydrogen bomb, discovered by Edward Teller, who had to flee Germany for his life.

IX. THE NEXT GREAT SECRET WHICH GOD REVEALED TO THE WORLD THROUGH THE JEWISH PEOPLE WAS THE NEUTRON BOMB, CALLED THE "N" BOMB. THAT SECRET WAS DISCOVERED BY A JEW NAMES SAMUEL COHEN.

This bomb also prevented America from being devastated by Russia, and Israel from being invaded.

Einstein, a Jew, and Meitner, a Jewess, were parents of the "A" bomb. Teller, a Jew was the father of the "H" bomb. Cohen, a Jew was the father of the "N" bomb.

America and her allies befriended the Jews, and God through the Jews gave us the "A" bomb secret, and we won the Hitler-Tojo war. America also was given the "H" bomb, which was a sophisticated "A" bomb, which enabled America to "speak softly and carry a big stick," which Russia respected. When Russia planned the invasion of Israel in the days of Eisenhower, they took one glance at that "H" bomb stockpile and backed off.

When the "N" bomb was developed by Cohen, and given to the United States, it was a bomb that destroys life by radiation, rather than by blast. And again, when Russia threatened to throw all of their great military power against France and Britain, the United States warned Russia: "If you strike, Russia will be annihilated." And again she backed off.

The prophet Zech. in Ch. 14 and verse 12 and 13 saw the "N" bomb coming to the world, and he graphically, pictured its effect, saying: "THIS SHALL BE THE PLAGUE WHEREWITH THE LORD WILL SMITE ALL THE PEOPLE THAT HAVE FOUGHT AGAINST JERUSALEM: THEIR FLESH SHALL CONSUME AWAY WHILE THEY STAND UPON THEIR FEET, AND THEIR EYES SHALL CONSUME AWAY IN THEIR HOLES, AND THEIR TONGUE SHALL CONSUME AWAY IN THEIR MOUTH. AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS IN THAT DAY, THAT A GREAT TUMULT FROM THE LORD SHALL BE AMONG THEM." Surely, no Scientist of today could picture the devastation of the Nitrogen bomb on human life, any more clearly than the Prophet Zechariah described it 500 years before Christ was born.

X. THERE IS ONE MORE JEW IN THIS LIST AND TWO MORE GREAT REVELATIONS FROM GOD. HE IS SOMEWHERE IN THE WORLD -- PROBABLY HERE IN AMERICA.

We do not know his name. We do not know his secret. Mr. Menachem Bagin, Israel's former Prime Minister knows the secret. We do know that on June 6, 1982 the weapon was used for the first time with phenomenal success. It was documented in the Jewish press, June 18-24, 1982. In an interview with Prime Minister Menachem Bagin, it was revealed that Israel has developed the exclusive technology of a secret weapon that makes all of its planes immune to missile or cannot fire.

Bagin said, "We are the only one in the world who has this secret." he continued, "We downed 85 Syrian planes and have not lost one of ours. He also pointed out that the Israeli tank has a secret firepower which is able to penetrate any armour.

This information sent a shudder throughout the entire communist world. They were led to believe that Soviet weaponry was invincible. They once were impenetrable but no longer! The NATO countries and the Pentagon officials especially, have expressed extreme interest in these secrets.

All of this proves that god, not man, is in control, of the major movements in this world. And He alone is turning the pages of history and no man or nation can block his movements when He decides to make a move.

Now, as far as the individual Jew is concerned, his personal salvation is conditional. It is conditioned on his accepting Jesus Christ into his life and denying his old faith. However, the fact that God is going to continue using the Jews to control the developments of history is unconditional.

IN CONCLUSION: What does all of this mean to us personally, as far as our relationship to God is concerned? It means that if God's hand turning the pages of history is so highly significant, how humbly, and unreservedly, and totally should we permit Him to turn page after page in the biography of our lives, without any interference on our part. We should do it eagerly, and not let anything stop us. What a thrill it is to know that the Great, Eternal God, who turns the pages of history for this entire world, cannot do the same for us unless we turn the reins over to Him and ask him to do so. We cannot stop God from interfering with the overall development of history in this world, but we can stop him from having full control of the development in our own personal lives. But it will be to our eternal sorrow in hell if we do. We can take over, and run our lives, and leave Him entirely out of it, but on the final day of reckoning He will enter the drama of our lives without our consent, and the outcome will be tragic.

It is also important to move quickly when He calls. Nations have missed God's timing, and so have individuals. We read in Luke 19:41-42 where Luke said, "AND WHEN HE WAS COME NEAR, HE BEHOLD THE CITY AND WEPT OVER IT, SAYING, IF THOU HADST KNOWN, EVEN THOU, AT LEAST IN THIS THY DAY, THE THINGS WHICH BELONG UNTO THY

PEACE! BUT NOW THEY ARE HID FROM THINE EYES." This means that God may hide from us any sacred light which we have willfully rejected.

We read a tragic and pathetic account of those -- "WHO COULD NOT BELIEVE, BECAUSE . . . HE (GOD) HATH BLINDED THEIR EYES AND HARDENED THEIR HEARTS, THAT THEY SHOULD NOT SEE WITH THEIR EYES, NOR UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART, AND BE CONVERTED, AND I SHOULD HEAL THEM" (Jn. 12:39-40).

We must not forget we are dealing with the Eternal God. Any page in our lives: which we turn without consulting and obeying Him is dangerous and could be disastrous.

In Rom. 9:18 we read: "THEREFORE HATH HE MERCY ON WHOM HE WILL MERCY, AND WHOM HE WILL HE HARDENETH." What does that mean? In order to be in harmony with the general bearing of the Scriptures it has to mean that He will have mercy on all who repent and forsake their sins and continue walking in the light as he revealed it, and that He will not have mercy on the rebellious and impenitent.

My friend, are you letting Christ turn the pages in the biography of your life? He hardens everyone that won't soften. In Exodus there are six verses which: say that Pharaoh hardened his heart; 7:14; 7:22; 8:15; 8:19; 8:32; and 9:32. There is one verse that merely says his heart was hardened, 9:7. Also there are two verses that states plainly that God hardened Pharaoh's heart; 7:13, and 9:12.

God is not to blame when He hardens hearts. The same sun that softens the wax, hardens the clay. The sun is not to blame for the difference. Gospel light has a terrible hardening effect on the willful rejecter.

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SERMON 10 WHEN A TREE FALLETH

Turn please to Ecclesiastes Chapter 11 and verse 3. ". . . If the tree falls toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be." It becomes permanently horizontal it will never raise itself and get back up where it was.

Let's bow our heads for a moment of prayer:-- Our father we pray you'll help us this morning. Strengthen us physically and make us alert mentally, and help our minds at least not to be tired while we try to bring the Word of God one more time. We pray that the Spirit of God will melt every one of our hearts. We pray that you will probe into our minds and into our conscience and into the depth of our being. We want the Holy Spirit of God to deal with us. We pray that God will work a miracle in every heart here this morning. Every one of us has some kind of need -- we always do. We pray this morning that the need shall be supplied. And we'll praise Thee forever in Jesus wonderful Name, Amen.

Long before the scientists discovered the law of gravity the Bible made it clear -- there is evidence all through the Bible -- not only of material and physical gravity, but also moral gravity and spiritual gravity. That moral gravity and spiritual gravitation. That something that causes people to go down, down, down -- constantly pulling on them. All people who fail to get sanctified holy will gravitate downward spiritually and morally. They will become of lesser quality as time goes by. They will find themselves slipping, and losing ground in various areas of life. In home life and in church life when they are carnal, there is something within them pulling downward. It is amazing how the law of spiritual gravity works. Natural gravity effects everything in the universe. You can take the tiniest piece off a feather, so small you can barely see it, and if you turn it loose, that power of gravity will immediately pull it down. There is no speck of dust so small but what the power of gravity will pull on it all of the time to keep it from flying away.

In the physical realm we eat and we sleep to gain enough strength to make it possible for us to stand up and walk and do things. We do these things regularly so that we can successfully resist and overcome the power of gravity that never ceases to pull us downward. We must maintain enough strength in reserve within our physical body to resist that power.

The same principle operates in the moral and spiritual areas of life. We have got to have enough internal fortunate -- we've got to have enough of the Grace of God -- we've got to have enough of the application of the blood of Jesus Christ to our minds, and to our souls, to keep us spiritually alive, and standing on our feet spiritually. Otherwise we will begin to weaken. We will begin to deteriorate. We'll begin to lose spiritual strength and moral strength and mental strength. We will begin to lose these qualities if we don't feed our souls and keep our souls strong like we feed our bodies to keep it strong.

This matter of falling is a mighty important matter. We are created out of the dust of the earth. God took some dirt and some water and created us. That's all there is to us. He made bones out of it. He marrow in the bones. He made brain cells out of that dirt. And He made muscles out of it. And He made ligaments and sinuses, and finger nails and hair. He made it all out of that dirt. And when we come to die our bodies go right back into a little bit of dirt. That's all there is. When they cremate us that's all there is, dirt. All they have to do is to cook the water out of it. It is amazing what God did. But when He created us out of dust, and we travel through life for a few short years -- it is amazing, in the light of eternity, what a short period of time we are really going to be here.

When I was a child I was extremely active. I was always up in the top of some of our apple trees, or down by the river a half mile away, or in the barn jumping from the high beam into the hay mow below. And in moving from one place to another I seldom walked -- I almost always ran. But the time came in life when I was not up in the top of the apple trees any more and I was given to walking from one place to another instead of running. Something is slowing me down. My mind is slowing down, and I can't remember things as I could. There is a deterioration setting in. I am not what I was physically. I am not what I was mentally. I don't have the strength I used to have. I can't lift as heavy a something off the ground. The only area of life where I can keep my strength if I will, is to keep in touch with God and keep my soul alive, and keep my spiritual life like it ought to be. But we constantly fight off that downward pull and finally we come to the place in life when

we lay down and rest more than we ever did before. And in we live beyond a given number of years we find ourselves in the bed most of the time -- and finally, all of the time.

And then comes that day when the Dr. shakes his head and everybody else does the same thing. So they call the undertaker and says, "You better come and get him." He'll never stand up again, and he will never walk around among us again. The down pull has won the battle. The power of gravity has been pulling on him for years, gradually winning, until finally it wins out. He is down for good this time.

But this matter of falling -- to the final fall, is one of the inescapable things of life. We are going to lay down one of these days like a tree, when it falls, it will never be back up there again. When it is down it is down for good and it's the same way with us. So, this matter of falling is one of the inescapables of life. Every one of us is going to face it some day and there is no way out unless Jesus comes in the Rapture before our time comes.

And this getting ready to fall and fall in the right direction is one of the most important things we will face as long as we are in this world. Millions of people have thought they could lean one way and fall another when their end time comes. They thought they could lean the wrong way morally, and when they come to die, they could just switch clear over and lean the other way. It doesn't work that way. They think they can lean in sin all of their lives, but when they come to die they can suddenly become Christians, with all that is implied in the holy life and walk with God. But it doesn't work that way.

The Bible says that the way a tree falls, that is the way it is going to lie. And He was applying it to human life. He was illustrating human life. Very few people can change their lean late lean late in life. No person in the world that is leaning in the wrong direction can change their lean and make it stick without divine help. God has to work a miracle to cause one who is leaning this way spiritually and morally to suddenly lean the opposite way.

If he is an alcoholic, it takes the power of God to turn him around and cleanse that chemical out of his blood and that craving out of his body and mind. We've got a man right in our service this morning that has experienced that mighty miracle of God, and with prayer and anointing for only two or three minutes the craving of fifteen years was miraculously taken away, and it has never returned.

In contrast to that there is a nurse down in Des Moines, Iowa. She has been dry now for twelve years by the alcohol anonymous, but she never got that divine cure. She says right now, she doesn't even dare to smell of it. And when stress comes on in life, she still has to run back to them for help! Help! help! I'm going to sink. She never got that divine cure.

If you are leaning the wrong way this morning, there is no way in the world short of a miracle from God that you can change your lean and make it stick. God must work a mighty miracle in your heart and in your physical body, until old things pass away and all things become new. So, getting to fall in the right direction is very important. The hand of death is so ruthless sometimes.

When I lived in Niagara falls the big paper mill in N. Tonawanda was shut down for repairs and the maintenance men were in there working And one of those big paper machines, a hundred feet long, and at one end was a huge tub of what we called "soup" that the machine turned into paper. And that soup goes into this machine, and that paper goes through that machine from one end to the other between huge steel rollers that are just as hot as steam can make them, and just as close together as the thickness of a sheet of paper. hat is getting awfully close together and that is getting pretty hot. And they had that machine down and three men opened up something in the end of that machine and crawled inside of it to repair something. And someone else in the building accidentally turned the power on in that monstrous machine. Those men came piling and rolling and crawling out of that machine as fast as they could, but one of those men didn't make it. He went the whole length of that machine between those steel rollers that were steam hot. Little did he dream when he crawled into that machine that, in a few minutes, he would be clear to end of that machine where the roll of paper is supposed to come out. It doesn't take long sometimes to walk in and be carried out. I say, death is so unexpected sometimes.

I remember, back in 1951, on the 16th April, driving my car with my wife sitting in the seat beside me. Little did we dream when we passed a certain telephone pole -- I could not have said to her, "Ethel, this is the last telephone pole you will pass in this life." We could have been within 4 or 5 seconds of the fatal crash that took her life instantly and still not dream that that was the last mile of the way for her. It was a beautiful, warm sunshiny, April mid-day. The grass was green and it was a beautiful day as one would ever hope to see. As pretty a day as you ever laid your eyes on. How could we ever dreamed that in 4 or 5 more seconds she will leave this world for eternity without a breath of warning. Little did we dream that in two or three seconds it is all over with. Six years of courtship and sixteen years of marriage and two children in school, and it is all over with. We never dreamed that such a wreck was within a thousand miles. Death is so ruthless. That is why it is so important to establish your direction of lean.

I want to get it into your heart and mind this morning that we had better go to it that we are leaning in the right direction all of the time -- every day -- every minute -- clear over on God's side -- physically, morally, spiritually, clear over on God's side. Then when we come to fall we will fall in the right direction. Yes, leaning in the right direction is tremendously important. Millions have been fooled by the devil into thinking they could lean one way and fall another. But that's not the way it works. Leaning one way and falling in the opposite direction is not that simple.

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SERMON 11

Subject: "I will remove thy Candlestick."

Text: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matt. 28:19).

(This is a message I wish every BIBLE MISSIONARY PERSON in the world would get into their system till it would completely obsess them).

The story is told of an old farmer who went to a blacksmith shop to get his horse shod. He asked the blacksmith what he would charge to shoe his horse. The blacksmith said he would charge a penny for the first nail and double the amount thereafter. The second nail would cost 2

he told the blacksmith to go ahead and shoe the horse. Here is how it came out:

Nail Number	cents
1 -----	1
2 -----	2
3 -----	4
4 -----	8
5 -----	16
6 -----	32
7 -----	64
8 -----	128
9 -----	256
10 -----	512
11 -----	1,024
12 -----	2,048

ONE SHOE ON

13 -----	4,096
14 -----	8,192
15 -----	16,384
16 -----	32,768
17 -----	65,536
18 -----	131,072
19 -----	262,144
20 -----	524,288
21 -----	1,048,576
22 -----	2,097,152
23 -----	4,194,304
24 -----	8,388,608

TWO SHOES ON

25 -----	16,777,216
26 -----	33,554,432
27 -----	67,108,864
28 -----	134,217,728
29 -----	268,435,456
30 -----	536,870,912

31 ----- 1,073,741,824
32 ----- 2,147,483,648
33 ----- 4,294,967,296
34 ----- 8,589,934,592
35 ----- 17,179,869,184
36 ----- 34,359,738,368

THREE SHOES ON

37 ----- 68,719,476,736
38 ----- 137,438,953,472
39 ----- 274,877,906,944
40 ----- 549,755,813,888
41 ---- 1,099,511,627,776
42 ---- 2,199,023,255,552
43 ---- 4,398,046,511,104
44 ---- 8,796,093,022,208
45 --- 17,592,186,044,416
46 --- 35,684,372,088,832
47 --- 71,368,744,117,604
48 -- 142,737,488,355,328

FOUR SHOES ON

The last nail cost 142 trillion, 737 billion, 488 million, 355 thousand, 328 cents. Reduced to dollars and 28 cents. Mind you, that was the cost of just one nail -- the last one.

Now, if you would like to know what the old farmer paid for the whole job, add up the cost of each of the 48 nails, since each nail had its own particular value.

Incidentally, it is a good thing the old farmer didn't have two horses!

The above arithmetic plus the following application was taken from "THE FLAME", from the July, August issue, 1979.

THE ARITHMETIC OF ACTION

The Latin American Mission was worried. They had doubled their mission staff and yet their church was not growing. And this is true, not only in America. Conversions to Christianity are not keeping pace with the birth rate. How then is the church to interpret the command of the Lord Jesus: "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature?" Was the Lord being realistic? Is this a target to be reached or not?

The Latin American Mission started to look at movements which were growing. 1. The Communist movement in a little over 100 years has grown to 1,000 million members (in 1979). 2.

The Jehovah Witnesses were growing at the annual rate of 400 percent. 3. The pentecostals in 50 years had grown to 15 million members in South America.

Why were they so successful? They had no apparent connection. What was the common growth factor? The findings were put together in what is known as the "STRACHAN THEORY."

The STRACHAN THEORY holds that the successful expansion of any movement is in direct proportion to its success in mobilizing and occupying its total membership in constant propagation of its beliefs.

"TOTAL MEMBERSHIP" -- "CONSTANT PROPAGATION" --Those are the key words. Every person a witness ALL of the time. Not some of the people some of the time, but ALL of the people ALL of the time. This takes evangelism out of the realms of the duty of the minister only, and makes it the duty of every member of the congregation at all times of the day.

But will this really make a difference? Of course it will! IT'S JUST A SIMPLE CASE OF ARITHMETIC!

Suppose in 1978 I determine to take seriously my God-given task of spreading the gospel, and I pray specifically and believingly that I will win one person to Christ during the year. At the end of the year there will be two of us.

Suppose we covenant before God that each of us be used to win a further new convert in 1979.

At the end of 1979 there will be four of us. Should we continue simple obedience, and faith, the results will be:

By the end of
1980 ----- 8
1981 ----- 16
1982 ----- 32
1983 ----- 64
1984 ----- 128
1985 ----- 256
1986 ----- 512
1987 ----- 1024

So that after 10 years, we will have reached our first thousand people. And if each newly converted person is just as keen, our numbers will increase almost unbelievably.

1024 in 1987 will become 2048 in 1988.
will become 4096 in 1989.
will become 8182 in 1990.

And believe it or not, in 20 years we will have reached one million people. After that the figures increase astronomically so that after 32 years, i.e., by the year 2009, over 4000 million (4 billion) people will have been won, STARTING FROM ONE! Do you realize that that is more than the present population of the world. (What would happen if 500 Christians sold out completely to, each one, start the process?)

How is it done? Not by ministers or by missionaries ONLY, but by every man and woman in the world who believes enough in the saving power of Jesus Christ.

Some people are called to be ministers; others are called to be missionaries in India or Uganda. But your mission field now should be your factory, your home . . . your grocer, your neighbor. Your pulpit may be your office, your garden gate, your school. YOUR CONGREGATION WILL BE THE MEN AND WOMEN TO WHOM YOU SPEAK EVERY DAY. (Of course our objective would be to get each one sanctified wholly also).

If they are without Christ they are without hope. They are lost eternally. Do you believe that? Is it nothing to you?

It is much easier to pray, "Lord, save the Chinese," than to go to the Chinese shop keeper on the corner and tell him that Jesus died for him too. It is much easier to pray vaguely for the "black people" of South Africa than to witness to your own domestic servant by word and by life.

Remember when Jesus healed the mad Gadarene (Mark 5), and the man begged that he might go with Christ to tell others, the command Jesus gave him was just this, "Go home to your people and tell them what the Lord has done for you and what great compassion He has had for you."

And He says to you: "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel." Your world starts at your home and the place Jesus has put you. Your task is to tell what Jesus has done for you. And to point needy men and women to the Saviour who can and will do the same for them --Ernest Elms.

Would it not be possible yet, to realize Christ's challenge to win the world? IF WE COULD GET ENOUGH CHRISTIANS TO TAKE THIS CHALLENGE UPON THEMSELVES, WOULD NOT GOD COME TO OUR AID AND BREAK DOWN THE CONCRETE WALLS OF HEATHENISM, AND CULTS, AND FALSE DOCTRINES, AND LIBERALISM, AND MODERNISM, BY THE MIGHTY POWER OF THE HOLY GHOST MARCHING BEFORE US SWINGING HIS SWORD OF HOLY GHOST CONVICTION, and MOWING THEM DOWN?

Rev. 2:1-5 -- "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent."

Repent or else! I will remove thy candlestick. Without the candlestick, where is the candle? Without the candle, where is the flame? The candlestick in the N.T. language represents the minister -- the pastor of the church.

Did you ever notice how often our ministers, many of them, change from one locality to another? Were they looking for some place where something exciting by way of soul-winning might happen? And were they not disillusioned when they made several such changes and still nothing noteworthy happened? It is crushing to the heart of a minister to feel that no progress is being made in the saving of Souls.

One of the great misunderstandings in the church today is the feeling that the minister is to do all of the soul-winning. And that has never been God's plan for the church.

Every Christian a soul-winner it has always been God's plan. We are UNPROFITABLE SERVANTS if we don't do it. And the Bible says that Christ Himself shall say on that great day of reckoning, "Take the UNPROFITABLE SERVANT, and bind him hand and foot, and cast him into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

On another occasion He said, "Why stand ye all day idle? Go work today in my vineyard." and, "Go, ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature."

"Come, tarry, and go" is Christ's three-fold command. He said, "COME UNTO ME, ALL YE THAT LABOR AND ARE HEAVY LADEN AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST." . . . "TARRY IN THE CITY OF JERUSALEM UNTIL YE ARE ENDUED WITH POWER FROM ON HIGH." . . . "GO YE INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH THE GOSPEL TO EVERY CREATURE.

Christ said to one man, "Go work today in my vineyard." One man answered, "I go sir." but he didn't do it. The Master condemned the man who said he would go, but he did not go. The condemnation of God fell upon that wicked servant immediately.

Jesus then told another parable:-- The parable of the wicked husbandman.

Then He said, "Go ye, into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in that my house may be filled."

"Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee." (Mark 5:19).

"THE HARVEST TRULY IS GREAT, BUT THE LABORERS ARE FEW: PRAY YE THEREFORE THE LORD OF THE HARVEST, THAT HE WOULD SEND FORTH LABORERS INTO HIS HARVEST." (Mark 9:37-38).

"Behold I send you forth as lambs among wolves." (Luke 10:3).

The Jehovah Witnesses are inspired of the devil, and yet they are growing 400% annually because they have adopted Christ method of winning them, and we are not. In other words, every member on the average is bringing 4 others every year. No wonder their growth is phenomenal!

I know they are of the devil because they do not believe in the Deity and eternity of Jesus Christ. They do not believe in the personality of the Holy Ghost, or the resurrection of the body.

They do not believe in the New Birth as the Bible teaches it, or the sanctifying power of the Holy Ghost, or the immortality of the soul. Nor do they believe in a literal hell. Their whole movement is blasphemy against the Holy Ghost, and yet, they are obeying this one command of Jesus and they are growing astronomically, while we are not doing it.

Christ cursed the fig tree that had nothing but leaves and within 24 hours it had dried up from the roots to the topmost branches.

Christ also said, "Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewed down and cast into the fire." (Matt. 3:10).

Again, Christ, speaking a parable, said, A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon and found none. Then said he unto the dresser of the vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground."

What would He say to us in this connection? God cannot tolerate a passive church. We must become active for God or die. No church will get very much ahead when the pastor is expected to do all of the work of bringing in new people. Such a program of operation would render the church members dead even if the pastor should be successful in getting new ones in.

It is tragic indeed when God forsakes a church and the door of opportunity closes forever against them. Jesus said, "If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong to thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes. (Luke 19:42).

People who have never been a pastor never stop to realize how little time the pastor really has to spend trying to bring new people into the church. By the time he prays and studies and develops new sermons every week and calls on the sick, and makes calls that are vitally necessary, his time is almost entirely used up. And besides this, his people know lots of people he does not know, and they contact many people that he could never contact. Also they have the power of friendship with people that he would never even become acquainted with.

A passive church will always die. In fact, passive Christians are already dead.

Remember the "STRACHAN THEORY." THE SUCCESSFUL EXPANSION OF ANY MOVEMENT IS IN DIRECT PROPORTION TO ITS SUCCESS IN MOBILIZING AND OCCUPYING ITS TOTAL MEMBERSHIP IN CONSTANT PROPAGATION OF ITS BELIEFS.

Total membership -- Constant propagation. There is the key to success in personal evangelism: every member a witness all of the time. Not some of the people some of the time, but all of the people all of the time. This takes evangelism out of the realms of the duty of the minister only, and makes it the duty of every member of the congregation all of the time. Furthermore, it will be obeying the command of God and will bring results.

I wonder if we realize the seriousness of being merely religious sponges?

Do you remember the true story of the little crippled girl who lay in her bed and every night when the big freight train went by in the flat some ways from her house, she waved her flashlight in the window. She kept it up every night until the engineer and fireman began to notice it and discuss it, wondering what was the story behind that strange light wagging back and forth from that window. So, the engineer, on a day off, to satisfy his curiosity drove to that home and got acquainted with the family. As a result he raised enough money among his friends to send the little girl to a hospital where a great surgeon understood the child's problem, performed a successful operation and she was made into a normal person for the first time in her life. IT MIGHT BE AMAZING HOW GOD WOULD SHOW US WAYS OF GETTING PEOPLE'S ATTENTION IF WE HAD STRONG ENOUGH DESIRE TO DO IT.

Before we close this sermon, it is necessary to explain that merely getting people into the church is not enough. There must be enough of the power of God in our services to get them under deep enough conviction so they will repent thoroughly and become soundly converted, and not stop there, but go on and get a genuinely sanctified heart, and then, thus equipped, go out after the lost.

Let me share with you the true story of what it means to have the power of God in the church strong enough to precipitate a genuine Holy Ghost revival.

Brother Rob French relates this experience: My brother and I were on our way to school in Nashville, Tennessee. We were going by Lookout Mountain to hold a tent meeting. We pitched our tent up there. It cost about every cent we had to make the trip. We landed almost penniless. But we got the tent up, and started the meeting.

There was indifference. There was a lack of conviction. There seemed to be a lack of burden on the part of the Christians. It looked as though we were going to have failure.

It was late in the season and it was real chilly, and we were uncomfortable in the tent. But we went on for some time And we told them that we couldn't stay long. We had to be in school when it opened.

So, we began to pray, "Lord, do big things in a short time." That seemed to be our burden. There was no holiness church there. Probably were 5 or 6 people that professed holiness that lived in the community, and they joined us in prayer, "Lord, do big things for us in a short time."

I was giving the altar call, as a I recall, and back in the tent there was a commotion. My first thought was that one of the temporary seats had given way. We had planks there for seats.

And I saw them carrying a man out, and my text thought was, "Somebody has fainted away." But there was one godly woman in the crowd that knew Some thing about spiritual things and she jumped to her feet and said, "Praise God, God is talking to this community.

They carried this man out and laid him down on the ground outside the tent. We went on with the service. A few came to the altar. Not much conviction. Not much spirit of prayer. And I went out and there he lay stiff and rigid. The Methodist preacher was there and he said, "He is paralyzed and he will be dead in two hours."

They sent for a doctor and while I was waiting there the Dr. came and he told them, "This man has nervous prostration." But he whispered under his breath, "These boys have put a spell on him. That fellow is hypnotized."

I tell you, we were on dangerous ground. And don't you think we weren't. The people were mad enough to string us up. One fellow said, "I wouldn't shake hands with those boys for anything in the world."

A ways from there was a small lake and there was a race track around the lake and a little house there by the lake and they carried him to this house, and he laid that way all that night. His muscles were locked. They tried to get him to move even one of his fingers to show sign of life.

We had day service and we came back to the service that next morning, and Joe Blaylock, a prominent member of the Baptist church stood there weeping. He said, "Boys, this is Serious." He said, "People are mad enough here to string you up to a pole." And he said, "I don 't know what to think of it."

I said, "Joe, I believe it is the power of God. If we will pray and hold steady God will bring him out."

"Well," he said, "I want you to pray, and pray desperately, boys, that if this is the power of God, that it will come out so clear that this entire crowd that is so mad and so bitter against you fellows and what you are preaching, will acknowledge that this is the power of God."

I said, "We'll do that."

He said, "Maybe you better go over to the house." And I went over to the house, and I tell you they were a hostile crowd. But they were a broken crowd. They were walking the floor and weeping and people were coming from far and near and the telephone lines were busy.

Everybody was talking about Frank Green still in that prostrate condition. What is the matter with him? The Dr. thinks he has been hypnotized.

Anyhow I walked up and said, "Friends, I believe this is the power of God, and if you'll let it alone, it will come out all right."

One of the deacons, I believe it was a deacon in the Baptist church flew mad. I didn't hear what he said. But he was mad. He said, "If this is the power of God I'll stomp my hat." I had never heard that expression before.

Well, the Dr. said, "You better get him away from the influence of this tent." And they carried him to his home two miles away. And he lay that way all day Monday and all night Monday night, stiff and rigid. Time enough for people to come from Georgia. They were coming from miles and miles.

They would come in and look at him and weep a while and go out and another would go in. And we were two miles away.

By noon he began to talk. He said, "I am burdened for four men. And if they don't get saved I can't stand it much longer. I Believe I'll die. I'll say that stirred the crowd. Men quit their work and came and stood there.

Frank Green was a Baptist, but I believe a well saved man at that time. And people had confidence in him. And God knows His business. He just picked one of their crowd out. And they were staying with him.

And when he said that it was like dropping a bomb shell. One said, "We better get those four fellows here." I believe two of them were there and heard him say it. They sent somebody in the valley and around to bring in the other two.

They lined up these 4 men and they said, "Men, we don 't understand this. We have never seen anything like it. We don't know what it is. But Frank says he is burdened for you four men and if you don't get saved he feels like he will die. Now you better get busy and get busy quick. Two of them went for the stairway and two of them went to the weeds. All prayed through at practically the same time. And when they prayed through Frank Green got up just as calm as I am now and he said, "Friends, I'm hungry. Would you give me something to eat?"

Then the telephone wires got hot again. Brother, they were scattering the news far and near. Frank Green has come too. I can't name the four men. I have forgotten the names of two of them. Hardy Jones was one of them. And Horace Jones was the other. The other two I have forgotten the names.

The wickedest fellows I guess on that mountain. Bootleggers, and drinkers and everything else. And people were coming from far and near. They were having a revival in his home. A crowd would come in and pray through and they would go out and make room for others to come in. It went practically all day long.

They called us up and said, "We are coming to the tent tonight. We want you to turn the Service over to us," I said, "Come ahead." That was the first time I had ever turned a service over to a crowd of holiness fighters, but brother, the fight was gone. Those fellows had been changed.

Before time for service people began to gather from far and near. I will never forget that night. They packed in that tent and I got up and said, "God has moved in our community in an unusual way and we are going to have an informal service. Everybody feel free to shout or pray or testify, or seek the Lord, or whatever you want to do."

I think one of the first to get up was old Tom Jones He was well over 6 ft. -- long arms. And he stood up and said, "Neighbors and friends, you all know me and I know you. I've lived here all my life, practically. When Frank Green fell in that tent I was mad, and I was scared. And I stayed that way till Frank began to talk. I found he was burdened for my boy and there he sits."

He said, "Neighbors and friends, we've fought these boys. We have not believed what they were preaching. But we'll have to stack arms. Nobody can deny that this was the power of God. Look what 's happened in our community.

When he sat down Hall Hallway (sp.?), this man that said he would stomp his hat. He climbed up on the altar. He said, "I am a man of my word. When Mr. French said this was the power of God, I said, If this is the power of God, I'll stomp my hat."

He said, "I'm going to Stomp it right in front of this crowd here, because nobody that knows anything about this circumstance can deny that it is only the power God. Nothing less and nothing more."

When he got through Tom Green stood up and he was trembling and weeping, and he said, "He is my boy. I loved him. I only left him a little while at a time. I thought if he breathes his last I was going to be there when he passed away. When I learned that he was burdened for these four men and when I saw those men get saved, I knew then, and I know now, it was the power of God and nobody can deny it. We haven't believed what these boys are preaching, but friends, we are going to have to stack our arms."

They lined these four men up in front of the platform and I said, "Alright men, it is time for you to testify." Oh, I would like to go through a service like that again.

Those men rose up. Horace Jones said, "Friends, I had gotten so hard. I heard sermons on hell and it would never faze me. I didn't have a touch of conviction. I thought God had left me forever. I thought I had crossed the dead line. I was cold and stony and dead. And when Frank Green was burdened for me it broke my heart. And I began to pray and I have gotten saved.

When he got through they got up, another and another, and another. Brother, you should have seen that altar service that night. You didn't have to beg people to come.

My brother and I would sing, "Bringing in the Sheaves." And the name of the community was "Moon lake." And we'd sing, "Moonlake for Christ."

And Old Father Singley, back in those days, was about the most prominent man in religious circles of that mountain. He said, "I thought it was silly. I thought it was foolish. But it looks like everybody in this whole country is going to get saved."

You know after that, for years the power of God lingered on that mountain. I quoted that last year at the Alabama camp, and Bro. Singley, the son of the man I am talking about came up and he said, "Bro. French, what you said is true, but you didn't make it strong enough. Nobody can describe the far reaching effects of that service.

He said, "For days, and months, and even year the power of God lingered on that mountain and the revival Spirit was kept alive."

It appears that wholly dedicated lives and the power of the Holy Ghost is the answer to revival, and if we pay the price the old-timers paid, we could yet see the revival they saw. I know times have changed, but God hasn't. He still answers the prayer of faith in the life of obedience and total commitment. Amen.

* * * * *

SERMON 12

"BE NOT DECEIVED"

Gal. 6:7.

"Be not DECEIVED; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Gal. 6:7)

"And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And he DECEIVETH them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do.

The word DECEIVED in its various forms appears over a hundred times in the Bible. There are a lot of very important subjects in the Bible that are not mentioned that many times. DECEPTION is one of the devil's greatest tools for destroying the souls of men and women. None of us dare boast that it couldn't happen to us.

The Bible makes it clear that it is as fatal to be DECEIVED as it is to be rebellious.

It is hard to get DECEIVED people to see their spiritual need. It is harder yet to get them to admit a need. And still harder still to get them to face up to their spiritual need and do something about it.

A few years ago the editor of the PILGRIM HOLINESS ADVOCATE told about a man that was deceived. He and this man had grown up together in the same community. One became a farmer and the other a preacher. The preacher came back to that community and held a revival and this farmer was a member of that holiness church with his family. The evangelist had a very strange burden for this farmer and spoke to him several times but the man always insisted that he was where he ought to be in his Christian experience and he would not admit a need. I believe it was only about 2 weeks after the revival closed that he ran out of gas with his tractor on the farm -- that is he ran low and had to fill the tank from a five gallon can he had in his pick up. He didn't want to take time to shut the tractor down and restart it, so he proceeded to put the gasoline into the tank with the motor running. I don't know just what happened, but the gasoline exploded and covered him with gasoline and fire. As a burning torch he climbed in to the pick up and drove a short distance to his home and his wife smothered the fire out with a blanket, but he was fatally burned. He lived a few hours in the hospital, but died with these words on his lips repeatedly, "I am going to die and I am not where I ought to be spiritually." THERE WAS A MAN THAT WAS DECEIVED. He was deceived into thinking that because he was young, he had many good years ahead of him. He was deceived into making himself believe he was where he ought to be in his

experience with God, when he actually was in a backslidden state and had been for a long time. But he went out into eternity without any hope of praying his way back to God.

Religious DECEPTION is so very prevalent in our ranks today. We constantly run into it in revival work. If you have been deceived into thinking you can do wrong things and it is all right, it is very certain you must become UNDECEIVED or you will lose your soul forever.

The first gun the devil ever fired at humanity was in the garden of Eden was that of DECEPTION, and his first target was the first couple that had come, pure and holy from the hand of God.

It is certain, not one of us will ever walk straight with a deceived heart. Much of our evangelistic preaching should be designed to help DECEIVED people to see that they are DECEIVED and persuade them to do something about it.

Some DECEPTIONS are unconscious. It is possible to get off color and out of tune and now realize it at first. One lady, who thought her wall paper was as clean and beautiful as the day it was first applied, was shocked when she took down a picture that had hung there as long as the wall paper had. She couldn't believe the paper on her wall had faded so much and looked so dingy.

Some time ago a friend of ours carried us by plane from Paris, Tennessee, to Nashville. It was a rainy morning. The ceiling was low and very heavy. We were in the fog before we had time to make a circle that was necessary in order to head toward Nashville. So the pilot had the plain banked up on a steep angle in turning it around and he informed me of the fact. I couldn't believe it. It seemed perfectly level to me. It is very easy for people that are careless in their devotional life, to lose their sense of direction and think they are going straight when actually, they are going in circles and are making no progress at all.

The devil will make it his business to DECEIVE you if you will let him. He will tell you there is time enough yet to get right with God, when perhaps you will be in eternity before the sun goes down. He will say to you, "Don't worry, it will all come our all right. God is merciful. He won't let you go to hell."

I. NOTICE, IT WAS TO THE SAINTS AND BRETHERN IN THE GALATIAN CHURCH THAT THIS WARNING WAS GIVEN.

It was not addressed to the cults or the sinners out in the lost world, but to the holiness people right in the heart of the holiness ranks of that day. The most subtle of all DECEPTIONS are in the Holiness ranks. Some of the most DECEIVED people I have ever seen were leaders in the holiness church of which they were a member. Some of them had sat for years under some of the greatest holiness preachers of the country, and they had been leaders in the local church. They had leaked out and lost out in their souls and carried on with an outward appearance and service that would fool anybody.

In a revival in E. Liverpool, Ohio years ago, there was an old couple attending that church who lived just walking distance across a lawn to the meeting house. At the close of that revival about every one in the room testified to their getting help in that meeting. Most of them had been to the altar at least once. I then asked how many had received light during the meeting that they were determined to walk in. Every hand in the room went up but this old man. He was annoyed by the fact that it made him conspicuous so he jumped up and gave a very defensive testimony, telling about a man down at a plant, back before he retired that told him if he ever became a Christian he wanted to be like him.

As time went on the crowd outgrew the little dilapidated shack they were worshipping in so they went just to the edge of the city and was given a beautiful spacious lot directly across from a lovely landscape and a pond of water. The pastor desired to build a church and the old man, I mentioned, backfired. He wanted to keep the services close to his home so he and his aging wife could walk to church. The pastor did build the church and did move in for worship, but the old man never came to church again, nor would he permit his wife to come. The pastor begged him to come back and promised to carry him and his wife back and forth between their home and the church, but he was so angry that he refused to ever come again. HE WAS THE ONE THAT WAS SO DECEIVED AS TO THINK HE COULD MANIFEST THAT KIND OF A SPIRIT AND STILL BE LIVING UP SO CLOSE TO THE IDEAL THAT HE WENT THROUGH A REVIVAL MEETING IN WHICH EVERYONE ELSE THERE SAW LIGHT THEY NEEDED TO WALK IN, BUT HE DIDN'T SEE ANY.

II. REJECTED LIGHT WAS A TERRIBLE BLINDING EFFECT.

You can get to the place where you will actually think you are saved and sanctified when you are backslidden and you will think you are going straight to heaven when you are practicing sin and disobedience to God every day.

A few years ago a high school youth was the president of his class. He was the leader of the Epworth League at his church. He was a top student and none were more promising. One noon when classes were let out he took his car out of the parking lot, swung around to the front of the building, kicked the front door open and a student girl about his age climbed in. Nobody noticed or thought a think unusual about it. But during the noon hour he took her to a lonely spot in some heavy woods, robbed her of her purity, murdered her to cover up his crime, hid her body under some underbrush, went home, showered, changed his clothes, went back to school and walked in as usual at 1 o'clock -- all within an hour and nobody was the wiser. That night he dressed his finest, took his Bible under his arm and went to a Billy Graham City-wide evangelistic campaign.

However, the authorities questioned every young man in that school and when this young man's story didn't sound just right as to how he spent that hour, they questioned him more closely and he finally broke down and confessed his crime. Then they questioned him concerning two other girls that had disappeared during the previous 18 months and learned that he was responsible for all three. He testified in the court room that every time he committed a crime he asked the Lord to forgive him, and he felt that took care of it. This story came out in the Buffalo Evening news. This lad had accepted the "unconditional eternal security doctrine." He had been taught once he accepted Christ, nothing could sever that relationship.

Carnality will cause you to make vows and break them; to make good resolutions and break them. Your religious enthusiasm that built up during a revival meeting won't last a month if you are carnal and worldly. You will make human, selfish plans instead of following divine leadings. You will let worldly friends and backslidden relatives influence you. You will make decisions and take steps that will bring you to eternal ruin.

III. THE CARNALITY OF YOUR OWN HEART WILL DECEIVE YOU IF YOU DON'T GET RID OF IT.

It will throw you off the track quicker than anything else in the world. It will blind your eyes and deafen your ears and twist your thinking, and sear your conscience, and deaden your sensibilities. It will render you susceptible to just about anything that comes along. You will be influenced into doing things that you will regret the rest of your life, and perhaps for all eternity.

It will switch you onto the wrong road, the wrong motives, the wrong choices, the wrong reactions, the wrong pleasures and entertainment and the wrong ambitions. You will always be confused in your leadings. You will never get straightened out until you get rid of it. You will be up and down in your experience, and more down than up as you grow older.

IV. THE DEVIL WILL DECEIVE YOU IF YOU DON'T SUCCESSFULLY RESIST HIM. (James 4:7).

He will tell you one lie after another and if you allow carnality to remain in your heart you will believe he is telling you the truth. He will tell you things that are a bold contradiction to the Word of God, and you will believe him. He will tell you you are sanctified wholly when you aren't even saved, to say nothing of being wholly consecrated. He will tell you you are still right with God when you are dishonest in your business dealings and you cheat and lie. He will tell you you are saved when you have been backslidden for years, and you will believe his falsehoods. He will put things into your mind and give you false impressions, and you will think it is the voice of God.

For example, it was more than twenty years ago that I saw a backslidden woman receive an impression from the devil and she thought it was from God. She came to us from the Baptists who believed in unconditional eternal security. When she finally denounced her Calvinistic errors and professed to be sanctified I took her into membership and let her teach the adult Sunday School class. She did very well for a while and then lost her experience and her thoughts went back to the false doctrine she had formerly denounced. Then I noticed that more and more she was working eternal security into her teaching of the class. It got so bad I had to relieve her of her position. She backfired and went back to the Baptists. But she didn't break all connections with some of the ladies in my congregation. She kept in touch, hoping she might get revenge by breaking the confidence of my people in my integrity. Finally it happened!

We had a lady that led our singing. One morning she was not feeling well so she appointed another young lady to lead the singing and she was literally killing the song service. It was terrible. When she finally stumbled through the first song I suggested we have a season of prayer. After the service I gave it no further thought. Wife and I didn't even bring the subject up. It seemed

inconsequential until the young lady began to get the word around that her feelings were hurt because I interrupted the song service. The woman that had left our church visited my women some and she heard about it. The song-leading lady could not understand why I had cut off her song service. And the Baptist lady said, "I will go to prayer and God will tell me WHY he did it." The next day she phoned her friend and said she had prayed about it and God had told her why I did it. (She saw her chance to mar my image with my people and kill their confidence in their pastor.

She said to them, "I went to prayer and God told me that the reason he stopped the song service was because he was sitting behind the lady leading it and the sex appeal was bothering him so much that he stopped the song service, and let her go back into the congregation." My wife was horrified and badly frightened. She said to me, "Honey, this is awful. This will go all over the country." I said, "Oh, I wouldn't give it a second thought. Nobody will believe it." And I intended to forget about it and drive on. However, a couple of nights later I awoke in the night and almost immediately it seemed that God spoke to me and told me to sit down and write the lady a letter and He would tell me what to say. I felt it must be a false impression. I was sure that anything I might write in self defense would only make matters worse. But the feeling was so strong that I said to myself, "I know it never does any harm to write a letter. The harm comes, if there is any harm, when you mail it. I will write the letter and in the morning I will read it to my wife. If she says 'Put it in the trash,' I will put it in the trash. But if she says, 'mail it.' I will mail it." So I sat down at the kitchen table without the slightest idea what I might write. And at once God put the words into my mind, and I wrote. "Dear Mrs. So-and-so, I understand you went to prayer and God told you why I interrupted a song service in my church one Sunday morning. I must tell you that what he told you was one hundred percent false. And furthermore, I must say that the God to whom you were praying, who told you that, was not only a bold-faced liar, but he is so filthy minded that he stinks. And I am going to send a copy of this letter to every member of my church." My wife was thrilled. She said, "Send it." I sent it by registered mail. She got it! That was the end of it. BUT IT AFFORDED ME A CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF A WOMAN WHO HAD BACKSLID FROM AN EXPERIENCE OF HOLINESS AND SHE COULD NO LONGER DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THE VOICE OF GOD AND THE VOICE OF THE DEVIL, AND SHE WAS SO BITTERLY SET ON GETTING REVENGE THAT SHE DARED PLACE MURDEROUS HANDS ON GOD'S ANOINTED AND TRY TO DESTROY HIS INFLUENCE IN THE MINISTRY.

If you listen to the devil he will tell you you have many years yet to live, when you may be hours from eternity. A young couple in one of my pastorates was in their mid-thirties and had one child. The lady was very healthy and strong. She and her husband had learned a trick as to how they could cheat the phone company out of long distance phone calls. I dealt with them as to the dishonesty of that scheming and they also left my church and started attending another. One day she too paid a visit to a lady member of my church and said, "Tomorrow I am going to the dentist and get a tooth pulled." She expressed a little dread, but laughed it off. The next day she climbed into the dentist chair and instead of injecting Novocain into her jaw, he had a different process that was in the experimental stage. He put a needle into a vein in her arm and injected, I don't know what. But almost immediately she slumped. The doctor and his nurse worked frantically to revive her but failed. Her heart stopped immediately. T HERE WAS A CASE OF A YOUNG WOMAN, STRONG AND HEALTHY, BUT FAR FROM BEING RIGHT WITH GOD AS EVIDENCED BY HER DISHONESTY, WHO FELT SURE SHE HAD MANY GOOD YEARS YET TO LIVE,

WHEN THE FACTS WERE SHE WAS WITHIN MOMENTS OF CROSSING INTO ETERNITY AND DIDN'T DREAM IT WAS COMING.

V. ALSO PEOPLE YOU ASSOCIATE WITH WHO ARE THEMSELVES DECEIVED, WILL DECEIVE YOU IF YOU FAIL TO LIVE CLOSE ENOUGH TO GOD RESIST THEIR WRONG INFLUENCE.

Relatives brainwash each other. They will talk you out of your God-given convictions if you let them. Your soul is in grave danger when you are deeply in love, or closely associated with someone who has compromised away their own convictions and is living in a backslidden state. Sometimes your closest friends will come up with some wrong idea or some sinful habit, and if you don't discipline yourself strictly, you will soon come up with the same thing.

VI. SOME OF THE WORST DECEPTION IS WHEN PEOPLE DECEIVE THEMSELVES.

But it happens every day wherever people are. If they aren't where they ought to be spiritually they will rationalize. It is easy for a backslider to talk himself out of his former convictions.

In one pastorate a young couple had been saving money for a new living room suite. We were then trying to raise money for a building fund and this lady stood and declared she would bring in the money she had saved for the new furniture and let the furniture wait for a later time. After a few weeks her money did not come in, and when I made a pastoral visit to the home, there was the new living room furniture. To say the least, I was disappointed. Some people can profess to be saved and sanctified right over the top of things like this.

One man in one of my meetings arose and said that the Lord saved him one night while he slept and he was sure the Lord would sanctify him in the same way when He should decide to do it, so he wasn't going to worry about it. THAT MAN WAS TERRIBLY DECEIVED INTO BELIEVING HE HAD A EXPERIENCE. His sinful life also testified to the fact that he didn't have a real experience at all, but he had deceived himself into thinking all was well with his soul.

VII. AGAIN, PREACHERS, AND EVEN HOLINESS PREACHER, WILL SOMETIMES DECEIVE YOU.

One teen age young lady formed the habit of climbing out of the bedroom window after her parents were asleep and joining her friends for fun down town. When she went to camp meeting that following summer she got under conviction and felt the Lord told her she must confess it to her father and ask his forgiveness for her disobedience. But first she went to one of the pastors on the district whom she knew very well and liked very much and asked his advice. He told her all she needed to do was to confess it to God. She took that left road after God had already told her to take the right one and naturally didn't pray through. That young lady now is in her mid forties and far from God. She was never known to seek God at an altar of prayer following that camp meeting where she received the wrong advice and acted upon it.

I remember when I was seeking in earnest to be sanctified, after years of floundering in up and down experience, and my District Superintendent did his best to talk me out of it. He said I was perfectly all right. He said that evangelist does that to a lot of people -- making them think they aren't sanctified and get them confused. He said that that same evangelist held a revival in his local church and his wife got upset just like I was and he talked her out of it until the meeting was over and the evangelist was gone, and then she soon got relaxed and had no more problem. He and his wife both should have gone on and gotten sanctified wholly, which they evidently didn't. It was only a few years later that the Church took his credentials and dismissed him after he took a few day's vacation alone with one of his pastor's wives. Had I listened to him and backed down and stopped seeking and dying out to carnal self, the probability is, I would never would have been brought into the depth of "death-route-conviction" that I then experienced, and probably would never have gotten the blessing. When real, genuine "death route" conviction comes on a person from the Holy Ghost, it is extremely dangerous to brush it off and turn it down because it is showing flagrant disrespect for the Person of the Holy Ghost, Himself. It is a grave risk of eternity to treat Him that way.

VIII. GOD WILL RID YOU OF THOSE STUBBORN SINS OVER WHICH YOU HAVE NEVER HAD VICTORY IF HE CAN UNDECEIVE YOU.

If you are still hanging onto pet sins, and think you are Saved and acceptable to God, you are deceived. God said, "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." (I John 3:9).

What does it mean, "You cannot sin." It simply means that the sinful things you used to do, you have to stop. You CANNOT do them any more at all. It is not physically impossible to sin, but it is morally impossible and spiritually impossible There is no such thing as a sinning Christian any more than an honest thief or a truthful liar.

If you fall out with the preacher who tells you the truth that hurts, and you think you are up where you should be, spiritually, you are deceived.

If you still have carnal spells and think you are sanctified wholly, you are deceived.

If you are stubborn and uncooperative when things don't go your way and you think you have a good clear first work of grace, you are deceived.

IX. GOD WILL DESTROY THE LAST CARNAL TRAIT IN YOU IF HE CAN UNDECEIVE YOU.

He will baptize you with the Holy Ghost and fire if he can undeceive you, and get you willing to tell the truth about yourself and admit your carnal state and start seeking in earnest, and take it by the job until you get through.

It is hard for one who has been professing the experience for years to come out in the open and confess he doesn't have the blessing, but if you are in that state, you must face up to it or lose your soul in hell.

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy" (Prov. 28:13).

No soul that rebels against Holy Ghost light can keep saved. Have you willfully backed up on the light of holiness and think you are still saved? Utterly impossible!

If you are well saved you'll accept the light of Holiness. You will be so hungry and thirsty for the blessing you will gladly pay any price to receive it.

If you are well saved you won't cheat people in business deals. If you have ever done it you will make it right. You will not try to get even with folk for the wrong things they may have done you. You won't quarrel and feud. You won't say things about folk that are not true, hoping to hurt them. You won't be loose and too familiar with the opposite sex. You won't backfire on the preacher when he points out your sins and tries to get you lined up for heaven. He really is your friend when he tells you the truth.

The Bible does not teach, once a branch always a branch. (See Jn. 15:6 & Mt. 3:10).

The Bible does not teach, once in the net always in the net. (See Matt. 13:47-50).

CONCLUSION: God will never rest until he has purged this world of sin, and rid this planet of sin forever, and the tempter also.

I had a rendezvous with death,
In a revival many years ago;
Old carnal self was crucified,
And received the final "killing" blow!
My friend, has this death come to you?
Or did you fail your rendezvous?

I had a rendezvous with God;
Father, Son and Holy Ghost!
This Triune One is now in charge!
He was my Guest, but now he is my Host!
My friend, does he have full charge of you?
Or did you fail your rendezvous?

I had a rendezvous with death --
To the world, and self and sin I dared to die!
I threw my bankrupt heart's door open then,
And let him come, old self to crucify!
My friend, is this death real to you?
Or did you fail your rendezvous?

Soon one more glad rendezvous with Christ,
As the rapture of the saints draws near!
In the clouds, when the "zero hour" strikes,
Like lightning rents the sky, He will appear!
My friend, your lamp must be filled and burning too,
Or you will forever fail your rendezvous.

* * * * *

SERMON 13

Prov. 29:1. "He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy."

The most dangerous thing in this world that we have to account for is Gospel light. Electricity is very dangerous. In Paris, Tennessee a few years ago, when I lived there a working man had his Saturday off so he was installing an electric washer for his wife. He crawled under the house with an electric drill and an electric lamp. There he sat on the damp ground. He stationed himself for the drilling and reached for the drill. It shorted somehow and froze him to the spot. When he failed to come out his wife called in from the opening where he crawled in and he didn't answer. Upon investigation it was discovered that he was dead. Electricity is dangerous.

Gospel light brings awesome responsibility. Its rejection brings eternal darkness.

What happens to people when the Holy Ghost shuts off the light? Years ago when Brother H. B. Huffman was a young man in college he went to a street meeting 25 miles from the school in an old, open model T ford, in the dead of winter. An old man in his 70's wanted to go with him. They stood in the street while the snow was falling and Bro. Huffman preached and gave an altar call. The old man came forward and knelt by the curb in the snow and prayed but God did not come. On the way home in the bitter cold ride Bro. Huffman asked him why, an old man like he was, would go to so much trouble to take that 50 mile ride and kneel down in that fresh snow. And the old man said, "Fifty years ago, when I was young I rejected God repeatedly and God stopped talking to me. For years I have sought Him but he has never come back. I thought that maybe, if I would come out on this cold night and put my old crippled knees down into that snow and lay bare my head under the falling snow, maybe God would come back to me, but He did not come back." As far as we know the old man finally died in that condition. It is terribly dangerous to insult the Holy Ghost by repeated rejection of light.

I. THERE IS THE GRAVE DANGER OF BEING OFTEN REPROVED.

God warns us by strong statements in His Word, such as my text tonight, as well as many other strong warnings such as Gen. 6:3, where God said, "My Spirit shall not always strive with man." There are hundreds of warnings in the Word of God just as strong and alarming as these we have mentioned.

God warns us by Holy Ghost preaching by men anointed with power from on High. He also warns us by our own conscience, through which God speaks to us. He warns us through the holy lives of Spirit-baptized men and women, who spread conviction by a Godly life and testimony wherever they go. He, the Holy Ghost Himself, with direct dealing with the heart brings conviction. **YES, IT IS A TRAGEDY TO REJECT GOSPEL LIGHT!**

Every step of disobedience to God is dangerous, because the light-rejector is trampling the precious blood of Christ with every moment of rejection.

A few years ago one of our preachers, John Bethune, told me this story. He had a man in his church that was terribly mean. Many a Sunday night Bro. Bethune's wife would cry herself to sleep over some meanness that man inflicted upon them. One day that man invited Bro. B. to go fishing. They stood side by side, by the river bank waiting for fish to bite and that man said, "Bro. Bethune, I am about to tell you a story that has never been told. My wife does not know this. My two teen-age daughters do not know this. But years ago I rejected God so long and so determinedly that God left me and has never come back. I can't pray through. I can't get His attention. He will not hear me." The very next day that man was in his back room before a mirror, shaving, and suddenly his heart simply stopped and he fell backward into the bath tub. It is terribly dangerous to reject God and back up on light and sear one's conscience. **HE THAT BEING OFTEN REPROVED!**

It is terribly dangerous to ride rough shod over any kind of serious warning. A few years ago while we were living in Niagara Falls, N.Y. a teen-age boy came home from school, grabbed a sandwich and leaped the porch rail as he told his mother he and another lad were going down to the river. The last thing she said was, "Don't touch your father's boat." He promised he would not touch it, but he didn't keep his word. The two boys took the boat out on the river and had fun until they got down where the current was too powerful for them and they got sucked into the rapids and the boat was smashed on the rocks and they went over the 65 ft. falls. Their bodies were later found a few miles down the river below the rails.

If you start down the road of sin, disobedience and rebellion, sooner or later you will come to the end of that awful road and tragedy will follow. Again, in Niagara Falls a young lad had a slight accident and he didn't stop. It is a serious offense to "hit and run", but he did it. The police were nearby and they started chasing him. It was raining and freezing and the road was a glaze of wet ice. But the lad sped down Niagara Falls Blvd. with his lights off trying to shake the police. He turned right on Ward road headed for Tonawanda. It was the night before Christmas. There were two teen age girls who had lived since they were babies in two houses diagonally across the road from each other. They had been together in one girl's home on the right side of the road putting presents under the Christmas tree. They decided to go to the home of the other girl, so they started out. They were going down the icy road with their back to the oncoming car with his lights off. He didn't see them in time and the ice prevented his dodging them the last minute and he killed them both. By the time I came along he stood there in the rain crying like a baby with a police officer by his side. **ONE SIN WILL BRING ON ANOTHER.** His first mistake was leaving the scene of an accident. His next wrong was trying to shake the cops off in the rain over icy roads. His next sin was driving with his lights off. Yes, One sin brings on another and another until tragedy follows, sometimes with awful and eternal consequence.

II. "HARDENETH HIS NECK".

Old King Pharaoh, you remember, hardened his heart ten times when Moses asked him to let the Children of Israel leave their bondage in Egypt." He rode over warning after warning, even through the terrible night when the oldest in every home, even to the animals in the herds, died. Pharaoh half-repent-ed again and again, and then froze up and refused to let them go. But on the night of the Passover they left, but Pharaoh and his army followed them, intending to bring them back. Then they came to the Red Sea God parted the waters and the Children of Israel went through on dry ground. But when Pharaoh and his host got into the midst of the sea God let the waters come back and destroyed them all. PHARAOH HARDENED HIS NECK BEYOND THE POINT OF NO RETURN, AND MISSED IT FOREVER.

God had said to the Children of Israel in Exodus 6:6, "I will bring you out from under the burden of the Egyptians, and I will rid you of their bondage." So, that means that Pharaoh was fighting against God, when he tried to stop them from going. No human soul can successfully fight against God. Three verses, Ex. 8:15 and 8:32 and 9:34 say that Pharaoh hardened his heart. Seven verses, Ex. 4:21; 7:3; 7:13,14; 10:1; 10:20; 10:27 and 11:10 say that God hardened his heart. Ex. 8:19 simply says his heart was hardened. How do we reconcile these verses when some say Pharaoh hardened his heart and others say God hardened Pharaoh's heart? It is simply this: Remember, Gospel light hardens the heart of every rejecter. The same sun that softens the wax, hardens the clay, and the Sun is not to blame for what happens. God, shining light into one heart will soften it that heart when the person repents and obeys God. But the same light, and the same truth, and the same conviction will harden another. It is not God's fault when He hardens a person's heart. It is a perfectly natural process. If you rebel against God, he will harden your heart with the same gospel truth and light that softens someone else.

I have seen entire families cross the dead line and drop into hell. I saw Margaret cross the dead line in a revival a few years ago. She later murdered a man and his wife and then shot herself. Her preacher brother, a great light-rejecter, with his two teenage daughters got caught in a snow slide, out in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. The snow and ice came down across the road and swept them down into the chasm under hundreds of feet of snow and ice and their bodies were not found for weeks. Their father, holiness preacher, a great light rejecter was thrown from a horse and his foot caught in the stirrup and he was dragged to death by the scared horse. He also, a holiness preacher, crossed the dead line and missed. it. Marcy Little, from the SHEPHERD'S FOLD IN SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA filled in for me parts of this sad story that I didn't already know from first hand encounter with Margaret, in that revival meeting. It was later revealed that she was a lesbian and that is the reason she killed that woman, and then her husband because she could not have her way with that woman, and the husband interfered.

It is terribly dangerous for one to reject light, break promises made to God and continue on in disobedience. Pete Babcock, a few years ago told us his story. He was a chain cigarette smoker. He became sick and no specialist could figure out what was wrong with him, nor could they help him. They said he could not possibly live. But he had a praying mother. Then Pete went to prayer and promised God that if He would heal him he would never smoke another cigarette. God did heal him and he became a well man. But while he was telling us this story he had a cigarette in his hand and said, "I never smoke one of these but what I fear God will punish me for breaking my

vow and put an illness on me, and next time He will refuse to heal me." His two main fingers on his right hand were leather-brown from holding cigarettes between them. I later on moved away from that area and lost sight of Pete, so I can't tell how ye came out, but I am sure it was tragic.

III. "SUDDENLY DESTROYED"

Brother Merryman, we called him a few years ago. He lived in State College, Pennsylvania. Bro. Huffman was in a tent meeting at the time. I, personally helped pitch the tent and drove the stakes for that meeting. Bro. Merryman got under awful conviction for his sinful life, even though he himself was a preacher, and he went to opposing the meeting. He attended faithfully, but did everything he could to destroy the effectiveness of the meeting. The last night of the Revival Bro. Huffman opened fire on the opposition against the Holy Ghost and Bro. Merryman became infuriated. After the service he attacked Bro. Huffman furiously and tongue-lashed him terribly. That night after midnight Bro. Huffman and helpers took down the tent, stored the benches and piano and folded up the tent into the little trailer behind his car and then slept a few hours. At breakfast time Bro. Merryman showed up and gave Bro. Huffman another awful tongue lashing. Bro. Huffman up until this time had stood in silence. Then he said only this much. "Bro. Merryman, just six months from now you will see things in a lot different light." Bro. Merryman shot back, "You can't scare me." But just six months to the day, they told me, Bro. Merryman, had his little satchel, and was out selling his product. He walked into the show room of a garage and dropped dead on the spot. **IT IS TERRIBLE DANGEROUS TO DEFY THE HOLY GHOST. MANY HAD BEEN SUDDENLY DESTROY.**

IV. "WITHOUT REMEDY."

What will do when the Fountain which is open in the House of David for sin and uncleanness is closed against you forever?

A few years ago a beautiful, 18 year old lad lived about two blocks from our church in Nashville. Our church sat on a corner lot next to an alley. The people decided to hold the revival in a tent which they pitched in the vacant lot directly behind the church. And every night that lad gunned his motorcycle back and forth up that alley in front of the tent and greatly disturbed the meeting. The last night, right as the evangelist was giving the altar call this lad tied a bundle of burlap sacks into a bundle, soaked them with kerosene and threw it, lighted under the flap of the tent, and wrecked the closing service of the meeting. A few months later I was called for the next revival which was to be held in the church. The pastor and his wife had just parked their car in front of the church when this lad sped up the street at a high rate of speed. He went up to the end of the street and was coming back when an old gentleman started across the street from a side street. It was almost dusk and the lad didn't have a light on his cycle. The old man didn't see him coming. And the lad plowed into the side of that car and pushed the front door on the opposite side from the driver nearly to the steering wheel which was on the other side of the car.

It was a warm summer evening in Nashville and people were sitting on their porches. I came along just as it happened. It was so soon that the neighbors were just starting to come off their porches. It had been only seconds. There sat the car he hit. There lay the lad in the middle of the street and the motorcycle close by. Someone notified his mother within moments. A car came

screaming up and stopped. The mother climbed out and screamed, "If he is dead I don't want to see him." Yes, he was dead. "He that being often reprov'd, hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy." The pastor and I attended the funeral. Such wailing and screaming and wailing, as came from the lips of that mother, I have never heard before or since. The lad was a straight A student in high school. They could not open the casket, but the lad's picture sat on the closed lid. The mother begged the undertaker to just open the lid a little and let her reach in and touch his hand and the undertaker said, "No, mother, we can not open the lid."

If you are not minding God, my friend, and walking in the light, you are headed for serious trouble. You may not die on a motor cycle, but you will finally go into eternity and stand before God and give an account of your treatment of Jesus Christ and His blood, and the light you rejected.

If you do not obey God, quit the sin business, and get a sanctified heart and live a holy life, guilt will accumulate in your life, momentum will build up, the path will become more and more slippery, your will will become weaker and weaker, you will become deeper and deeper involved in sin and entangled. There is always a point in the path of human which they call "the point of no return." When you pass that point in your rebellion, there will be no recovery for your soul.

Judas Iscariot passed that point in his rebellion, hung himself, the rope or the tree limb broke and he was dashed to pieces on the jagged rocks below. Demos also passed that point of no return because he loved this present world. So did Pharoah, Herod and Pilate, and they have been in hell for all of these intervening centuries, and will be there forever. Solomon missed it also because the Bible said his heart was led away from God because he loved many strange (heathen, ungodly) women (I Kings 11:1,4). Solomon got so involved with heathen women and heathen worship that his heart was turned away from God (see verse 9) and he died without a sign of turning back to God.

V. GOD SHIFTING ALL THE RESPONSIBILITY BACK ONTO YOUR SHOULDERS WHEN CHRIST DIED UPON THE CROSS.

Not a soul in the world from there on can blame anyone but himself if his soul is finally lost in hell forever. God exhausted the resources of heaven, sending Christ to die, and later on, sending the Holy Ghost to sanctify your heart. He did all of this to keep you out of hell, and you have no excuse.

God has had millions of suffering saints across the centuries who have given their lives to keep this light burning, so you could have Gospel light to walk in. If you fail to walk in that light, and get sin out of your heart and sin out of your life, you will have no one to blame but yourself.

Who has ever had a better chance to make heaven than we have? But if any of us turn down the appeal of Calvary, and the challenge of Pentecost and the pleading voice of the martyrs, and wade through blood, we will be lost and it will be our own fault.

VI. HAVE YOU BEEN OFTEN REPROVED?

How many Holy Ghost revivals have slipped through your fingers? How many times have you promised God you would obey him and walk in the light and you didn't keep your word? How many hearts have you broken? How many warnings have you ignored? How much light has already turned to darkness? The more often you have been warned, the greater will your responsibility be.

VII. HAVE YOU EVER HARDENED YOUR HEART AGAINST GOD?

It is a battle of the wills. It is your will or God's will. When you harden your heart, the light of the Gospel will harden your heart even more. There is grave dangers in TRIFLING WITH GOSPEL LIGHT.

Playing with fire is dangerous. Being careless with guns is dangerous. Refusing to heed warnings can be devastating, even in the natural world, much more the spiritual.

Some years ago my father lived in Dover, N. Hampshire. There was a man there that worked in a shop where they manufactured dynamite and blasting caps. He had a small farm and sold butter and eggs to my father, so my father knew the man quite well. The blasting caps were loaded with nitroglycerin and explode with a velocity of 500 lbs. to the square inch. Those caps are used to touch off the dynamite. They have a rule in that shop that if the little cap is filled a wire is attached to it which is used to touch it off. And if it is empty it has no wire. So, one working in the shop will know if the caps are empty or loaded. But it so happened that someone slipped up and loaded about 6 or 8 of those caps and forgot to attach the wire. When this workman that my dad knew so well came home he scooped up those caps which he supposed to be empty and took them home for the children to play with. They laid around the house for a few days until the wife was cleaning thing up and she brushed them up and threw them into the wood stove. Presently they went off and the top of the stove hit the ceiling, and the side door and front door blew open, and ashes were all over the kitchen. She cleaned the mess up and got the stove back together. When her husband sat down to eat supper she told him that those little red metal things he brought home were explosive and dangerous. He said they were not loaded. She did not, for some reason, tell him what happened, but insisted they were loaded. And he knew they were not loaded. They quarreled and he got half mad. After supper he hunted around the house and finally found one on a window sill in the dining room. He sat down with his pocket knife and went to forcing it open to prove to his wife that it was not loaded. It went off and blew off one hand and 2 or 3 fingers in the other hand.

It pays to listen to warnings. It is bad enough to lose a hand, but how much worse to lose one's soul.

A woman in a tent meeting in W. Virginia years ago was stepping out on her husband and he was mad. The previous night the saints had begged her to go to the altar but she would not go. She would not give up the man-friend and her illicit relationship. The next night just as the evangelist was giving the altar call her husband appeared in the back of the tent with a heavy rifle. People glanced around and uneasiness set in. She turned and saw him and knew what it meant and she made a dash for the altar but got only half way. He fired and she fell in a pool of blood and died on the spot. I was a very close friend to the evangelist and his wife for many years and they told me the story. The night before she would not go to the altar and pray. The very next night it

was too late. Had she repented and gone the next day back to her husband and asked forgiveness promised to be true to him forever it would never have happened. SHE WAS SUDDENLY DESTROYED, AND THAT WITHOUT REMEDY.

VIII. YOUR ONLY HOPE MY FRIEND, IS REPENTANCE, CONFESSION, AND ONLY TIME IS NOW.

Millions in hell right now because they would not put away their sin and obey God.

What will you do with the light you have received? What will you do with the opportunities God has given you? What will you do with the conviction you have felt again and again and brushed it away, and refused to obey it? What will you do with the repeated warnings God has in mercy extended to you?

What will you do when you are past feeling? (Eph 4:19) When you stand before the judgment bar of God. (Ecclesiastes 11:9).

A young man and his wife were in a boat in a lake quite a distance from shore when the boat capsized and they were spilled into the water. She could not swim at all, but only panicked and went down. He was an excellent swimmer and he went down after her. She, panicked, clung to him, wound her arms and legs around him and he struggled to break her grip. They struggled till she lost consciousness and filled her lungs with water. He then took her by the hair and swam to the surface and to the shore, and applied artificial respiration, but it was too late. She was gone. At the funeral they said, he just laid, wailing over the casket and kept saying, "I tried to save you but you would not let me."

All evangelistic preachers, godly, praying parents and others have tried desperately to save some multiplied millions through the centuries, but were rejected. They tried to save some of their own children, but they wouldn't let them. Nothing could be more sad.

* * * * *

SERMON 14

"CHRIST-CENTERED, and SPIRIT-FILLED"

"That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God" (Eph. 3:17-19).

"So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you" (Rom. 8:8,9)

It grieves God when He is not put in His proper place and given the proper emphasis in our lives. Even at Christmas time millions celebrate big and spend lots of money, but Christ isn't brought into focus at all. Multitudes think that the best way to celebrate Christmas is to get drunk.

All their emphasis is put on friends, relatives, get togethers, presents, booze, gluttony and Santa Clause.

The Bible says one cannot even come to the Father except the Holy Spirit draw him (John 6:44), and yet they totally ignore the Holy Spirit.

The Apostles' Creed is a perfect example of ignoring the Holy Spirit. The Creed says, "I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord, (1) who was conceived of the Holy Ghost, (2) born of the virgin Mary, (3) suffered under Pontius Pilate, (4) was crucified, dead and buried, (5) He descended into hell, (6) the third day He arose from the dead, (7) And ascended into heaven, (8) From whence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

In contrast to 8 things the creed says about Jesus, it says only one thing -- "I believe in the Holy Ghost." Not one word about how He (1) draws people to the Father, or (2) convicts of sin, or (3) Witnesses to our salvation, or (4) guides us into all truth, or (5) teaches us, (6) empowers us, or (7) sanctifies us, and (8) intercedes.

Throughout the Old Testament God the FATHER was the most Prominent Personality. That was His dispensation. While Christ was in the world He received the most emphasis because that was His dispensation. How we are in the dispensation of the Holy Ghost and He should not be ignored.

He is the Energizer of the Church. He is the great intercessor and Mediator between us and God the Father. He reveals Christ to lost humanity and makes Christ real. He it is who makes all of the benefits of the atonement available to us all.

In the Old Testament humanity's hatred and rebellion was directed primarily against God the Father. In the days when Christ was on earth in the flesh the bitterness and hatred and scorn of the wicked world and the apostate church was focused on Him. In our day the Holy Spirit is the principle target from the wicked world and the carnal, backslidden church.

In the Old Testament the people rejected the FATHER in their love of idols which they made with their own hands. In the days of Christ they said, "We will not have this man to reign over us" (Luke 19:14). And in this dispensation, the greatest sin one can commit, which Christ said would not be forgiven in this world or in the world to come was blasphemy against the Holy Ghost. (Mark 3:29).

Without the Holy Ghost we have (1) No access to the benefits of Christ's atonement. (2) Nothing to make us hungry for God. (3) No ability to repent. (4) No hope of being saved or sanctified. (5) No hope of eternal life.

By the Holy Ghost the church and everyone in it stands or falls. No church or individual ever amounted to anything after they grieved the Holy Ghost away by sin, worldliness or disobedience. The Holy Ghost must never be grieved or ignored. Not a soul will ever see heaven if in this life the Holy Ghost is ignored, shunned, or rejected. To be without the Holy Ghost is to be

without Christ, without the faintest hope of eternal life. Those who will not allow the Holy Ghost to direct their lives, do not have Christ or the Father in their hearts.

Only through the ministry of the Holy Ghost does the blood of Christ ever reach the heart of man and meet his spiritual need. The Holy Ghost is more than a figure of speech. He is more than an influence. He is a Divine Personality.

Every tragedy in human life results from rejection of the "Christ-centered" and "Spirit-filled" and "Spirit-directed" life. Absolutely nothing that ever happens to a Spirit-filled person can be considered a tragedy because "All things work together for good to them that love God, to them that are called according to His purpose" (Rom. 8:28). The Bible does not say that all things, standing alone, or working independently, work for good, but "together." One incident, by itself could be tragic if it were not for the fact that it fits into the overall picture, and viewed in the light of eternity.

Without the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, one can read the Bible from cover to cover through a thousand times and get absolutely nothing out of it. Without the aid of the Holy Spirit we can be stone blind in the midst of light. Light can never get bright enough to cause a blind man to see. The brilliant minds of Clarence Darrow, Robert Ingersol, Tom Paine and Voltaire, knew the Bible from cover to cover until they could quote most of it by memory and yet couldn't find God, couldn't find peace, couldn't find deliverance from the carnal nature, and couldn't believe in God, in heaven, in hell, in eternity, in life beyond the grave. They lived and died in darkness because they would not walk in the light. They were scared of God, so they persuaded themselves there was no God. Charles Taze Russel as a teenager was so insanely fearful of hell that he spent his life trying to prove there was no hell. As a result Russellism, so-called, brought its soul-destroying blight into the world, and today we have the Jehovah Witness movement which undermines the basics of the Christian faith by denying the literal, bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ, who declared, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up . . . But he spake of the temple of his body." When such as they deny the things Christ confirmed they are calling Him a liar. They think they are smarter than God. The most brilliant minds the world has ever known, will go astray unless they are enlightened and guided by the Holy Ghost Whom Christ said would "teach you all things" John 14:26, and "guide you into all truth" (16:13).

The human mind is depraved with the heart and it can't think straight without the enlightenment of the Holy Ghost. It cannot comprehend eternal realities, or grasp infinite verities. "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God" (I Cor. 3:19). Anyone who refuses to accept God's Word, regardless of what He says, is plain stupid.

Many a heartache has attended my ministry. I have had some of my most dearly loved and most promising converts fall by the wayside and walk no more with Christ. I have seen them lose out, give up, go down. Experiences like that crush the heart of a preacher, break the heart of Christ, make angels weep, defrauds heaven and populates hell. Only as we live close to God ourselves and maintain a vital intercessory prayer life can we hope to keep this falling away to the minimum. Some, however, will not stay true. Christ could not hold the rich young ruler (Luke 18:18-23). Paul could not hold Demas (2 Tim. 4:10).

If there is more defeat in our lives than victory we are in deep trouble. If in our church, we become more problem-conscious than we are Christ-conscious, more on committees than on compassion we've missed it. When a preacher relies more on political pull than he does on prevailing prayer, he has missed his calling completely. He is in the flesh instead of in the Spirit. Most of the churches in all Christendom right now, as far as the ministry of the Holy Ghost is concerned are experiencing a tragic power failure. We will never make a success of the Christian life if we continue grieving God by the way we live.

Too many churches and too many Christians have a lot more defeat to talk about than victory in Jesus. Which is more paramount in our midst, glory or dryness? Do we have more to worry about than to rejoice over? Which is more conspicuous among us, the road blocks, or the breakthroughs? What monopolizes our conversation when we get together? Samuel Chadwick said, "The problems of the church are never solved by talking about them." Praying things through is the safest solution to any church problem. If we talk defeat and think defeat, we will be defeated. It never is our circumstances that get us down -- it is our inability to rise above them. One's prayer life begins to lose grip the moment he fails to submit completely to the will of God. One speck of human rebellion against the perfect will of God is devastating.

Multitudes have started out in the Spirit and ended up in the flesh. (Gal. 3:3). Churches and individuals who do not have frequent outpourings and fresh anointings of the Holy Spirit, soon dry up.

The sure road to victory is to go after everything in your life that grieves God and get rid of it. One of the greatest mistakes we make, sometimes, is that we want sinners to move, when we fail to move. We want sinners to repent of their wrongs, but we don't want to repent and confess and forsake ALL of our wrongs.

And then, the lack of tenacious intercessory prayer, prompted by the Holy Ghost is our greatest hindrance to spiritual accomplishment. We chide sinners because they go on in sin and won't repent, when the whole problem is, we don't have a strong enough prayer life to pray them under deep enough conviction. They will never have more Holy Ghost conviction than we have intercessory burden. That is a fundamental maxim. That was true on the Day of Pentecost. That was true in the Welch Revival. That was true in the days of Finney, Moody, Bresee, Wesley, Brengle. That is always true.

Charles Finney said, concerning the Sheriff from the county: There were two county seats, Rome, and Utica, in New York, and he was holding a meeting in Rome, but the Sheriff lived in Utica. And he said, the Sheriff had talked with the men about the meeting and they had laughed and joked about it.

And he had some business in Rome and he was coming to transact this business and he was glad because he wanted to see Finney. He wanted to see the meeting at first hand. And he said he was riding along, jolly, without any thought of God or eternity, but when he crossed the canal just about a mile from town, such an awful feeling settled down on him. He thought maybe he was losing his mind. Then he felt like he was going to drop dead. He drove on into Town and the livery man came out to take care of his horse. The man looked the same way that he felt. He said, "I guess

he's got the same disease that I've got. (Holy Ghost conviction laid like a smothering blanket all over the community).

The Sheriff went into the hotel to talk with those business men in conference. He said, four or five times he left the conference and went to the window to keep from crying. He would wipe away the tears and come back. He didn't want the men to see him crying, and he didn't know what was making him cry. What was It? The Blessed Holy Ghost had laid a blanket of conviction over that entire village, so that nobody could escape. What wouldn't we give to see it again after that fashion!

The same was true in the Hebrides revival. Duncan Campbell said, when he walked out that night the road was blocked with people seeking God who had not heard a sermon, nor had they heard an altar call. They had been gripped in their homes and on their farms by the mighty convicting power of the Holy Ghost. And everywhere people were being arrested by the power of the Holy Ghost and brought face to face with the sins of their lives.

It happened again in the revival in the Belgian Congo. Some of the preachers; some of the teachers; some of the evangelists, were under an awful spell of conviction. They had professed a high state of grace. They were holding high positions, but under the power of conviction they began to confess out to stealing and lying and adultery.

I tell you we don't seem to have conviction these days that causes us to repent deep enough. The first thing you know it is all over with. But if you get a real dose of genuine, pungent, Holy Ghost conviction and deep repentance, you won't want to go through that experience again.

In all genuine revivals of the past, folk with covered sins in their lives felt like they were standing at the judgment and the books were being opened, and all the black sins of their lives were coming to the light. One of the greatest blights on the church these days is the lack of Holy Ghost conviction. The Holy Ghost has been grieved in many quarters until He has largely withdrawn His presence. There is little evidence of deep soul travail on the Christians generally.

B. T. Roberts says that a genuine born again child of God, even before he is sanctified has soul travail. They will not have it all the time. We couldn't live if we had a constant burden like that. But every once in a while we will have an experience of soul travail. And if we do not have it. (and I am preaching to myself more than I am preaching to you.) If we do not have it, it is proof that we are not genuinely converted. And when we are sanctified those experiences multiply. The Holy Ghost comes in his fullness, and puts a burden on the saints." (Direct quote). The scarcest thing we have today in the whole Christian world is true intercession.

Rob French said, "I remember when a lad came to that little school, started in that hotel building. Weaver Heff was a rounder; wicked. I guess he had gone all the gates. He was hard. My mother looked him over, and she said to her mother, Mrs. Trusler, This fellow is going to give us trouble. We'd better get under a burden for him. They began to pray. And they began to join hands and prayed for Weaver Heff, and Weaver Heff was powerfully converted and became a mighty preacher of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ." (Rob French).

"When the Holy Ghost moves into a church it is so different from the routine. They might have expelled him if it had not been for those two women who took him on their hearts and brought him to Jesus." (Ibid).

"That, to me, is soul-travail. Picking up a person, a sinner out there. He doesn't come to church. He is not interested in spiritual things. He won't listen to you to talk to him. Picking him up like they picked up the man with the palsy, helpless and paralyzed, and brought him to Jesus." (Ibid).

Isn't it wonderful that God would commit this ministry to poor weak mortals like we are? It is one thing to witness to a person and hand him a tract, but if we can touch God for them, conviction will grip their hearts.

We will never forget about Sammy Morris, and we relive the account and weep. Stephen Merit said to him, Sammy, I'm going to take you to Sunday School. Sammy said, "I have never been to Sunday School." And he took him to the Sunday School.

And Stephen Merit said to the students, "This is Sammy Morris. He has come from Africa to talk to your Superintendent about the Holy Ghost, and I am going to ask him to say a few words.

The school laughed. Sammy stepped up on the platform, black as black ever gets, and Stephen Merit said, "I turned to see about something, and when I turned around the altar was full of seekers. And when I said to someone, 'What did he say?' He didn't know. He said, 'I never did find out what he said.'"

Think about the presence of God in that boy's life. Stephen Merit said, I had never seen such a sight in my life. Those students there, one moment laughing, and the next moment, rushing to the altar, and weeping their way to God, and nobody could find out what he said. Nobody had heard a word, but there was a presence that radiated from that black face."

Some say such things can't happen in our day. But Joel said, "It shall come to pass in the last days, (And these are the last days aren't they) I will pour out of my Spirit on all flesh and your sons and daughters shall prophesy." (Joel 2:28,29).

These are not only the last days, but these are the last end of the last days. My soul is crying out for a mighty visitation of the Holy Ghost in our church and in our lives. It is tragic to grind on without it.

I know we are living in a different day from Finney, but somehow we know the Holy Ghost hasn't changed. And Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. (John 13:8). There still are a few hungry souls around who want God bad enough to pay the price, if we can get to them.

When Finney got saved he met the man that he studied law under. He called him "Y.W." Finney just spoke to him and he just doubled up and walked out. Finney had gotten saved and filled with the Holy Ghost out there in the woods. And this man said, "I will not go to the woods. I have

a nice parlor in my house. I will pray through in my parlor." He prayed all night but didn't get through. He never did get saved till he went to the woods. He tried to dictate to God. We can't dictate to God. People who dictate terms never do get saved, and never will.

Y.W. prayed through and found himself running up and down in the woods and shouting the victory. Our minds are on things, things, things. We are bogged down with things. Our thoughts are almost 100% material and almost zero spiritual.

Christ said we would have power to cast out devils. We surely need that power these days. There are plenty of demons around and they are possessing people.

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SERMON 15

"EIGHT IMPORTANT THINGS CONCERNING THE HOLY GHOST"

The Christian faith no doubt would have died in the first century if the Holy Ghost had not come into the world. There is not one of those disciples that would have survived if He had not come. The little church would never have survived the onslaughts of the twelve Roman Emperors that set out to destroy it. And there was the trauma of the arena, the catacombs, the musty dungeons and the crucifixions which many of them had to endure.

I. THE HOLY GHOST IS THE WORLD'S GREAT SIN-KILLER.

"He that is born of God doth not commit sin, for the seed of God remaineth in him and he cannot sin because he is born of God." (I John 3:9). Anyone that still has known sin in their lives is not born of God. Anyone that is serving God cannot keep on sinning. Sinning must stop if any person wants to escape the fire of hell. Sinning in the life of a Christian is not physically impossible, but it is morally impossible. He simply CAN'T keep on sinning and stay saved.

"He that committeth sin is of the devil, for the devil sinneth from the beginning." (I John 3:8). These words are plain enough for anyone with an open mind.

"Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? God forbid. How can we that are dead to sin live any longer therein?" (Rom. 6:1).

"Knowing this that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin." (Rom. 6:6). when you get saved you go out of the sin business. You will no longer serve sin or the father of sin, the devil. One cannot serve God and serve sin at the same time. It is impossible to follow two masters.

"Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof" (Rom. 12:6). One cannot follow the Holy Spirit and the lusts of the flesh at the same time. "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other" (Gal. 5:17).

"Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God . . . (Rom. 6:13). Every body member is either an instrument of righteousness or an instrument of sin -- a tool of the devil to put souls in hell.

"For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? shall we sin because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid." (Rom. 6:14-15).

"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness" (Rom. 6:10).

"But God be thanked that ye WERE the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Rom. 6:17-18).

"For as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness" (Rom. 6:19).

"For when ye WERE servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness" (Rom. 6:20). "The end of those things is death -- But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness and the end everlasting life" (Rom. 6:22).

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord" (Rom. 6:23). That ought to settle it forever. When a person starts serving Christ they stop serving the devil.

II. THE HOLY GHOST IS A GREAT CARNALITY SLAYER.

He insists on the slaying of the carnal mine. He will not put up with it!

"For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (Rom. 8:13-14).

"And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts" (Gal. 5:24). Now we know that the Holy Ghost is the one that must do the slaying of our carnal self even though we do the dying, because He is the sanctifier. We cannot get rid of our own carnality in our own strength. Try as we may. It will break out on us if it is still in our hearts.

John the Baptist said, "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I . . . He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire" (Matt. 3:11).

"He (Jesus) breathed on them and said, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost:" (John 20:22).

Then he told them how to get this experience. He said, "And behold I send the promise of the father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high" (Luke 24:49).

We know that the Baptism with the Holy Ghost gets rid of the carnality in the heart because Peter said, "And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; and put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith" (Acts 15:8-9).

Again Paul commanded us: "Put off the Old Man with his deeds" (Col. 3:9).

Carnality, if not gotten rid of will exclude from heaven. Paul tells us plainly that we can't get to heaven with carnality in our hearts. In Gal. 5:19-21 Paul gives us a list of carnal traits and manifestations, and concludes by saying, "They which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

So the conclusion of the whole matter is this: (1) We must get rid of the carnal mind, and assume the mind of Christ. (2) We can't get to heaven unless we do get rid of it and stay rid of it. (3) We cannot rid ourselves of it. (4) Only the Holy Ghost, applying the cleansing Blood of Christ and the fiery baptism of the Holy Ghost can affect this cleansing. (5) Therefore, the Holy Ghost is the world's great carnality-Slayer.

III. THE HOLY GHOST IS THE GREAT MOTIVE-CORRECTOR.

God has motives, but His motives are always holy and pure. One of God's motives appears in Ps. 106:8. "Nevertheless he (God) saved them for his name's sake, that he might make his mighty power to be known." God's motive also shows up in Ezekiel 36:21,22. "But I have pity for mine holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the heathen, whither they went. Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord God: I do not this for your sakes, O House of Israel, but for my holy Name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went."

Right motives are imperative for every soul that is serving God. All wrong motives come from a carnal and sinful heart. God, being God, has a right to insist that His name be magnified. But we, being His subjects, planning on heaven forever, and looking to Him to get us there, must have one basic motive, and that is to magnify and exalt His name forever. When carnal self seeks the glory, we are robbing God of the one thing He demands and we disqualify ourselves for a hope of eternal life.

Matt. 6:1-18 all the way through insists on right motives on our part.

Eph. 6:6-7 reveals what our motives must be. Paul says, "Doing the will of God from the heart: with good will doing service, as to the Lord and not to men."

Again in Col. 3:23 the same basic emphasis is found. Paul says here, "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as unto the Lord, and not unto men:

There are many illustrations of sinful motives in the Bible. Cain had a sinful motive for killing his brother. His motive was jealousy because his brother was praised and he was not.

I John 3:12 explains it thus: "Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

Everybody that does wrong willfully does it with a wicked motive. And everyone who does righteously, does it with a pure motive. Everyone who does righteously does it on purpose.

Some do a right thing with a wrong motive. That is also a very wicked thing to do. If the motive is not right, even good deeds are chalked up against us as being evil.

The devil is the greatest motive-challenger in the universe. The Bible says he is the accuser of the brethren. (Rev. 12:10).

Read Job 1:9-11: "Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, Doth Job fear God for naught? Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thine face."

The devil sure got embarrassed that time! God had already said that Job was a perfect man. (Job 1:1). People who are perfect in the eyes of God have perfect motives and perfect love.

Motives have to be watched very carefully. There is a motive behind the way we treat or mistreat both friend and foe. We can do nice things for people with a bad motive and receive no reward from God.

Lot had a selfish motive when he chose the well-watered plain and let his Uncle Abraham take what was left. (Gen. 13:10).

Haman had a very hateful and wicked motive when he planned the execution of Mordecai and the extermination of all of the Jews of the land. (Esther 3:5-8).

Simon, in Acts 8:14-23 had a worldly and mercenary motive in wanting the power of the Holy Ghost such as Peter and John possessed.

The Holy Ghost is the world's great Motive Corrector. When he sanctifies the heart He purifies the motives and as long as the heart stays pure the motives will not go astray. If one's motives become selfish or wicked, it is evident that he has lost out with God. Whenever one is tempted with a wrong motive he must get alone with God and pray through on it and maintain his purity and sincerity.

IV. THE HOLY GHOST IS THE GREAT PURITY RESTORER TO THE HEARTS OF MEN.

In Acts 15:8-9 Peter declares that the outpouring of the Holy Ghost on the day of Pentecost purified their hearts by faith. Please do not be deceived into thinking that the purification of the heart is optional. Every person in the world must have a purified heart before he will be allowed into heaven, whether he be preacher or laymen, high or low, big or small, he must obtain and retain a pure heart experience. (I Thess. 5:23) (Eph. 5:25-27) (I John 3:2-3). The Word says, "And there shall in no wise enter into it (Heaven) any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie:" (Rev. 21:27).

V. THE HOLY GHOST IS THE GREAT HARMONY RESTORER.

Please turn to John 17:17,21,22. "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth . . . That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: . . . that they may be one, even as we are one: . . ."

John goes on to say that our "purity", our "oneness" is the thing that will cause the world to believe. (Verse 21). Truly, the world loses faith in us when we are lacking in that "oneness" that John speaks about. There must be perfect love in harmony in the church if we would be convincing to the world.

Carnality in the church will invariably cause upsets, disturbances, discord, disharmony, dissension and distress. Where there are carnal people there will be contentions, quarreling, jealousy, grudges and bitterness. But where the Holy Ghost is permitted to affect His sanctifying power, all carnal traits and manifestations will be removed, and harmony will be restored.

Sanctified people will not always agree on everything, but they will love one another and won't fall out if both parties have a heart that is purified by the baptism with the Holy Ghost and fire.

The Holy Spirit restores and maintains harmony in the home, in the church, among neighbors, between relatives, and even former enemies will become friends providing both parties have this sanctifying experience.

DeShazer who was shot down by the Japanese in the second World War and imprisoned, suffering terrible hardships, suffering, and starvation prayed through and God saved him. Then he realized that he had terrible bitterness in his heart for the guards that were so awfully cruel to him. So he prayed that God would do something to his heart to make him love his enemies and God heard his prayer and sanctified his heart. At once in the midst of such terrible abuse and suffering he became so intensely happy he could hardly contain himself. At once his warm feelings toward the guards had its affect on them and they soon fell in love with him and treated him with the greatest of kindness, brought him good food and soon he began to put on weight and feel strong and well again.

VI. THE HOLY GHOST IS THE UNFAILING COMFORTER OF THE HUMAN HEART, POSSESSED OF HIM.

The carnal, worldly, sinful heart cannot possibly know what true comfort means.

The Holy Ghost takes the acute pain out of the hurts and heartaches of life. Circumstances can, at times, make a person happy, but the abiding Presence of the Holy Ghost will give one joy -- joy that will be right there when circumstances are not the most pleasant. Madam Guyon, 14 years in solitary confinement in the French prison, for her Holiness convictions never lost her joy. She was never alone. She had Christ and the Holy Spirit with her all of the time and her spirit bubbled over with holy joy. She entertained herself with long vigils of prayer and the singing of spiritual songs she had learned. She composed these lines that have become immortalized across the centuries:

"A little bird am I, shut away from the field and air, And all I do is sit and sing to Him who placed me there."

"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever" (John 14:16).

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever, I have said unto you" (John 14:26) No words could be more comforting!

Paul, in 2 Cor. 1:4 says, "Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God."

Notice also how the sanctified ones comfort each other by the above Scripture and also in 2 Cor. 7:6, which says, "Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us by the coming of Titus; . . ."

VII. THE HOLY GHOST IS OUR GREAT BATTLE-FIGHTER.

You must know how grieved He feels when we take over and fight our own battles, because He knows we will lose. He also knows He could win every battle for us if we would take our hands off, have patience with seeming slowness sometimes and let Him fight for us.

Joseph thrown unjustly into prison and confined there for several years didn't try to fight his way out, but he prayed his way out. He promised to possess every character quality one could think of, and his submission and faithfulness made it possible for God to bring him out miraculously and restore him to the second in power, next to Pharaoh himself. If he had showed a hateful spirit he would never have won that battle.

Every time old Israel went out to battle on their own and left God out of it they were defeated. After King Saul lost God out of his life and turned to the witch, he lost the war and his

sons and his own life. when God fought for them they would win and when they went into battle without God they lost.

One time Jesus said that if His kingdom was of this world his disciples would fight. (John 18:36). On another occasion Jesus said that all who should take the sword would perish with the sword. (Matt. 26:52).

St. Paul refused to fight his own battles. He let God have that right. He insisted that we "Recompense to no man evil for evil" (Rom. 12:17). And ". . . avenge not yourselves, . . . for it is written, Vengeance is mine: I will repay, saith the Lord" (verse 19). "Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. (Verse 20).

VIII. THE HOLY GHOST IS OUR GREAT INTERCESSOR.

The Holy Ghost sees that our prayers reach the heart of the Father. He also puts the spirit of intercession into our hearts. Without His aid we would never get a single prayer through to Christ or to God the Father.

"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered" (Rom. 8:26-27).

The greatest saints God has ever had on this earth were His intercessors. They were the ones who had learned to pray "in the Holy Ghost." (Jude 20).

One of the greatest intercessors of modern times was Rees Howells. Every child of God in the world should read that book through every five or six years.

Another great book on prayer is "PRAYING HYDE" by Basil Miller. The life of George Muller is another great study on the prayer life of a true intercessor.

Every Christian, minister or laymen should read every good biography or autobiography he can find of intercessors and all of the greatest books on prayer.

If there is someone reading these lines, and you are not where you ought to be spiritually, and you know it, but you don't have the courage to step out into the open and confess your need, you had better do it. You will never be what God wants you to be if you don't do it.

On the other hand, you may draw back from letting those about you to find it out. Let me close by saying, you had better come clean if you hope to make heaven.

If your prayer life is not up where it ought to be, then you are not up where you ought to be. People who do not have the right kind of a prayer life will never see the City of God. If you have the Holy Ghost You will be a man of prayer.

* * * * *

SERMON 16 MOSES CHOSE RATHER TO SUFFER

"By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the Son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible" (Ex. 11:24-27).

Someone has truthfully said, "Apostasy begins when we fail to get our people sanctified wholly." Let me add: our preachers and preachers' wives also. It is no mystery sometimes why God hides his face from a congregation of people -- sometimes whole denominations. When people ignore the Holy Ghost, what can they expect from Him? Some congregations sit in a stalemate condition for years, and it seems that the Holy Spirit will not come among them and manifest Himself. They have grieved Him too long.

Genuine revival call for (1) deep heart searching, (2) deep humiliation, (3) judgment day honesty, and (4) Explicit obedience, walking in all the light that God brings.

When key individuals rebel and refuse to obey God, it can sometimes tie up the meeting and destroy its effectiveness. Not always however! Sometimes there are enough praying people who are obeying God to pray the revival down in spite of the balky ones. And they get in, or get out, or get run over. But when the Holy Ghost comes in spite of you, and over the top of you -- that means he is going on without you.

"And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand: but the wise shall understand." (Dan. 12:9-10).

Life is filled with choices, and Moses made a choice which seems perfectly silly to worldly-minded people -- he chose to suffer. You will never know the joy of suffering until you assume it voluntarily because you have heard from heaven and you know it is the call of God.

God intends to put all of his totally committed ones through the fires of suffering. Job said, "When he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." (23:10). Daniel said, "Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried" (12:10).

There is a closeness to the heart of God that one can never know until he has sufficiently suffered for Christ's sake. The most rewarding suffering comes by our right choices, which we make because we know it is HIS will, when a much easier way lies before us.

Permit me to testify: Years ago, while pastoring in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. I was up in the steeple of the church long before daylight in the morning for my daily, and sometimes twice daily season of secret prayer.

I felt that particular morning that I needed more of a shepherd's heart, so I asked God to crush my heart. I thought to do that God would merely work some sort of miracle on my heart as he did when he saved me. It never once came across my mind that if he would crush my heart He would have to hit me with something.

During the next ten days, early in the morning, in the same prayer-spot with no lights on and with my eyes closed, I saw a gray casket floating in the air in front of me. However, since I had three old ladies in my church I figured that maybe one of them was about to die. They were very old and had lived their lives so I gave it little thought. Wife and I were young and healthy and strong and it never once hit me that death was about to invade the security of our home.

Then on the 16th of April, 1951, after 16 years of married life and with two children in school, my wife was instantly taken in a fatal car wreck. I could not understand it. Many times in the next two days I would say to God, "I don't understand it." Suddenly, when we were doing our best in the pastorate and things were in a revival spirit, and suddenly, without a breath of warning I lost my companion and my children lost their mother. I could not understand it. Then, after I had said that to the Lord many, many times, He whispered to my heart, and said, "You asked for it, didn't you?" Right then, for the first time it dawned on me that He was answering my prayer and truly my heart was crushed. However, had I known how He was going to answer that prayer, hardly would I have had the courage to pray as I did.

The life of total commitment to God is bound to be a life of suffering. Holiness is more than a blessing. It is an experience. It is more than a crisis, it is a continuous life all the way to heaven's golden chore.

I. THESE ARE STRANGE WORDS TO A STRANGE MAN.

You will seem strange to the worldlings around you if you walk alone with God. You will be a misfit in the liberal, worldly ranks. They will not understand you. They will turn against you and betray you and persecute you. The closer you live to the heart of God, and the deeper you go into the Garden of Gethsemane, the more alone you will be. Some poet unknown to me wrote:

"Consider the world a hill;
See where the millions stop.
There is always a crowd at the base;
But there's plenty of room at the top."

You won't fit into their program, or their atmosphere or their ways of doing things. Many of the pleasures they enjoy the most, you cannot indulge in. Many times they will not enjoy your company.

II. MOSES DESPISED THE FEATHERED NEST, AND WALKED OUT.

He had the world at his feet, but he didn't want the world. He knew that there would be no profit if he should gain the whole world and lose his own soul. (Matt. 16:26).

Moses was the adopted son of Pharaoh and rightful heir to the throne. He soon could have been the most powerful monarch in the world. He had it made. Wealth and power and fame and luxury were right at his finger tips. But he despised it all and walked out. He knew that this brief life is too soon over to settle for anything less than the will and plan of God for his life.

What is secure anyway? Great kingdoms rise and fall. Our great republic already is virtually bankrupt. Many of the noble ideals of our early statesmen have been abandoned. Moses seemed to realize that the only security in this world is in God.

III. OH, WHAT A TREMENDOUS MAN WAS MOSES!

Oh what an assignment! Oh what a miracle! A little bush in the desert on fire and yet not being consumed. And the voice of God coming out of the branches of that little bramble bush. Millions have run from the call of God, and from His assignment. But not Moses. He accepted the challenge. He answered the call. And he carried it through.

What a man of vision. He talked with God "face to face" on the mountain. (Ex. 33:11). Like Paul, Moses was not disobedient to the heavenly vision. (Acts 26:19). Moses was like "Men who see the invisible, hear the inaudible, believe the incredible, and think the unthinkable!"

Moses saw the objective and not the obstacles. His vision reminds us of Washington who saw the Hessians at Trenton. A man of smaller vision would have seen the Delaware choked with masses of floating ice. Moses was a man of vision but he was not visionary. He knew where he was going and nothing could deter him. The most poverty-stricken man is not the man without a cent, but the man without a vision.

Oh what a consecration! What a commitment! He sold out, lock, stock and barrel and came clean. He set out to win, not to experiment. Nicholas of Flue prayed, "O Lord . . . take myself and give me Thyself!" Florence Nightingale toward the end of her heroic life was asked what was the secret of her unusual accomplishments and she replied: "Well, I can give only one explanation. That is, I have kept nothing back from God." Moses had some serious handicaps but his ability, the same as ours, is not as important to God as his availability.

Oh, what a responsibility! Three million murmuring, disgruntled people, with their great wealth of herds, coming right up to the Red Sea with Pharaoh and his army in hot pursuit, and no escape! Then facing 40 years wandering in the desert where there was no food or water. Talk about courage! They mutinied and threatened his life. They backfired in mass. They were terrorized, but not Moses!

From beginning to end his courage never faltered. Pharaoh tried to buy him, but he was not for sale. He tried to scare him, but one might as well try to scare a dead man. He tried to fool him, but he had the mind of God and couldn't be reckless. He had a steady hand, a level eye and a heroic spirit. He prayed food out of the sky every day for forty years. He prayed water out of solid rocks and a dry path through the sea.

What a price he paid! Hardships countless! Criticisms from every quarter! Misunderstood, but Spirit led, divinely empowered and resolute. That is the only man that's got it made!

IV. MOSES NEVER WAVERED THROUGH TEN TRAUMATIC ENCOUNTERS WITH KING PHARAOH. Moses stood up to him unfaltering to the end.

Pharaoh told Moses they could worship God there in the land. But Moses knew it was God's plan for them to move out -- clear out! Then Pharaoh suggested that just the men go. Moses knew that wasn't a good idea. Then Pharaoh said they might go just a little ways. Moses turned that proposal down flat. Pharaoh's next idea was for them to leave the cattle. Moses let him know they intended to leave nothing but tracks. Moses wouldn't settle for anything short of the miraculous. He got way out there where humans couldn't do him any good anyway.

At that point Pharaoh lost his temper and commanded Moses on pain of death to never darken his door again. Moses knew old Pharaoh meant every word of it, and he promised Pharaoh he would never visit him again. (Ex. 10:28-29).

V. OLD PHARAOH CROSSED THE DEAD LINE.

There is such a thing as pushing God too far. Old Hitler crossed the dead line when he turned on the Jews and murdered six million in the gas chambers. Millions throughout history have crossed the dead line by turning against God's anointed and fighting to destroy them.

VI. MOSES WAS STILL A MAN OF UNWAVERING COURAGE AT THE RED SEA.

With his people bedded down for the night Moses was not asleep. Pharaoh's host had the Children of Israel bottled up, but in the dark hours of the night Moses pushed his hands up into the sky and his toes out into the water and prayed until the strangest wind men had ever seen began to blow. It blew until the waters of the Red Sea walled up perpendicular on either side of about a two mile wide gap. The next morning the Children of Israel hurried across and the waters stayed back until they all got safely through with all of their cattle and goods, and returned to normal only when Pharaoh and his host were in the midst of the sea.

VII. EVERY NOBLE QUALITY IN MOSES REACHED ITS CLIMAX (its peak) AT MT. SINAI.

Moses spared nothing when it came to personal sacrifice. Up on the mountain, hid away alone, without food for 40 days, in prayer until God gave him the Ten Commandments carved by the hand of God, Himself on two tables of stone. But when he returned to the camp, Aaron had made the golden calf and the children were worshipping the calf and dancing, nude before it. Moses was wroth. He caused them to grind the calf to powder, strew the powder over the water and drink the water.

Then, back into the mountain he went for another 40 days of fasting and prayer, to secure a replacement of the broken tablets which Moses has broken in his anger. However, in this last 40

days Moses not only put his life on the line but his eternity bound soul as well, as we shall see shortly.

VIII. HE WAS A MAN OF OUTSTANDING COURAGE AT THE RED SEA.

He stood alone under the dark sky. Pharaoh and his hosts were in hot pursuit. He pushed his hands up into the sky and his toes out into the water, and the winds of miracle began to blow. That was a very special wind that God created just for the occasion. Ordinary winds, no matter how hard they blow never pile water up like that and hold it there for a few hours. And even though it blew that hard, it didn't touch the camp of the Israelites, and didn't blow down a single tent. That wind did exactly what God told it to do and it didn't do anything else.

IX. HE WAS A MAN OF UNDAUNTED HEROISM AT MT. SINAI.

Forty days and nights far back, alone on the mountain without food or water, in communion with God was no little matter. Only a miracle could have kept him alive for forty days under those circumstances.

When he came down and found they were all worshipping the calf, the god of Egypt. He found out that he had succeeded in getting them out of Egypt, but he had not gotten Egypt out of them. He enforced a destruction of the calf and then went back into the mountain for another 40 days to get a replacement for the two tables of stone he had destroyed in his anger.

While in prayer God told Moses he was going to destroy the whole outfit because of their awful sin of idolatry and rebellion. Moses, a true intercessor, said, "Then blot me out of the Book thou art writing." God said, "I can't blot you out. I only blot out those who have sinned." (Ex. 32:32-33).

Great crises separate the men from the boys. In the storm we find out who the good sailors are. Little souls look for an easy way out, but the world remembers the martyrs. When the crisis is on you will either settle down and capitulate, or you will step out and suffer.

X. AFTER ALL OF THE COURAGE AND FORTITUDE MOSES HAS DISPLAYED, HE MISSED IT AT KADESH BARNEA.

How sad, after being a man of courage so long. After all he had been through and then to chicken out! After an unbroken chain of miracles and victory, then he missed it. He listened to the liberals, and that is never a safe thing to do. He sent the spies to go up into the Promised Land and see if they were able to conquer the people there and take the land. (Num. 13:30-31).

Moses wanted to know if the people of the Land were weak or strong, few or many. (What difference did it make, if God told them to go up and take the land)? Had not God proved Himself to them enough times for them to obey orders and trust Him? He wanted to know if the land was good or bad. He shouldn't have asked the question. God said "go up and possess it." And that should have been sufficient.

Moses had never been so dependent upon the human before. When he had stood by the Red sea, hemmed in, with no escape, he didn't send spies out in boats to sound down and see how deep the water was. But at Kadesh Barnea the man of faith became a man of sight. He depended on the judgment of ten men that were carnal and cowardly. It is no wonder he missed it. He should have depended on God. Spies are not needed when God tells His people to go forward and do something.

Moses, temporarily forgot that the God who had said, "I will bring you out" said also, "I will bring you in." (Ex. 6:6,8). Moses should have known that the God who brought Him out of Egypt in spite of all of the obstacles, could certainly bring him into the land as He had promised.

If such a strong man of faith as Moses had been, missed it, we had better take warning. I personally, missed it for 16 long years after being saved and called to preach. I wandered in the wilderness, up and down in my experience before I finally paid the price and broke through into the Canaan experience of Holiness.

XI. NEXT WE NOTICE THAT NEITHER MOSES OR HIS PEOPLE EVER GOT STRAIGHTENED OUT.

They wandered! They floundered! They lost sight of their original goal and objective. They lost their bearings! They lost interest! The spirit of apathy took over and permeated the entire camp.

They grumbled and complained and mutinied, even threatened Moses life. They dug over 200 graves a day for 40 years until every one of them of the age of accountability excepting for Caleb and Joshua were dead and buried. Not one of them lived to see the dream come true.

Millions have missed it forever when they were right up to the border of the Canaan Land experience of "Perfect Love." When they repented of their sins they displayed great courage. They didn't leave a stone unturned. In making all of their restitutions, paying back debts, etc. and taking back things they had stolen. Through all of this they couldn't have done better.

Oh, how they did grow in grace! They grew by leaps and bounds. It seemed there was no problem but what they believed God, prayed it through and came out on top. They were among the most promising in the whole congregation.

But then came along a 'death-route' revival and they got under conviction for a holy heart, sanctification, the "perfect Love" experience of entering into the Land of Canaan, and they backed off just as the Children of Israel did at Kadesh Barnea. They backed off and wandered for years in the wilderness of carnality, some finally got through after years of defeat and disappointment. But many others lived and died in that condition, and came to the judgment with a guilty conscience and a polluted heart.

In Romans 1:20-21 Paul says such people are "without excuse." He continues by showing how they had retained their carnal nature throughout their lifetime and never did surrender it to crucifixion. Verse 21 reads: "when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God." That means

they glorified self instead of God, which is a perfect picture of the carnal mind. "neither" were they "thankful." Ingratitude is one of the blackest sins that a carnal heart can ever produce. Furthermore, they "became vain in their imaginations." That is a pen picture of pride, pure and simple! Carnal pride is at the root of every sin that has ever found its way into the heart of men or devils. "And their foolish heart was darkened." Holiness is LIGHT, and its rejection breeds DARKNESS.

XII. POOR, SAD MOSES, ARRIVING FINALLY AT MT. NEBO, LOOKING OVER INTO THE PROMISED LAND THAT HE WAS NOT PERMITTED TO ENTER.

He is an old man now, down to the journey's end. How different things look, looking back across the years, when one giant failure spawned all of the other failures in life. From a high promontory on Mt. Nebo, looking across the valley is like those who has missed God's best for their lives, looking back across the years and summing up life's mistakes. Missing it at Kadesh, Moses never got straightened out.

He was a hero coming out of Egypt. He was a hero crossing the Red Sea. He was a Hero at My Sinai. But he was a coward at Kadesh. And there were tears at Mt. Nebo.

Some of you in this congregation tonight are standing at the Kadesh Barnea point in life, weighing the issues, trying to decide whether or not you will pay the price to get a sanctified heart. Others are well on their way to Mt. Nebo.

You will sooner or later reach the Mt. Nebo point in life, and stand looking across the great divide into eternity, and back across the years of spiritual "up and down" life, with its wasted years because you did not walk in the light as HE is in the light, and get a sanctified heart, and live victoriously.

In the Old Testament times, where Moses lived, for him to fail to go over into the Land of Canaan, meant that he failed to complete his life's work. When he missed it at Kadesh he had 40 years of drudgery and heartache, but no laurels of victory.

But in our day, if we fail to enter into the Canaan Land experience of Holiness we will miss the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. For one in our dispensation, to miss the Holy life is to reject the BLOOD OF CHRIST, because He suffered without the gate to sanctify the people in his blood. (Heb. 13:12). Therefore, for any of us to reject holiness is to reject the BLOOD of Christ. For blood-rejectors there is no hope of heaven.

When one makes the wrong move when he comes face-to-face with the issues of the sanctified life, then all previous right moves become null and void. The prophet Ezekiel said, "when a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered . . ." (Ezek. 3:20).

Surely you do not want to face the remaining years of your life without a sanctified heart and without the Holy Ghost in sanctifying power in your heart. Would you want to go to the

judgment tonight the shape you are in? What about your present spiritual state if you should be snuffed out tonight.

If you ever listened well to the voice of God, you need to listen when the message on the subject of second blessing Holiness is preached.

Soon after the close of World War One, our country was swept with what they called the Influenza scourge. Every 4th person in the United States was down with the plague of influenza. Seven million died in eight weeks. Every intelligent person in the country was scared. People sat in funerals day after day and week after week wearing formaldehyde masks.

A preacher and his wife in Iowa were both down with the flu. The doctors were going day and night. After hours of anxious waiting a doctor came to their home. He gave them two kinds of medicine and strict instructions as to how often to take the medicine through the night that was coming on. Then he said, "There are people in this city that are not as sick as you are right now that will be dead before tomorrow night." Then the preacher said to the Doctor, "Doctor, give me those instructions again." There are times when it pays to take instructions and advice.

Some of you've got something far worse than the World War influenza, unforgiven sins, and an unsanctified heart. You need to do something about it and do it now.

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SERMON 17

THE GOD THAT ANSWERS BY FIRE, LET HIM BE GOD

Fire plays a major role in the Scriptures. From Gen. 19:24 when God reigned fire and brimstone on Sodom and Gomorrah, to Rev. 21:8, to the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone which is the second death -- to that lake of fire where the fearful, and the unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part for all the countless eons of eternity, fire plays a major role.

Fire appears almost 600 times in the Bible. The fires of punishment for sin and for rejection of Christ far outnumber the fires of cleansing. The fires in the Bible that come down from God far outnumber the fires kindled by men, for "Our God is a consuming fire" (Heb. 12:29).

Moses, back in Deut. 4:24 said the same words: "Our God is a consuming fire." Paul refers to God's fiery indignation (Heb. 10:27).

Abraham, staggering at the promise of God, wanted to know, and God sent the fire. (Gen. 15:1-17). Elijah, facing a confused nation of people wanted them to know, and again God sent the fire. (I Kings 18:17-40).

There are some things that we really need to know. 1. That the God that answers by fire is really among us. 2. That genuine Holy Ghost revivals can still be prayed down out of heaven. 3. That we can still see our churches filled, and hearts filled and the altars filled. 4. And every last

one of us baptized with the Holy Ghost and fire and walking in the light, and up to date in their experience, and ready for the rapture.

We'd better know: 1. Every sin we have ever committed is under the blood, and washed clean out of our lives forever. 2. That the old, corrupt carnal nature is crucified, dead, dead, dead. 3. That Perfect Love floods our souls from the Holy Ghost dwelling within us -- the same love that the Father and the Son have for each other. 4. That we are getting our prayers through to the Throne.

The only way we'll ever know some things is by the fire of God poured out upon us and burning in our souls, and by frequent renewings of the Holy Ghost and fire, and death-route conviction following us wherever we go. The most unmistakable evidence that the fire of God is burning in our souls is when all bitterness and worldliness, and grudges, and unbelief and all of the dark sins of the heart are burned out and stay burned out of our hearts. If He, the Holy Ghost is with us we will have the unmistakable evidence in the purity of our motives and spirit and ambitions and habits.

I. GOD ANSWERED BY FIRE WHEN ABRAHAM'S HUMANITY SET UP A MENTAL ROADBLOCK. (Gen. 15).

With his age and Sarah's age the promise of a son, and that his seen should be as countless and the stars over his head was a staggering promise. Preposterous!

The STAGGERING PROMISE was followed by a STRANGE HESITATION. Sarah, barren for 90 years and now she is to have a child. No way! When God comes up with promises that seem totally absurd, we tend to lose our grip on faith; then doubts take over. When it seems that all forces militate against the prayers we send up, we sometimes lapse back into dropping some of our prayers and pick up something else to pray about. Staggering Promises! Strange Hesitations! Sometimes when we are sure God told us that all of our children shall know of the Lord and great shall be the peace of our children (Isa. 54:13), and they seem headed in the opposite direction, and getting worse, and the years slip by -- does not the time come sometimes when we fail to hang on?

Again, there are times when true leadings from God and false impressions from the devil get us into the fog. Abraham heard God's voice and received the promise, but it was so staggering that he wavered and begged God for more substantial evidence, pleading, "How can I know?" How can I be sure of this?

God always comes through when people are strictly honest -- and Abraham was honest, but he still had trouble believing for the utterly impossible. God instructed Abraham to build an altar and sacrifice a heifer, and a goat, and ram, and dove and pigeon. He was to take the best he had, bleed them, skin them, cut them in pieces and place them on the altar which he made out of 12 stones.

Then the devil determined to defeat the program and sent vultures to steal the sacrifice off the altar, and Abraham had to fight them off. Many people, to get victory had to fight off

backslidden companions and unsaved children, and worldly relatives, and disgusted friends and compromising preachers. I remember when I was trying to die out and get sanctified, my District Superintendent tried to talk me out of it. But I brushed him off and kept on digging. He should have gone the death-route that I took, because a few years later the church took his credentials, turned him out for immoral practices and he went to selling insurance for a living. The devil always has plenty of such birds to turn loose when one is trying to get everybody and everything, including himself on the altar.

And then the sun went down. Oh, how dark it gets when one is being crucified. The past looks dark with all of the struggles with carnality. The present looks dark, and the future looks darker. And it will stay dark till the fire falls. God knew that His promise to Abraham was more than he could handle, so He came to his rescue. There in the awful darkness, and tomb-like stillness, suddenly like the roar of a furnace the fire began to break out between the pieces of flesh until all was consumed. Then Abraham thought in his heart, A heavenly Father that can do that to a stone altar covered with cold flesh, can certainly do for me what He said He would do. And Sarah is 90 years of barrenness has nothing to do with it. That settled it! Isn't it wonderful when disturbing things finally get settled?

II. AGAIN, GOD ANSWERED BY FIRE THEN ELIJAH ENCOUNTERED THE PROPHETS OF BAAL ON MT. CARMEL. (I Kings 17 and 18).

The prophet Elijah ran head-on into the mountainous sins of old King Ahab. He married Jezebel, one of the rottenest women he could find. That is always tragic in anybody's life. She led him into idol worship and into apostasy. Elijah faced the king, promised there would be no rain for a space of three years; then disappeared. As the months rolled by old Ahab began to sweat. No crops for three years was a serious matter.

The marks of apostasy were all over old King Ahab. He blamed the true man of God for all of the trouble that had befallen the nation, when it was his own sin that brought it all on. He falsely accused, openly attacked, pitifully slandered the prophet and sought to destroy him. Backslidden holiness people often get like that. Christ said in (Mt. 12:43-45) that people who backslide from a sanctified heart (cleaned and garnished) become possessed of seven times more evil spirits than they originally had. Ahab wanted relief from the drought, but he didn't want to repent and straighten up his life.

Jezebel had crossed the dead line and Ahab followed her. It is extremely dangerous to be married to someone that is following the devil and loaded with carnality. Jezebel was out to destroy every prophet of God that bore down on her sinful heart and life. On one occasion Obadiah hid 100 of God's prophets in caves to keep them away from the blood-thirsty hands of that hateful Jezebel. (I Kings 18:4). When one hates the man that cries out against his sin, and tries to destroy him, he has on him the marks of an apostate. If he goes too far down that road he will never get back.

Jezebel and Ahab spread confusion throughout the whole kingdom. That is typical! The prophet was obeying God and the King was listening to his wicked wife, and the people were in confusion. Lots of local churches have seen that happen. When a Holy Ghost filled pastor takes a

stand for the right, and some old carnal buzzard or Jezebel, on the board takes a cast-iron stand against him, the people fall into confusion.

The great problem Elijah faced was, how to save the whole nation from going into idolatry and apostasy. The problem today is how to keep a whole church (and sometimes a whole movement) from drifting into a liberal brand of holiness, and from there, eventually, to no holiness or salvation at all.

Elijah challenged the Baalites to a contest and invited the entire populace to come and watch the outcome. First the 450 prophets of Baal built an altar and placed a bullock thereon, prayed heathen prayers for hours, but the heavens were brass. The proposition was that the God that answers by fire was to be the God of Israel, and the god that didn't so answer would be rejected. There is a lot of fireless holiness churches around these days, and they are not very convincing.

When the Baal prophets gave up, for they had prayed for hours, and the afternoon sun was low, Elijah built an altar, and placed the wood and his bullock on the altar. Then dug a trench around the altar and filled it with 12 barrels of water, and prayed a short prayer of a couple of simple sentences and the fire of God fell and burned up the sacrifice and the altar, and licked up the water in a mighty conflagration Again God saved the day by sending the fire.

We, in our day, and in our situations, had better see to the fire If we don't have frequent outpourings of the Holy Ghost into our midst we will dry up and God will forsake us. We in our day and in our situation had better keep the fire of the Holy Ghost burning in our midst or we are ruined. If we don't have frequent outpourings of the Holy Ghost in our midst we will dry up and God will forsake us forever.

III. GOD USED FIRE AGAIN AND AGAIN IN THE OLD TESTAMENT TO GET PEOPLES ATTENTION.

There is the dramatic story of Moses and the burning bush in the Midian desert when God called him to organize the Children of Israel and inspire them to head out of Egypt bondage and start for the Promised Land. (Ex. 3:2).

When God gave Moses the ten commandments the mountain smoked with fire. The people saw it and feared. The people said the glory of God hovering over the mountain was like a devouring fire (Ex. 24).

IV. GOD SOMETIMES WOULD USE FIRE TO PUT FEAR INTO THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE.

That is what God did at Mt. Horeb and the mountain burst suddenly into flames and the people were frightened when they saw the fire. (Deut. 4:11 to 5:5).

V. THE FIRE FROM GOD WAS A PROTECTION FOR HIS PEOPLE WHEN THERE WAS NO OTHER SOURCE OF PROTECTION TO BE HAD.

When the Children of Israel were fleeing from Egypt and camped by the Red Sea for the night, and Pharaoh and his army was camping close behind them, God sent a pillar of fire that burned between the two camps all night and gave light unto the camp of Israel and darkness to the camp of the Egyptians (Ex. 14:19-20).

VI. GOD GUIDED HIS PEOPLE IN THE DAYS OF MOSES WITH A PILLAR OF FIRE IN THE NIGHT. GOD LED THEM WITH A PILLAR OF FIRE AT NIGHT FOR A PERIOD OF FORTY YEARS. (Ex. 13:31-32).

Also, when Christ was born God put a light in the sky to guide the Shepherds to the Bethlehem stable, and again, two years later He guided the wise men from the East to the house where Jesus and His parents resided in the same way.

VII. THE MOST FRIGHTENING FIRE IS THAT OF GOD'S FIERY INDIGNATION AND WRATH.

Mark 9:49 reminds us that "Every soul will be salted with fire." God will pour out upon us either the fire of Pentecost or the fire of His wrath. The fire of His wrath turned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes (2 Peter 2:6). On one occasion God sent fire running along the ground accompanying one of the devastating plagues of Egypt (Ex. 9:23).

The Children of Israel grumbled at Taberah and the fire of God's indignation fell from heaven and burned a great host of them to death.

On another occasion the anger of the Lord was kindled against Nadab and Abihu for offering strange fire on the altar and the fire fell from their hands and burned them to death. (Num. 3:4).

Still on another occasion, King Ahaziah sent a captain and fifty men to bring Elijah to him, and the fire of God fell and burned all fifty men to death (2 Kings 1). Then the stubborn king sent fifty more with another captain and God did the same thing again and all fifty-one died in the conflagration.

Remember the gainsaying of the wicked Korah, slandering Moses whom God had chosen as the leader of the Children of Israel. He tried to take the leadership out of the hands of Moses and challenge his authority, and God's wrath was kindled and the earth opened up and dropped those insurrectionists into the fires of hell (Num. 26:10). A similar thing happened to the sons of Eliab in Deut. 11:6.

VIII. HOWEVER, GOD ALWAYS PREFERS THE FIRES OF CLEANSING TO THE FIRES OF PUNISHMENT.

The word says, He is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9).

King David one time set up a burnt offering and a peace offering and called might ii upon God and God poured fire out of heaven and consumed the sacrifice, as a sign of His approval (I Chron. 21:26).

When Gideon made his sacrifice under a tree the angel of the Lord came down and touched the sacrifice with his staff and the fire of God came out of the rock and consumed the sacrifice. (Jud. 6:21).

When Moses and Aaron prepared burnt offerings and sin offerings and peace offerings there hovered the Presence of God and there emanated fire from His Presence and consumed the whole. And all the people shouted and fell on their faces to the ground. (Lev. 9:24).

In Lev. 6:13, God commanded "The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar: it shall never go out." But the fire did go out for poor old Israel for centuries of rebellion and disappointment. We must keep the fire of God's love burning in our midst or we will miss it forever.

IX. GOD IS NEVER CONTENT TILL THE HOLY FIRE FROM HEAVEN IS BURNING IN THE MIDST OF HIS PEOPLE.

God wants his ministers to be a flame of fire (Heb. 1:7).

King David said on one occasion, "While I was musing (meditating on the things of God) the fire burned. (Ps. 39:3)

After Jesus rose from the dead He drew near two disciples who were walking on the road to Emmaus. At first they did not know him, but after He revealed himself and vanished they said, "Did not our heart burn within us, while He talked with us by the way, and while He opened to us the scriptures?" (Luke 24:32).

Matthew starts off his third chapter with these glowing words: "He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire" (verse 11).

"When the Day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost . . ." (Acts 2:1-4).

Also, the most dramatic air lift of all time was accompanied by fire, when Elisha was taken alive into heaven in a whirlwind. It was a chariot of fire that appeared in the heavens. (2 Kings 2:11).

Our world's next great air lift will be followed by the fires of the Tribulation judgment upon the earth, followed by the complete renovation and purging from the last remains of sin. Listen to the apostle Peter: "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, and the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up" (2 Peter 3:10).

The only remaining fires worse than this mentioned is the eternal fires of hell. Five times Christ refers to the fires of hell as being "unquenchable," and Mark speaks of the fire that never shall be quenched. (Mk. 9:43).

Years ago before the days of the automobile a cow boy was riding his horse across the prairie when a terrible fire broke out and the wind was driving it faster than a horse could gallop. He began to see, as the fire was gaining on him that his horse could never outrun it. So he dismounted and started another fire in the prairie grass and fought it to keep it from going the wrong way. But he managed to build what he called a back fire to meet the oncoming fire. When the fire got to the burned over place it went out and his life was spared. We mean to back fire on the devil and sin and worldliness until we are a million light years distance from the fires of sin and the fires of hell.

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SERMON 18 FOUR CARAVANS TRAVELING THROUGH HISTORY FROM THE BEGINNING OF TIME TO THE END

James 4:14: "For what is your life? even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

These four caravans, traveling through history, will converge eventually at a rendezvous point in the time-table of God. 1. The first caravan is made up of the millions of Christ-rejecting Jews that have been dispersed among the nations during the church age of nearly 2,000 years. 2. The second caravan is made up of the ungodly Gentile world of sinning people. 3. The third is the nominal, worldly, harlot church that poses as Christian, and the 4th is the true holy people.

At the rendezvous point where and when these four roads converge, a momentous event shall take place -- namely the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ. Many thinking people believe we are getting alarmingly close to that rendezvous point.

I. THE FIRST CARAVAN OF TRAVELERS, JOURNEYING THROUGH HISTORY ARE THE JEWS.

Christ symbolized them by the fig tree and said when the branch is yet tender and putteth forth leaves, then history is at the rendezvous point. The great change is about to take place. (Matt. 24:32). This caravan would not travel the road Christ laid out for them and they will be rejected at the end. "For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee." (Mark 11:21).

II. THE SECOND CARAVAN IS MADE UP OF THE MILLIONS OF THE WICKED, CHRIST-REJECTING WORLD.

They live for self, and reject Christ. Some live terribly wicked lives. Some live very good, clean lives. But neglecting to let Christ into their lives, and live for Him, they are lost and on their way to hell forever. Christ calls them Tares, fools, dogs, chaff and serpents. God says concerning them: "The wicked shall be turned into hell and all the nations that forget God" (Ps. 9:17). "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matt. 25:41).

III. THE THIRD CARAVAN IS MADE UP OF THOSE OF THE NOMINAL, WORLDLY, HARLOT CHURCH.

The GREAT WHORE (Rev. 19:2): "For true and righteous are the judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand."

IV. THE FOURTH TRAVELERS ARE GOD'S HOLY PEOPLE:

"And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called the way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring man though fools, shall not err therein" (Isa. 35:8).

There you have the four roads and the four types of travelers: 1. The Christ rejecting Jews. 2. The world of sinners that know not God. 3. The popular, worldly church, called the great whore. 4. The remnant of holy people.

These four groups are all distinctly different and they are traveling four different roads, but those roads will one day converge and all humanity will arrive at history's rendezvous point, and will fall into the hands of the Eternal Christ that they have accepted or rejected. And the eternal destiny of every individual of them will be a fixed entity from that point on, for all eternity.

NOW, LET US GO BACK AND EXAMINE THESE CARAVANS MORE CLOSELY:

I. FIRST, THERE IS THE HIGHWAY OVER WHICH THE JEWS HAVE TRAVELED FOR THESE LAST 2000 YEARS SINCE THE ADVENT OF THE CHRISTIAN ERA.

They started this trek by crying out, "Let his blood be on us and on our children" (Matt. 27:25). Oh Israel, did you know what you were saying?

God warned them of the awful harvest they were to reap. "And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled" (Luke 21:24).

This prophecy was literally fulfilled as Old Israel traveled down the highway of time on the road of their choosing.

Just 20 years later, after they spoke those words, 30,000 were slaughtered in Judaea. In 16 more years (A.D. 66) 40,000 were murdered in Galilee. In four more years the Romans

surrounded the City of Jerusalem and laid a siege to it that lasted from April to August and the city ran out of food until conditions got so bad that parents cooked their babies and ate them. So horrible was the conditions that Titus, the Roman General looked up to heaven and thanked God that he was not responsible. He was only carrying out orders. Basically, he wasn't responsible, for they had asked for it when they said, "Let his blood be on us and on our children."

The Jewish historian, Josephus tells us that one million Jews perishing in the siege of 70 A.D.

Again, 65 years later (A.D. 135) Another half million perished, and an edict was drawn up forbidding a Jew on bane of death to ever place foot in the Holy Land again. The warning Christ had given that they would be led away captive and scattered among the nations literally came true.

Toward the end of the 13th century Edward the First drove all the Jews out of England, (16,000 of them) and for 400 years, not a Jew dare place foot on British soil.

In the early part of the 14th century all the Jews of France were expelled. One hundred thousand men, women and children were driven out and their property confiscated. Oh America, do take this warning: beware how you treat God's chosen people!

Again, in 1742 Ferdinand and Isabel eliminated them from Spain and another 800,000 perished. Then, they went through the greatest purge of all time under the insane, merciless rule of Hitler. Six million Jews were jammed, shoulder to shoulder, into the gas exterminators and asphyxiated.

For 1,800 years they had no national home, and were dispersed among the nations, but they never absorbed or lost their identity. In 1917 Gen. Allenby with 100,000 men marched from Egypt to Canaan. He entered the City of Jerusalem, unfurled the Union Jack and took possession. The Turks and Mohammedans surrendered without firing a shot. Soon after this the armistice was signed and this brought World War One to a close. And from then on, the Jews began to flow back into Palestine, and the whole world could see the handwriting on the wall.

Then World War Two came and went, and on May 15, 1948 Israel became an independent state. She came up with her own President, Prime Minister, Army, Navy and Air Force. Since then many thousand have moved back into Palestine. What does that all mean? It simply means the budding of the fig tree and Christ is about to return to the world.

We have followed the Jews down through the centuries and have arrived at the next great, world shaking event, which many my age will doubtless live to see -- the return of Jesus Christ and the Rapture of the Church.

After God moved many Jews back into Palestine, Nassar of Egypt got stirred up to eliminate them from the earth. In 1956 he tried to eliminate every Jew from Palestine. He would bottle them up, wipe them out, and rid the world of them forever He laid his plans carefully. He secured massive equipment from Russia. He was mobilizing his forces and training his officers. Israel got wind of it and jumped the gun on Nassar, and in one week of fighting captured the Gaza

Strip, the Sinai Peninsula and the Suez Canal. They destroyed nearly one third of the Egyptian army, captured vast stores of supplies, with Russian Built equipment, took 5,600 prisoners, left between 2,000 and 3,000 dead and lost only 171 men. Nassar's plans were shattered. The world was shocked. The hand of God strikes quick and hard. (Some of you who have rejected Christ and gone on in sin will find it out one of these days.) Gamble with your soul if you will, but all will come to the end of the road of rebellion one day.

II. LET US NOW VIEW THE SECOND CARAVAN, WENDING ITS RELENTLESS WAY ACROSS THE YEARS OF HISTORY -- NAMELY THE WICKED CHRIST-REJECTING WORLD OF THE UNGODLY.

We turn now to Daniel's panoramic prophecy in chapter 2 of his vision. King Nebuchadnezzar dreamed a dream that he couldn't recall. He called in all of his magicians and astrologers and sorcerers and Chaldeans, demanding that they tell him his dream and the interpretation on pain of death if they should fail. Of course they were powerless to come up with the answer. They begged for the King to be more reasonable but he would not change his decree that they should all die. Word, in the meantime reached Daniel's ears and he begged audience with the king, and it was granted. He begged a stay of execution, and said there was a God in heaven that could reveal secrets. And he and his three friends, Shadrack, Meshack and Abednego went to prayer. And God revealed the dream to Daniel and its interpretation. Daniel said that in the King's dream he saw a great metallic man with a head of gold (representing the Babylonian Empire), and breast of silver (representing the Medo-Persian Empire) and the mid-section of brass, (representing the Grecian Empire) and hips and legs of iron (representing the Roman Empire) and the feet, a mixture of iron and clay.

Then Daniel saw a stone cut out of the mountain without hands and it smote the image upon the feet, brake them to pieces and the whole image came crashing down, and turned into powder and the wind took it away.

Then the stone became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. So, Daniel gave the king the interpretation of the dream. He said King Nebuchadnezzar was the head of gold. After him would arise another kingdom, inferior, represented by the silver breast. And then a third kingdom of brass which should conquer the world. That was to be followed by a fourth kingdom as strong as iron. This iron kingdom would be divided into two legs of the great image. Finally, the feet of iron and clay, and the ten toes. And in the days of the ten kings, represented by the ten toes, the God of heaven would set up a kingdom that would never be destroyed. The king was thunderstruck and fell from his throne onto his face. He worshipped the God of heaven and made Daniel the prime minister of the kingdom.

In the first division of this message we followed the Jewish people as they journeyed across the centuries from the time of Christ to His return to this world to catch away His bride and make ready to set up His kingdom in the world.

Now, we are about to watch the wicked, secular, Gentile caravan, travel from the time of Nebuchadnezzar to the 2nd coming of Christ. This Gentile period covers approximately 2,500 years. The four World Empires succeeded each other through this period of time. Babylonian,

Medo-Persian, Grecian and Roman. The first was the Babylonian period (Dan. 2:38): "Thou, O king art the head of gold." The second, the Medo-Persian (Dan. 5:30-31). This was the night Bel Shazzar was slain and the kingdom fell into the hands of Darius the Mede. The third kingdom, (Grecian) (Dan. 8:20-21). The ram herein described having two horns represent the kings of Medo and Persia, and the rough goat was the King of Grecia. The fourth kingdom was Roman (Daniel 9:26). This refers to the General that was to destroy the city of Jerusalem and the temple. And history tells us that the Roman legions under Titus destroyed the city in 70 A.D.

The Babylonian Empire lasted 68 years (606 B.C. to 538 B.C.). It was conquered by the Medes and the Persians and the head of gold passed away. The Medo-Persian Empire lasted 208 years (538 B.C. to 330 B.C.). This kingdom was conquered by the Greeks under the leadership of Alexander the Great. Alexander the Great was first a great general. Then he was a great flop. He conquered the world and couldn't conquer himself. He died an alcoholic at the age of 33 years, and the Grecian world empire lasted only 8 years (538-530 B.C.), and it passed into history. Finally came the iron hips and legs of the Roman empire. Rome became universal in 30 B.C. In 304 A.D. the Roman Empire was rent into Eastern and Western Rome, symbolized by the two legs of the metallic man.

Today we are down in the feet of the image (iron and clay -- strength and weakness mingled together). Actually, history has already moved out into the toes with the recent completion of the ten nation confederacy -- the European Common Market. We are now standing on the "cuticle" of the roots of the toenail of the Great image.

The next move is for the stone to be cut out of the Mountain and smite the image and the entire world system, as we have known it, will collapse. This Rock (Christ) which shall utterly destroy the world's system and grind it to powder, will set up His Kingdom which shall last forever. "whosoever shall fall upon this stone (Christ) shall be broken (because a broken and contrite heart is softened by repentance.) but on whosoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder." If you, my friend are still hooked on the sins of this world, and are neglecting to turn your life over to Christ in unconditional surrender, when this world's system collapses, you will collapse with it, and will be cast into hell forever.

Christ's frown will fall upon you one day if you continue to reject Him. His curse will fall upon you also when He shall say, "Depart from me ye cursed into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels." (Matt. 25:41).

We have been drifting for 2,500 years from gold to silver; from silver to brass; from brass to iron, and from iron to a combination of strength and weakness in symbol of iron and clay. We have developed more power in the world than the world ever thought of and we are the weakest. The lead nations have stockpiled enough nuclear missiles to kill every man, woman and child in the world twelve times, and they are still stockpiling more. We wonder how many more they think they are going to need. Strength and weakness -- iron and clay! We have developed power enough to put men on the moon and bring them back, and send vehicles to Venus, but when little Castro barks, we cower like a whipped dog. Iron and clay!

III. NOW WE TURN TO THE THIRD SET OF TRAVELERS. WENDING THEIR RELENTLESS JOURNEY ACROSS THE SPAN OF TIME --THE NOMINAL WORLDLY CHURCH SYSTEM.

Christ gave us a clear picture of this caravan traveling from the time of His ascension and the outpouring of the Holy Ghost to His second coming, in the 2nd and third chapters of Revelation. The great Apostle of Patmos received the message and recorded it for us in the Book of Revelation, called the Apocalypse.

It is obvious that these seven churches of Asia, pictured here represent seven distinct periods of time from the day of Pentecost to the Second coming of Christ.

First is the Ephesian period (Rev. 2:1-7). This describes the spiritual state of the church of the first century, from the Day of Pentecost to the death of St. John. It was a period of warm love cooling off.

Second came the Smyrna period (Rev. 2:8-11). This extended from the year 100 to 312 -- from the death of St. John to the reign of Constantine.

Third came the Pergamus period (Rev. 2:12-17). This period extended from the reign of Constantine to the reign of Boniface the third -- from 312 to 606 A.D. This period represents the church married to the world. Pergamus means "Married."

Next came the Thyatira period (Rev. 2:18-29). This represents the church of the dark ages from Boniface the third to Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation. This went from 606 A.D. to 1671. This was the period when so many heathen' practices crept into the church such as baptismal regeneration, justification by works, image worship, Mariolatry, the confessional, Purgatory, indulgences and priestcraft. It was a period of heathenizing the church, when heathen doctrines crept in that wrecked the faith, damned millions and populated hell.

Then came the Sardis period (Rev. 3:1-6). This extended from 1517 to 1738. It spanned the 16th and 17th century, from Martin Luther and the Reformation to John Wesley and the modern evangelistic movement. It was more of a reformation than a revival, but it was certainly a step in the right direction -- a step toward spiritual recovery.

Period number six is called the Philadelphia period (Rev. 3:7-13). That covered the 18th and 19th century. That was the revival period and it started off with Second Blessing Holiness as its battle cry. They had a little strength. They were like a dead corpse coming back to life. This movement started under the ministry of George Whitefield and the Wesleys in 1739. These revival were followed by Finney and Moody until they swept great areas of the world. When Wesley was shut out of the churches he preached under the open sky. He stood on his father's tombstone and preached till the sun went down and turned the grave yard into a mourners' bench. God saved Charles G. Finney, filled him with the Holy Ghost and he left the law business and started holding revivals. Mr. Finney preached in a school house and said if he had had a sword in either hand he couldn't have cut the people off the seats onto the floor as fast as they fell under the power of God. Mr. Finney had Holy Ghost revivals. In six weeks in Rochester, N.Y. 100,000 souls found God.

That is one tenth of a million in a month and a half. They say that every saloon in Rochester was closed and bartenders were praying through. They didn't merely shake the preacher's hand and sign a card. They used the mourners' bench and their converts stuck. It is said of D.L. Moody that he reduced the population of hell by a million souls. We talk about revivals, but they had them. They lived during the great revival period of Church history called the Philadelphia period.

Seventh is the Laodicean period (Rev 3:14-22). This is a period characterized by works. Work! work! work! Most of the Christian churches have pushed the Holy Ghost out and they have taken over His work. Multitudes are working themselves into the grave and 95% of it isn't worth a hill of frost-bitten beans when it comes to getting people out of sin and getting sin out of them.

The Philadelphia period is gone. If God should look for intercessors that know how to travail, where would He find them? This is the lukewarm period. The church is neither ice cold or red hot -- neither entirely heathen or genuinely Christian. Neither led away with false doctrines, nor thoroughly addicted to that which is true.

God said our lukewarmness makes Him sick. Most of the stuff passed off in the holiness movement today is sickening. Think of the worldliness among us and the powerlessness, and the pride and lust and contentions and strivings and feudings. It was the holiness people God was talking about when He said it made Him sick. He was not talking about the boozers and junkies and harlots out there in the world. They boasted, "We are rich and increased in goods, and have need of no thing." We are swamped with materialism. We have so many things to cool us off and bogg us down. It takes so much of our time and money to live high that we don't have time and money for anything else. But God said of us, "And knowest not that thou art wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked." That is the condition most of us holiness people are in -- blind and don't know it. God said we lost our pure, white robes of righteousness.

The church has been drifting since Pentecost. She has come through seven periods of time. We are now down to the close of the last one right now. We all have had plenty of warnings and we have no excuse for our deadness. The Fig Tree has budded and Christ is at the door. God warned us of the coming of the Laodicean condition in the powerless, worldly, materialistic church of the last days, and we are there right now.

Christ faced this last church period with the story of the ten virgins. They all slumbered and slept. "And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all of those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out . . . and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. (Matt. 25:1-13).

IV. THE FOURTH CARAVAN TRAVELING ACROSS THE PAGES OF TIME IS GOD'S REMNANT OF HOLY PEOPLE.

This is the smallest caravan of all, and always has been because Jesus said, "Wide is the gate and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matt. 7:13-14).

Christ says to those on the narrow way, "Fear not little flock, it is the Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32). Millions of professed Christians are going to miss it forever. Millions more have already missed it and are imprisoned in Hades, in the heart of the earth, awaiting the Great White Throne Judgment, from whence they will be cast into Gehenna, that eternal lake of fire forever.

Holiness is not a new idea. The word appears 30 times in the Old Testament and 13 times in the New Testament. The word "holy" appears 416 times in the Old Testament and 174 times in the New Testament.

The prophet, Isaiah said there was a highway and a "way." In other words there is a way within a way, and that inner way is the way of holiness. (Chapter 35). It is strange, sad, and tragic that from the first century in the Christian ranks the emphasis on holiness and sanctification began to die down, and even today it is almost extinct in the world. A great deal that is called holiness is corrupt. Much of it is so liberal that it ceases to be holy. However, Holiness of heart and life is still the prime doctrine of all Christian experience.

Peter, in his epistle, admonished us, "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy" (I Peter 1:15) And, "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord" (Heb. 12:14) Again we read: "Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it" (Heb. 12:14).

For one to miss heart holiness would mean also to miss the rapture. St. John, speaking of the second coming of Christ and the rapture of the church, declared, "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure" (I John 3:3).

It is hard to understand how so many have completely missed seeing Holiness at the heart of Christian experience, and some of them among the greatest Bible students the church has ever produced. The only way to account for it is the carnal heart ". . . is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Rom. 8:7).

The story of the ten virgins in the 25th chapter of Matthew reveals the terrible, soul-rending fact that those who ran out of oil (representing the sanctified heart) were left out when the door was shut. Christ told them in verse 12 that He knew them not.

As God is about to turn the last page of the history of this Gentile era, we know Christ is on the verge of returning to this world for the blood-washed; and the great bulk of humanity is hopelessly lost. Most of the churches are dead, ". . . twice dead, plucked up by the roots" (Jude: 12), because they have rejected holiness. And if all of the preachers standing every week in Christian pulpits were blood-washed and fire-baptized, the congregations wouldn't be dead like they are. Most of the general run of Christian preachers are on their way to hell with sin in their lives and carnality in their hearts.

Children, let us be sure we are in this fourth caravan with Paul and Peter, and John, and Stephen, and Wesley, and millions of others (" . . . a great number that no man could number,) who had " . . . washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Rev. 7:9, 14).

When the Great Stone strikes the metallic man on the feet of iron and clay, and civilization as we know it today collapses and the world is plunged into the great tribulation, and from there to the Great White Throne Judgment, "And before Him every knee shall bow . . ." we had better know wherein we stand. Those who have not on the wedding garment of pure holiness of heart had better hasten to do so, or they will be sorry when the curtain falls on this dispensation.

Adam Clarke asked, "Will it avail any of us how near we get to heaven, if the door be shut before we arrive? How dreadful the thought, to have only missed being eternally saved! To run well, and yet to permit the devil, the world, or the flesh, to hinder in the few last steps! Reader, watch and be sober." (Comment on Heb. 4:1)

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SERMON 19

SUBJECT:

"THE TRAGEDY OF AN ABORTIVE REVIVAL"
(Hos. 9:10-14).

TEXT:

"LORD, WHAT WILT THOU GIVE?"

We have always recognized that God is on the giving hand. He said he was more willing to give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him than earthly parents were to give good gifts to their children. He said He would give us the heathen for our inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for our possession.

The word "GIVE" appears nearly 900 times in the Bible, and many of them refer to the various things God GIVES to us. And, sad to say, some of those things that God promises to give us are not the most enjoyable to think about.

We understand that these words of our text and context were originally directed to backslidden Israel, but they surely have their counterpart in reference to us today. If we are as prone to sin as Israel was, we will be punished as Israel was punished.

You will find the full text in Hos. 9:14. "Give them, O Lord: What wilt thou give? Give them a miscarrying womb and dry breasts." Obviously, the prophet was speaking in powerful, yet figurative language.

THE SOBERING FACTS IN OUR DAY, IS THAT MOST REVIVALS ARE DEAD BEFORE THEY ARE BORN.

We in the conservative Holiness ranks have some of the greatest preachers the church has ever produced. No doubt many of our preachers can and do preach as good as any preachers since the day of Pentecost, but without the POWER of the Holy Ghost. There's our problem! Our people are trained to simply come and go, service after service, enjoy sermons, laugh and talk, but show practically no sign whatever of the intense burden that characterized the early holiness people. William Carvosso tells of one instance when the revival meeting started on a Sunday morning and could not be broken up, but continued without intermission till the Friday following. Harney, in his book entitled "PRAYING CLEAR THROUGH" tells of similar instances when meetings would roll on, day and night for maybe as much as two or three weeks, with people coming and going and praying through around the clock. We talk about revivals, but we must admit that those people had a power in their meetings that we don't have today.

They would band together and pledge themselves to certain patterns of united prayer and they would stay with it till victory came and sinners would begin to be smitten with Holy Ghost conviction, and fall out all over the place, seeking and finding God. But our burdenless people with their distractions and divided interests, many of them that are carnal, and fear being "dug out", do not want the type of revival they had in those early days of the holiness movement.

THE HOLINESS RANKS HAVE ALWAYS HAD PEOPLE WHO DETERMINED YEARS AGO THAT THEY WOULD NOT OBEY GOD -- THEY HAD IT SETTLED, AND THEIR MIND AND HEART ARE CLOSED.

It becomes impossible to stir them, even with mightily anointed preaching. They become like a fossil that once was a living, green leaf floating in the sunlight. They become gospel hardened (gospel fossilized). The spark of life has gone out of them. They are dead. A fossil can show the framework of the original leaf (like an old dead, dry testimony and prayer) but the living reality is gone -- and in many cases, gone forever. They don't intend to get under conviction. They don't mean to be stirred. They are like concrete. You can pour concrete but once. There was a time when they could have been poured into the right mold, but they went into the wrong mold (and stayed carnal and sinful) and like concrete, they are set, and nothing will ever bring them back like they were when their hearts were tender and pliable.

WHAT IS MEANT BY "MISCARRYING WOMBS"?

It means "still born children." In the natural world a woman might go to the hospital, to the maternity ward, on several occasions, but she yet does not have any children at home. The most of our converts out of the world these days are born dead -- "still born babes."

A mother might carry her burden for months, but the child will not be born normally until she travails in pain to be delivered. (Rev. 12:2). Lots of Christians in our day will tell you they carry a burden. But their burdens miscarry before they ever reach the point of travail.

By "dry breasts" the prophet is figuratively referring to souls that are born alive but there is so much deadness in the church that they starve to death before they can ever get started. Starved souls can never nourish the new converts. If the new converts do venture back to service, there is

so much deadness in the singing and the testimonies and preaching, and in the atmosphere in general, that they starve to death about as soon as they come for their first spiritual nourishment.

Revivals that fail to come to fruition leave souls harder, more callused, and in more danger of hell than they were before the revival ever crossed their path. Revivals that abort because people back up on light and refuse to mind God leave the people with more disobedience, more light to answer for, more hard of heart and more seared of conscience. A revival that aborts does the people, generally speaking, more harm than good.

GOSPEL LIGHT NEVER LEAVES THE PEOPLE JUST AS IT FOUND THEM.

That is a frightening thought, but it is ever true. Darkness deepens every time one rejects light. Revivals that fail leave the whole church in worse condition. Conviction resisted is a direct road to apostasy. It is dangerous to resist the Holy Ghost. Revivals that fail leave the church with the spirit of defeat in the air. Stifling the pleadings of the Holy Ghost is extremely dangerous.

ABORTIVE REVIVALS LEAVE US still crossed up among ourselves, with grievances not fixed up and with turmoil still prevailing. They leave us with the love flame burning low among the people or extinguished altogether. They leave us with old tensions and grudges still prevailing, and no problems solved. They leave us with sweet, holy fellowship no longer among the people. They leave us building again the things we once destroyed. They leave us with more vows broken and more rejected light and more guilt to answer for. It leave our hearts and the services dry, dead and cold, and the sheer enjoyment of worshipping together gone from our midst. It takes a lot of Holy Ghost dynamite to jar some long-standing, deep seated problems loose, because people, when they are carnal, can be awfully stubborn.

ABORTIVE REVIVALS ARE AN AWFUL WASTE OF TIME, ENERGY AND MONEY.

Look at the miles we drive and the money we spend when we have no intention of obeying God and walking in the light. It is easier for carnal people to shell out a little money than to come clean, confess up, pray through, and get sin out of their lives and carnality out of their hearts. Revivals come and go across the years and many of our people still are subject to compromise in their lives, dishonesty, lying, and carnal spells.

WE ARE NOT FOOLING ANYONE BUT OURSELVES WHEN WE REFUSE TO PAY THE PRICE AND OBEY GOD.

It is the hardest thing in the world for a long-time-professor of holiness to admit a need and confess a spiritual lapse. It costs deep humiliation to confess having lost out in one's soul. When revivals abort, God becomes disappointed in us and we become disappointed in ourselves, but 99 times out of a hundred we won't do anything about it.

Do you remember the story of the lad watching sheep while men were chopping wood on a nearby hillside? He thought it would be a lot of fun to cry, "WOLF! WOLF!" When he did the men came running to kill the wolf, but there was no wolf. A few days later he did it again, and had a big laugh. Then the wolf did come and he cried "Wolf! wolf!" but the men paid no attention and the

wolf began to kill the sheep. That illustrates how we have fooled the public with advertising, "REVIVAL! Revival!" and the world knows there is not really going to be any revival. They have been fooled too many times. So, they feel no desire to attend. We tell the neighbors we are having a revival and they don't believe us. They have heard that too many times to believe it.

One time I was traveling across country and became quite hungry and resolved to stop and get something to eat at the first opportunity. Finally from a distance I saw a large restaurant sign near the road and intended to stop. But when I reached the place the restaurant was but a blackened mess with the roof gone and all the windows knocked out and a totally deserted interior. It hurts to make application of this illustration, but we call ourselves the BIBLE MISSIONARY CHURCH, and some never crack the Bible from one Sunday to another. When the District Moderator tours with a missionary to take up annual pledges, some of our people (and pastors) decide not to pledge, but only to give cash out of their pocket. In that way they don't really have to sacrifice and help carry the load. They get out of it easy. These people that don't believe in pledges put in only once for that year while the ones who pledge make a sacrifice every 30 days throughout the entire year. Lots of our churches are thought of as holiness churches, simply because they are in our connection, when actually there is not a Holy Ghost person in the whole place including the pastor and his wife.

THINK OF THE DISAPPOINTMENT IN THE WAY OF AN ABORTIVE REVIVAL.

Think of a young couple that plan expectantly and excitedly for months, and all of the relatives and close friends are excited. Then when the little one is born it is a most beautiful child. Perfect features -- the most beautiful hands and fingers and toes. It is chubby and plump -- a perfect child, except for one thing. It doesn't breathe. It has no pulse, or any pink color of the skin. It is dead. The parents are grief-stricken. The friends and relatives are sorry. How do you think God feels when we have still-born converts at our altars. They appear to go through the agonies of birth, but two days later they show no sign of life at all. They don't come out to the first prayer meeting after the revival. You visit them and they have so many excuses, it is clear that they are not interested. Still-born converts. Others make a big show at the altar to get sanctified, but after the revival closes, every carnal trait they ever possessed is still with them. They are just as touchy as they ever were. Multitudes in the holiness ranks profess to be sanctified holy, but they still have carnal spells. Many of them really desire to be honest. They really got blessed at the altar when the folk were praying up a storm and they honestly thought they got sanctified, only to be disappointed within two or three days to find out that they were just as carnal as they ever were. They hoped at last they had it settled, but it wasn't. They thought, at last, the old man is dead and buried, but he proved to be very much alive still. They thought all bitterness was washed away, only to discover that it wasn't diminished an iota. Abortive Revival!

Years ago, while in a revival meeting in St. Louis, Mo., there came out an article in the newspaper that got my attention. There was an outfit there in the city that advertised that if you drive your car in there on your way to work and take a bus to work, they would replace your old motor with a rebuilt motor and you could pick it up on the way home at night. The price was very reasonable. But they got caught up with and the law moved in and put them out of business. What they were doing was to take the motor out, hang it up, steam clean it, dry it off, spray it with bright colored aluminum paint and put it back into your car, with a little tune up job and adjustments.

When you come in after work they raise the hood and the motor is so beautiful you are thrilled. You take out your check book and are most happy to pay for the job and wouldn't care if it was fifty dollars more. But the first time you pull away from a stop light, you notice out of the rear view mirror that same old cloud of blue smoke. And listening more carefully when she was pulling a hill, that old familiar knock, knock, knock. That is a perfect example of the way abortive revival turn out. We are so thrilled on the closing night at the outcome of the altar service, but by Wed. night of that same week the thrill is gone when there is not the slightest evidence that a revival has come and gone. It is gone already. It was only an emotional splash without a spark of genuine Holy Ghost conviction. When that hits a soul hard enough, it won't wear off in the next twenty or thirty years! When a car engine that is logy has no more power after an overhaul than it had before, we would be terribly unhappy. But what about the church that supposedly had a Holy Ghost revival and the deadness is just as bad a week later as it was before the revival ever occurred.

ALRIGHT NOW -- WHAT CAUSES REVIVALS TO MISCARRY? WHO IS TO BLAME?

Sometimes it is the evangelist. He may become professional and be void of unction, discernment, wisdom and an intercessory prayer life. He may preach memorized sermons that weren't "born again" or freshly anointed. He may be down in his own experience, and carnal when he gets back home. He may be in the habit of hurrying from one short meeting to another and none of them, really break through. He may depend more on human psychology than divine unction from on high. Some evangelists weep easy and they mistake that for holy unction. One must be deep in the fog when he can't tell the difference between shallow sentiment and deep, holy unction. When revivals come and go across the years, with no problems solved and no improvements made in the lives of the people, and the obstreperous ones are still so difficult that they have to be handled like a soft-shelled egg, and there is deadness and dryness everywhere; then the things we call revivals are not revivals at all. They miscarry.

Sometimes the laymen, members of the church are to blame when revivals abort. God wants them to do something and they won't do it. He wants them to stop doing certain things in their lives and they won't obey Him. He asks them to eat humble pie and confess they were wrong, when they were wrong, but they won't do it. We have seen them grieve God before the service ever starts by dragging in late and missing the pre-prayer meeting entirely. We have seen them grieve God through the preliminaries by inattention and reading something, or talking to someone near them, or cutting their finger nails. We have seen them grieve God when the tithes and offerings were being taken. We have seen them freeze up and grieve God when the sermon was being preached, especially when there was something in the sermon that they didn't like, and yet, it was something they desperately needed. We have seen them grieve God when the altar call was being given, when they knew they needed to go and confess out their backslidden state and they wouldn't do it. We have seen them grieve God and freeze up after coming to the altar, and leaving the altar without victory, a thing which always throws a wet blanket over the church and helps kill the revival.

WHEN REVIVALS COME AND GO AND NEVER BREAK THROUGH THERE IS DISOBEDIENCE SOMEWHERE.

In concluding this message, how many do not want this revival to close and leave you still in the condition you have been in for a long time, defeated and disappointed in yourself until a thousand times you felt like quitting? What price would you not be willing to pay for the sweetness and fullness and holy zeal and joy and love of God shed abroad in the heart by the Holy Ghost. Are you not sick and tired of defeat when victory is available through the Blood of Christ and the Baptism with the Holy Ghost and fire? Many revivals are hopelessly tied up and they finally abort because a key individual refuses to be stirred, to be honest, and sorry, and humble, and confess honestly his condition, make wrongs right and pray through. The Holy "Guest" doesn't go far with people who won't be honest and respond to His pleadings God cannot change you unless you want to be changed. Nor can He help you when you won't do your part to make it happen. If you are satisfied as you are, you will never be any different. God can't solve your spiritual problem if you won't let Him.

How many are there here right now in this service, and you know you don't have the victory in your soul you once had, but you have decided to do nothing about it?

It is my belief, because of years of experience with people, that very few comparatively ever go all the way with God. A few, out of my own ministry did die out to the bottom and pay the price and become mightily sanctified wholly and lived it to the end, and some still live it and the end has not come for them. But for every one that goes all the way with God and stays with it, doubtless there are thousands who never pay the price. I would be tempted to pray, "God have mercy on their souls." And yet, I realize that to be a hypocrites prayer, because the time comes in every rebellious life when there shall be no extension of mercy. There never will be mercy for those who fail to repent and forsake their sins, and submit to the crucifixion of carnal self and receive the baptism with the Holy Ghost and fire and walk obediently in the light as God shows it to them, from then on, till He calls them home.

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SERMON 20

SUBJECT:
"I HAVE POWER"

Scripture:
John 19:1-16 -- Text, Verse 10

I want to say to begin with that all of my preaching is motivated by a desire to help people to prepare for heaven. I hope they shall pass their entrance examination. I hope your mind is open. If your mind is closed, nobody can help you, not even God. ". . . knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and I have power to release thee?"

Pilate the governor is speaking to Christ. He does not know that he is dealing with God. He thinks he is merely dealing with another man that the Jews were having trouble with. Pilate was representing the mob. And he wanted Jesus to realize how much power he had.

This, in effect, for all practical purposes is a picture of a preacher (Jesus) standing, hands tied, before a layman -- or at least one who represented the lay people of the church. And he says in effect, "I have power over you. I can make you a success in the ministry or I can make you a failure. I can frustrate all of your efforts and abort all of your plans and goals. I can kill your influence. I can break your heart. I have the power to cut you off, to destroy your effectiveness, and nullify your efforts."

It is frightening how much power every individual possesses. Every soul that does not have holy power from God, has carnal power from Satan. Many a promising preacher has been permanently crippled in the ministry, and many others wiped out forever by laymen who had occasion to exert their destructive power. Laymen, you have tremendous power within your hands. You can swing a mighty heavy stick, and strike with a crushing, and devastating blow.

WHATSOEVER THOU SHALT BIND ON EARTH SHALL BE BOUND IN HEAVEN (Matt. 18:18). There are strange and dangerous powers inside of every one of you laymen. If you tie up this revival here on earth, it will be tied up in heaven. In whatever condition you render the church, that is the condition it will be recognized in heaven. One man with one hand can pull a switch and turn off thousands of volts of electricity and shut a whole manufacturing plant down, and stop every machine.

You, laymen, have enough power within you to crucify your pastor and cut his heart out. You can make all of his efforts null and void. You can make him the subject of slander and gossip until his influence is shattered. You can boost him or run him down. Just how do you use those powers that are within you? You have power to grieve God clear out of the church; to shut up heaven that there be no rain (2 Chron. 7:13); to throw up walls that one cannot break through; to throw spells of coldness and deadness over the congregation where you worship; to make the pastor hopeless discouraged until he will feel he is wasting some of the best years of his life; to break his health and send him to a premature grave with a broken heart.

LIKE PILATE, YOU HAVE THE POWER TO CRUCIFY HIM; to nail down his hands and feet. You can be either a problem or its solution. My friend, does this bring you no sense of responsibility, or even guilt, or warning. Have we not seen people who appeared to have no conscience at all in some matters that God feels are the most serious. Your very attitude alone, makes it harder or easier to operate the church and make it effective.

YOUR POWER, LAYMAN, IS NEVER SHUT OFF. After you have been in the grave for years, the forces you set in motion will still be out there reaping a harvest for good or for ill. You are either helping and promoting the kingdom of God or the kingdom of Satan. Every human being is a potential killer. Bitterness can get into your heart and cause you to sin against the church for which Christ died. You can pour either oil or sand into the machinery of the church.

YOUR SILENT CARNAL ATTITUDES ARE POWERFUL. Silently, in your mind, you can say to your pastor, "I'll not let you stir me, or capture me, or get close to me, or move me, or change me. I will argue with you in my mind and oppose you in my heart." Little do we realize the dead weight we are sometimes. Power misdirected, and out of control, is dangerous. A father and son worked for the power company. There was trouble out on the high voltage power line, and he

sent his son out to correct the problem. He was to shut the power off at the plant, but someone rushed in with some exciting news and got his mind off from what he was supposed to do, and he forgot to cut the power off. His son went out, climbed the pole, and as 32,000 volts went through his body, he never knew anything hit him. Power that is given you to use for the glory of God and the advancement of the kingdom, can be wrongly used and can do an untold amount of harm.

GOD SAID, "TOUCH NOT MINE ANOINTED." We touch them every day in one way or another! What He meant was, "touch them not harmfully, cruelly. Two hypothetical churches come to my mind. The first had one of the most spiritual and gifted preachers that a church could hope for, but the people turned against him. He impaired his health and that of his good wife trying to help the people to become sanctified, instead of being carnal and worldly. They froze up on him, hurled unmerciful criticism and finally forced him out of the church and parsonage.

The other church was just the opposite. Their pastor was young and inexperienced. It was obvious that he was not capable of the responsibility of such a strong church with its powerful personalities. So the leading men got together and talked it over. They decided they would pray for their pastor instead of dismissing him. The first Sunday morning, real early, they met. There were not more than seven or eight of them. The next week there were twice that many, By the third week there were more than forty. And as a result their pastor became one of the most outstanding ministers and pastors in America in his generation. His name went down in history as one of the greatest, all because his people loved him and prayed for him instead of forcing him out.

What can you do to make yourself different? Confess up. Die out. Go to the bottom. Knock the bottom out of the bottom. Pray through. Get your soul baptized with the Holy Ghost and fire. Dig your own grave and hold your own funeral.

Love and loyalty is better than genius and brains, when it is necessary to make a choice between them. Keep your eyes on the true goal before us. Correct every wrong attitude. Mend your ways.

Remember, you have power. You have power to cement the church together, or to tear it apart.

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SERMON 21

SUBJECT:

"ABRAHAM OFFERING ISAAC"

(Gen. 22:10-18)

Gen. 22:10-18: "And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of."

The old Patriarch, Abraham had settled down quietly in his peaceful home in Beersheba when he was awakened by the voice of God in the middle of the night. Can you remember when you were awakened in the night by the voice of God? And you rolled and you tossed and you couldn't sleep. There was a night when Rev. E. M. Bounds couldn't sleep because the souls of his parish were perishing. Would we not see more revivals sweep in more sinners if we had more saints that were so burdened for revival that they could not sleep sometimes. Is it not true that sinners sleep as comfortable as they do because the saints (at least the so-called saints) sleep as comfortably as they do? I can remember revivals I have been in when some of the leading members of the church would get under such deep conviction over there own backslidden state, that they would not get a wink of sleep during a whole night.

I saw an outpouring of the Holy Ghost in a revival years ago at BMI when the Holy Ghost fell on the entire girl's dormitory and not a soul in the entire building got a wink of sleep that night. They were still praying through, or praying with others, when the sun arose the next morning. That reason for staying awake is good. Do not our hearts become hungry (starving) to see repeats of such outpourings of God's Holy Spirit again.

Abraham, no doubt, had planned a normal night's sleep but his, but his plans were drastically interrupted by the voice of God, awakening him. It is very doubtful if Abraham slept any more that night, because of the nature of the message he received from God. No father who loved his son as much as Abraham loved Isaac, would be able to go back to sleep after receiving such a message as that, from God.

Many times a guilty conscience will keep one awake for a while. Worry will have the same affect sometimes. But to receive a divine assignment direct from God and from heaven, that is the most precious wakeful hours one could possible experience. I have known people to pray through and become sanctified in an evening service, and they were so happy they lay awake all night rejoicing in the fresh love of God, and they couldn't sleep if they tried, and they didn't even desire to try. Personally, I wish God would keep me awake over lost souls more than He does. Night time is a wonderful time to meditate on the deep, rich things of God and listen for His voice. Abraham went to bed that night and dropped off to sleep, but he was awakened by the voice of God. He could not mistake that voice. He had heard it many times before.

Do you remember when Abraham was living in Ur of the Chaldees God spoke to him and told him to get up and start on a long, wearisome journey northward? What did Abraham do when God thus spoke to him. He obeyed immediately, taking his kin folk, his family, his servants, his possessions, and started out. That is always the way to keep victory for anyone: obey God at once when the leadings are clear. Abraham left his old home and he never went back. It seems as though it never was hard for Abraham to obey God. Would that all human souls had that characteristic. O how we pity people who find it hard to mind God! We have known many in our lifetime who went for years and years, always intending sometimes to obey God. Most of them put it off too long and miss it forever.

Abraham's nephew, Lot, was so much different from Abraham in this respect. Do you remember how hard it was for the angels to persuade Lot to move out of Sodom? The angels finally had to take him by the hand and lead him out of the doomed city. Most people that debate

with God for very long, finally make the wrong decision. Hesitation, when God speaks is, extremely dangerous. Abraham believe God. There is never any semblance of victory for those who question God instead of believing Him.

God had promised Abraham that his seed should be as the stars of the heavens in multitude and as the sands of the seashore, countless, and that it would come about through his son Isaac.

Now God says, "Take thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and go into the land of Moriah and there I will show you a mountain where I want you to build a stone altar, bind your son hand and foot and lay him on the altar, take a knife with you and slay your son, for a burnt offering, as you would slay a lamb for sacrifice, and then cremate him, till there is nothing but ashes left. Then take the lonely trail back down the mountain without Isaac. And come back home to your wife and neighbors and reveal to them what you have done.

Abraham had made some awful mistakes in the past and the consequences were fearful. He had submitted to an illegal wife, Hagar, and had an unlawful son, Ishmael. This resulted in the godless Arabs and the false religion of Mohammedanism.

Abraham had doubted God, and felt that what God had promised, He could not fulfill. Sarah was old, besides having been barren all her life and Abraham's faith in her having this child, broke down. Human reasoning is not always safe. Abraham reasoned, since Sarah had had no children when she was young, how could she hope to have any when she is old? He thought God had made a promise that he could not keep. So, he and Sarah talked it over and landed on a scheme to make God's promise come true. They didn't know that God does not work by scheming, but by miracles.

When Ishmael was born, I can see Abraham bringing that baby boy proudly to God as much as to say, "Lord, I have solved your problem." But God knew that was not the way he had planned and intended to work it out. It is easy for us to get anxious and to get ahead of God, and mess things up -- hopelessly sometimes.

Did Abraham say, "Lord, you must mean Ishmael. You must mean for me to take Ishmael to the mountain."

"No," says God, "I mean Isaac."

The writer tells us in the book of Hebrews that Abraham believed in God so strong that he believed that if he should take Isaac's life that God would raise him from the dead. Actually, from the Scriptural account, Abraham didn't argue a bit, or even hesitate. Back in Abraham's early years he would have wavered, but he had learned to believe God without a question. Did you know you could get to the place in your commitment to God, so that you will obey him explicitly and not waver? You will be controlled by an inner certainty instead of outward circumstances.

Back at the time Ishmael was born, and Abraham was a hundred years old, his faith wavered. But now that he is 125 years old, his faith is undergoing a far more severe test, and yet his faith is stable. He didn't hesitate a moment when God told him what to do. It is wonderful when

we reach the place of so stable a faith as that. Obedience strengthens faith. Disobedience destroys faith.

God could not have asked of Abraham a harder thing than the slaying of his most loved son -- the son of the promise. Abraham could have taken his own life easier. He was an old man now. He had lived a long and eventful life. It would not seem so tragic if his life should suddenly be snuffed out. But Isaac, (25 years old) in the vigor of his youth -- that is a different matter.

No doubt Abraham would rather have surrendered his gold and silver and flocks and herds, and even life itself, but those are not the things God asked for. Abraham did not hesitate to obey God. Those who hesitate too long, and debate the issues, and rationalize, usually back out in the end. Prompt obedience is the only safe kind of obedience there is.

We can see Abraham, arising very early in the morning, stand by the bed where Isaac lay sleeping. There yonder, on a shelf lay a razor-sharp knife that Abraham must take with him to Mt. Moriah. There is no indication from the record of a tempest of indecision raging within the old patriarch. He arose early and prepared for the long journey. Hardly had the sun peaked over the Judean hillside, when, with Isaac and two young men, servants, Abraham was on his way. Sarah was not informed as to where they were going, what was planned, or when they might return. He didn't tell anyone the secret of his journey. It might not be safe to tell anyone. Multitudes of people have missed it forever by talking too much to the wrong person, and they got talked out of minding God. The only ones that can hope to make heaven are those who get up at once and strike out when God speaks. If the loved ones want to come along also, fine, but for one who heard the call of God, to wait until some loved one is ready, is often fatal to both.

A few years ago in our pastorate our best Christian lady was most promising a Christian for several years, and was very valuable to the church and to the kingdom.

She never did get sanctified, however, and suddenly made up her mind that she would drop out of church until such time as her unsaved husband should come and get to God. No amount of persuading changed her mind. We tried to tell her that it wouldn't work that way. She was sweet about it, but firm. Within three years he got in with another woman and she lost him. Divorce, and remarriage on his part followed. Did she then come back? No. By now she had lost all desire to serve God. Later she took up with someone else and moved away.

Abraham appears not to have consulted Sarah. Perhaps he feared she would have talked him out of it. Hell is full of people who allowed others to talk them out of obeying God. It is dangerous to get in with people that are not minding God.

When I was but a lad, starting out to serve God, my father tried to influence me. One of my sisters tried to influence me. A cousin tried to influence me. They were full of advice, but had I followed them I would have wrecked my life as they wrecked theirs. Abraham didn't have one soul he dare confide in -- not even Isaac. Even Isaac, a 25 year old young man, didn't have the slightest idea where they were going for worship, other than that it was on a three-day journey away. If you want to find God's will for your life, you will not be able to listen to everybody, and sometimes not to anybody.

We have seen folk that listened to people that led them far astray and then refused to listen to holy people who could have led them back into the will of God. When one asks spiritual advice of too many people he will wind up in confusion.

If Abraham had consulted the best people he knew, they would have told him they never heard of God asking such a thing of anyone. He must have known that there was not a person in the world that would have thought he was doing the right thing.

Each night on the journey as Isaac and the two servants lay down for the night, Abraham must have been awake for a long time, thinking. Peradventure an angelic messenger might appear before him and notify him that all God wanted was obedience, and that the deal was off, and he could return home. But no such angelic messenger appeared.

Abraham had learned that prompt obedience is always the best. Morning after morning he would arise and go on. It is a million times better to mind God and let some things in your life die, than to let them live, and crowd Christ out of first place. I can assure you of that.

Night after night the great patriarch looked up into the stars and remembered God's promise, "As the number of the stars, so shall thy seed be . . . In Isaac shall thy seed be called." Now -- "Take thy son, thine only son whom thou lovest, and offer him as a burnt offering on a mountain that I will show thee of."

Lord, what are you trying to do to me? Could I mistake that voice? No. He had heard that voice too many times in the past to mistake it. Have you, my friend, heard that voice too many times to mistake it? The third day wears wearily away, and Abraham knew that before another nightfall the awful, bloody sacrifice, followed by the fires of cremation will be over -- mission completed -- and he will be on his way home. Did you think if you obeyed God that everything will be easy? Not always, my friend.

James said, "Think it not strange concerning the fiery trials that are to try you is though some strange thing has happened unto you. But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings: That, when His glory shall be revealed ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

We have spent considerable time studying into the character of the great patriarch. -- Now let us take a closer look at his son, Isaac. What sort of a young man is he. These Sunday School pictures and stories of Isaac being a little boy are not true. He was approximately 25 years old, a picture of health, at the peak of his physical strength. Do not think that Abraham, at the age of 125 years, could have bound that youth hand and foot and laid him on that altar if Isaac had resisted him. Isaac, even at that age, had so thoroughly learned to obey his father, especially in matters of religious convictions, and even more so when his father said, "God has commanded this." The last thing in the world that Isaac would have dreamed of doing would have been to have questioned his fathers leadings from God, much less resist him. The utter submission of that young man is marvelous. There he lay, totally submissive, on the altar that he had helped his aged father build. There stood the great patriarch of faith with that awful knife lifted -- the knife, no doubt, that had taken the life of many a sacrificial lamb in days gone by. Isaac had to see that blade held in mid-air

over his heart, awaiting the plunge. His non-resistance took the limit of consecration. Abraham was not about to change his mind. He had it settled years before. Price or no price, he meant to obey God and leave the results with Him.

By now, Abraham had given up hope that an angel might appear and stop him. He must have taken a final glance around him before sinking the knife into Isaac's body, but no angel appeared.

Suddenly, not in the last minute, but in the last moment -- that familiar voice calling, "Abraham, Abraham, hold it! Now I know that no matter what I ask of you, you will unhesitatingly obey me."

Abraham had been waiting for three days and nights for an angel visitor, but he has not thought of looking for a ram for the sacrifice. He had dreamed of a possible release from the assignment, but he had not once thought of a miraculous substitute. God so often makes plans so very different from our expectancy, if we keep our hands off and allow Him to take care of it. And the way God works things out, in the long run, is always far better than the way we would have done it. But remember, God does not always terminate all of the harrowing experiences of life in this manner. Sometimes He does take the one closest to our heart. Sometimes He does allow things to happen that would seem a catastrophe, were they not providential.

In the case of His own Son on Calvary's cross there were those standing there who must have thought that Elias would slip out from behind a cloud and come down and save him. But no Elias came! Others who had seen many of his miracles thought surely, He will come down from the cross. But he didn't do it!

This experience of Abraham teaches among other things that if we withhold anything from God, we will be sorry. Any slightest resistance will bring tragedy into our lives.

A young man of our acquaintance, called to preach, reared in one of the most precious Holy Ghost atmospheres one could ask for was determined to marry a certain young woman. His father plead with him clear up to the evening before the wedding. The youth had strong feelings that his father was right, but it had gone too far, and he felt he could not back out at so late an hour, so he went through with it. What came of it? Tragedy, chaos, and it is still to this day raging. That young man didn't realize that it is better to get out, of a burning building the last minute than to not get out at all!

-- CONCLUSION --

What have you in your possession or in your heart that you have not surrendered to Christ? Whatever it is, it will keep you out of heaven, because it is an idol if it keeps Christ from having first place in your life.

Is your beloved Isaac on the altar?

"Is your all on the altar of sacrifice laid?"

Your heart, does the Spirit control?
You can only be blest and have peace and sweet rest,
As you yield Him your body and soul."

-- E. A. Hoffman --

* * * * *

SERMON 22

PAUL FOUGHT WITH THE BEASTS OF EPHESUS

(I Cor. 15:32)

I doubt if I could bring you a more serious message than the one I have on my heart tonight.

As always, I am aware of the fact that I am preaching to eternity-bound souls, and it carries an awesome responsibility.

It does no good to preach to people who have made up their minds they are not going to walk in the light and pay the price to obey God.

People like that have been sprinkled throughout my ministry, dropping in and dropping out for more than fifty years.

It also does little if any good to preach to people who have immuned themselves against the penetrating of light. A preacher can give them truth, but until the Holy Ghost turns on the light, they will not see the light.

Nevertheless we preach many times to those that we are sure will not listen. They have followed that pattern for years, and like concrete, they are immovably set. There is no way to activate cement, once it is set, and I have seen souls just as set.

From the days of the garden of Eden, the devil has made it his business to infiltrate the ranks of the Holy, and place the mark of the beast, in miniature, within the heart of every child of Adam's race, and keep it there if he can.

Satan's purpose is to put this "fifth column" within the heart of every person, and every church, if he can.

That carnal, beastly spirit, that Paul encountered in Ephesus, causes people to reject light, trample the blood, and eventually cross the dead line.

The beasts of Ephesus were not those bears and lions in those great iron cages, starved until their ribs stood out like cradle knolls under the hide, glaring hungrily out through those metal grates where the Christians were huddled, kneeling, praying their last prayer, while thousands of

bloodthirsty spectators sat on the bleachers, row upon row, anxious for the show to start, and for those iron grates to open and for the Christians to be torn to shreds.

Those are not the beasts Paul was talking about. Those animals didn't know any better than to do what they were doing. They had no conscience -- no fear of God -- no compunctions -- no moral inhibitions and no sense of guilt. This is sometimes true of hungry animals, but we've all heard of people like that.

All that those poor animals in the arena knew, was -- we are hungry and here is food.

The beastly spirit that Paul was referring to, was that carnal jealousy, and hatred, and rebellion against God, that Paul found in Ephesus, within the heart of some of the Ephesian people. Some of the most beastly people within the church are those people who have had a good Holy Ghost experience until they, for some reason, went back on God and into sin.

I. THAT CARNAL, BEASTLY SPIRIT HAS THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DEADLY BOA CONSTRICTOR. He coils himself around the Body of the church. He tightens the deadly squeeze, tighter, and tighter, His irresistible coils around the heart of the church.

Little by little the lungs of the church collapse, and her breathe is gone. Limp and lifeless she falls to rise no more. Oh, Satan's deadly boa constrictor, has destroyed her millions and dragged them down to eternal hell!

II. THAT CARNAL, DEADLY SPIRIT IS SEEN AGAIN IN THE HABITS OF THE DEADLY RATTLER. He lurks and waits his chances, and as soon as the Holy Ghost moves into a church, he coils and strikes, sinking his deadly fangs into the heart of the church, and injects his deadly, carnal venom.

Soon, spiritual death begins to overcome one member after another. and the Sweet Holy Ghost is grieved away and is gone, and the church takes on the atmosphere of the Morgue. The carnal beast has finished his deadly work. Few groups ever recover when this happens.

III. THEN, THERE IS THAT BEASTLY MAD DOG SPIRIT OF MURDEROUS REVENGE.

When my dad was about eighteen years old, quick and strong, they had a dog they called Brownie. Brownie was quite temperamental at times, when provoked.

One evening, after supper, as his sister, Mable was in the pantry washing and drying the supper dishes, my dad sat just inside the dining room-pantry door, and Brownie was lying behind the old Acord heat stove.

Suddenly Mable said to her brother, Royal, Brownie was a bad dog today, he bit one of the children. Dad glanced at Brownie and saw him roll those murderous eyes toward the pantry where Mable was nearly ready to leave her work and come into the dining room.

He felt something was about to happen so he was ready for any emergency. The second Mable stepped into the room, old revenge leaped for her throat. He no doubt would have killed her but Dad, her brother was instantly as ready and as quick as the dog and sprang between her and the dog and broke his charge. Dad beat old Brownie into submission.

To prove My Dad at that early age believed in the Death route, when the chores were done and breakfast was over, he fastened a leach to Brownie, took a shot gun and shovel and went to the woods up behind the house. He tied old Brownie to a small tree while he dug a grave. When it was ready he laid the shovel down and took up the gun and when he aimed it at Browned, for the first time it dawned upon the dog what was coming. He had seen that gun overtake rabbits and squirrels many times. Dad made quick work of old Brownie, tool off his collar and leash and rolled him into the grave and covered him up.

That mad dog spirit, lunges straight for the throat of the church when offended. When that awful spirit of revenge, when it gets into the church there is no telling where it will stop. Wasn't it King Saul who murdered six of his own sons when a fit of carnal rage hit him?

When that awful spirit breaks lose in the heart of a Spirit-filled church, destruction and devastation follow, unless that heart, where it lingers, is either purified or removed from the group. Paul said to have no fellowship with such works of darkness.

IV. THEN THERE ARE THOSE SILENT, HIDDEN, destructive, beastly termites of carnality that usually, sooner or later gets to work in the foundation of the church.

They are small, always hidden from sight, but though they seem to be so small, they can destroy buildings that way many tons. They work silently and relentlessly, honeycombing the foundation of the church, undermining confidence, destroying love, making influence ineffective.

Many a Godly minister has been ruined, as well as some of the most saintly lay persons, by the type of carnality that works under cover and never comes out into the open, as their numbers multiply and the devastation goes silently on.

Years ago in New England a woman got it in for her pastor and told of the worst kind of conduct morally and made herself a victim of his advances. The church moved in and he had no defense, with her word against him, so the church took his credentials and put him out of the ministry. He worked as a laboring man until he was along in years and retired from his labors. About that time this woman was dying and she got frightened because of what she had done and confessed that there was not a word of truth in what she had accused him. She had the blood of this good man's ministry on her hands to the judgment. Who would want to stand before God with all of that on her record for probably as much as 40 years or more.

It is amazing what can go on under cover, out of sight, like termites working, until something happens to bring it all to the light.

When we lived in Tennessee years ago there was a bridge over Kentucky Lake. This was on the road between Paris and Clarksville, Tenn. THE big steel bridge, with a built up causeway

on both ends was a total of about a mile long. At one time men were painting the bridge. When they were about to spray they stopped the cars from both ways to keep them out of the overspray. One of those traffic-stops caught my wife and me on the bridge along with a lot of others. We were held there long enough so that many got out of their cars and trucks and stood around and talked. It was a perfect day. There wasn't the faintest breeze. The water in the lake below was as smooth as a mirror. I noticed a raft down there floated by big oil drums. On the backside of that raft was a small box-like enclosure with a door that was open. Leaning up against this little enclosure, was a young man in a chair tilted back against the little cabin. He looked as though he might be asleep. I asked a truck driver, standing there, what that man on the raft was doing. It looked like he was doing nothing. He said, "He is fishing for mussels. they are little shelled animals and they get those shells and ship them to Japan for making buttons for jackets. I wondered what mussels were like and how could he catch them when it looked as though he were doing nothing. Suddenly he arose, went over to a winch which I had not noticed and cranked up a 50 gallon drum full of those mussels. He up-ended the barrel and piled them on the raft and put the drum aside. Then he went to the winch and brought up another. Then I noticed a rope ladder going down into the water, and a man's head and shoulders appeared. He had an oxygen tank on his shoulders and a respirator to provide him oxygen while he was down there The truck driver explained it all to me as I watched the proceedings.

Then, being a preacher, I made an application. Just look what was going on down there and the surface was as placid and tranquil as you could imagine. And I thought, in some homes, what awful storms are raging and continuing all the way to church, but when they come in, hand in hand, smiling until it was all covered up. I have a tape recording when David Wilkerson told of a terrible fight he and his wife had just before they were to go to a general gathering, filling a huge auditorium in California. But when they walked in, hand and hand, smiling it was all covered up. Nobody could dream by the beautiful surface what- had just been raging behind the scene. He said on the tape, "We had learned how to do it." (Lest I leave this story where David did not leave it -- let me say that before he got through preaching that night, God came, miraculously healed his heart and his wife's cancer that had her nearly dead. During the message they spotted each other, him in the pulpit and she clear back in the balcony and they both knew the great miracle had happened that healed their home that had been on the rocks for many months. He testified clearly that the healing was for life.)

Back to the termites. I stood in a large church one time which had a beautifully varnished floor, and it was without a blemish until the spike heel from one of the woman went down through that hard wood floor as though it were as a sponge. The termites had eaten so close to the surface, still undetected until someone broke through and exposed them. It is a common thing for the termites to keep the surface looking as beautiful as ever, but they are relentless eating away at the foundations.

As the beastly termites eat away at the spiritual foundations of the church, the gloom deepens, The Holy Ghost departs and Angels weep. The Bible says, "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do? And the termite attack is always aimed at the foundation. Wherever they work, faith in one another is destroyed -- Love for one another is destroyed; (we have seen a lot of that effect in our own ranks) The pleasure of worshipping together and being

together is destroyed -- and the romance of praying together is destroyed In fact, every good thing that the Holy Ghost has charge of in the church is destroyed.

V. AND THEN COMES THE SELFISH, HEARTLESS, BEASTLESS SPIRIT OF THE SKUNK.

Dear Old Brother Cherry, now deceased, told me one of the habits of Mr. Skunk that I want to use with this message of the beastly carnal spirit that gets into the Church of Jesus Christ. We need to watch for it, and guard against it.

A hive of bees in summer somewhat resembles a spiritual church where every one works beautifully and enthusiastically together, and gathers the sweetness. Oh, how hard the bees work all summer. When they use a hollow tree in the woods for their hive, and when there is an opening near the bottom of the tree. Mr. skunk comes along and sprays his hateful spirit up in where the bees are working, and out they come. He stands there and gobbles up the bees as fast as they come pouring out. He eats until he is about as full as he can get and then waddles off to his den to sleep.

Of course the bees that come back from the clover field, laden with beautiful honey. They find out what has happened and they abandon their beautiful tree-hive.

The next day Mr. skunk comes back, crawls up into the hollow tree and eats honey until he can't hold any more. He keeps that up until the whole store of honey the bees were planning to keep themselves alive through the long, cold winter is destroyed.

Then Mr. skunk waddles off looking for another bee tree to make his attack. Wherever that carnal, beastly, destructive, devastating spirit prevails in the church everything spiritual dies, and the spirit of my poem, "THE DRIFT OF THE CHURCH" takes over.

Wouldn't you think eating so much honey would sweeten Mr. skunk, and change his nature, but it doesn't do a thing for him. He still has his two white streaks up his back, saved and sanctified, but the rest of him is as black as hell.

VI. THEN COMES THE MERCILESS, BEASTLY SPIRIT OF THE EAGLE9 GRASPING FOR POWER OVER THE WEAKLING MEMBERS ON THE CHURCH BOARD WHO DARE NOT SPEAK UP, BUT LET HIM HAVE HIS WAY EVEN TO MURDERING THE PASTOR WHEN HE WANTS TO, OR SOME OF THE MORE SPIRITUAL MEMBERS.

He gets what he wants and he doesn't care who gets hurt or how much the cause is damaged.

He soars silently, watching every move that is made by the pastor or any of the people -- watching every sign of progress in the church, every suggestion, every decision of the church board -- every sign of progress.

Suddenly he swoops down like a saber jet. Watch him rise, screaming into the sky with a helpless victim in his cruel claws, bleeding, soon to be devoured by himself and his young ones in their nest High up away from any interference.

As he ascends the white wool of the little lamb turns red. Mr. Eagle has done his damage, he has hurt the flock, grieved the shepherd, got what he wants, had his way -- that is all that matters to him.

He has broken the ranks -- invaded the flocks. He is never satisfied until he gets back to do it again, or to another little flock, to repeat the same devastation.

When a person with that spirit gets in, he is a killer of the lambs, a hater of the Holy Ghost, a lover of self, a defeater of the purposes of God-- a saboteur of the program -- a Benedict Arnold' in the heart of the church. When he has done his worst, he goes to another one and starts in again.

VII. THE NEXT I WILL MENTION IS THE BEASTLY TOM CAT SPIRIT IN THE HEART OF THE CHURCH.

I was born and raised on a farm and I know how Mr. Tom Cat operates. He loves to catch mice for the sheer fun of it, when he is not hungry. But he plays a game to show his strength above that of the little mouse members.

He does not kill the mouse outright, at once, but he keeps him alive on purpose to have fun torturing him. Paul and John both said, that when the hateful spirit of the old Tom Cat spirit, it is better to rout it out, than to let it completely destroy the whole church.

Mr. Tom cat keeps all of the little mouse members scared to death. Things might be going hard against the spiritual progress of the church, but none of the little mouse members dare speak up.

He hides and watches the little hole until one of the little mice come out. and suddenly he springs like a flash of yellow fire, and the little mouse is hurled out into the middle of the floor, dazed for a time.

Finally he partially recovers and starts painfully crawling toward his hole. Mr. Tom cat sits and grins until the little cripple is nearing his escape, and then, again he springs like lightning and hurls his victim back onto the floor, hurting worse than before'. He plays with the poor helpless little creature until he is completely exhausted. He lays helpless, and the fun is over.

Sometimes the victim is the pastor. No wonder he has a nervous breakdown. He can't get out from under the eyebrows of the church Lees -- The church bully, and he is browbeaten until he either winds up in a mental ward or moved away, sometimes to badly damaged emotionally and nervously and mentally to take another charge.

He loves to put the pressure on until the pastor and his wife and some of the members are not able to sleep when they go to bed exhausted.

Vote him out? No! not for a while at least. That would spoil the fun. He might go to another charge where the people would love him and make it easier and more pleasant for him, and give him a chance to recover before he expires. When he is partially recovered from the last blow, hit him again!

If the pastor has a massive heart attack that was not at all necessary if he had been treated right, that's no problem for the old Tom Cat spirit. Just dig another grave, act sorry -- he would have to die eventually anyway.

The pastor loses members and loses courage, and the percentages drop down, and he looks like a failure in the ministry. Even if he finally dies with a crushed spirit and a broken heart, but that is all right, My Tom Cat has had his carnival! And if he gets another chance he will do it again.

VIII. THE NEXT IS THE OLD REVENGEFUL, KODIAK BEAR SPIRIT.

Those bees are so dangerous an experienced bear hunter never shoots to kill. He shoots to cripple. Because as the bear is charging him he is on all fours and coming fast and lumbering. until the hunter can't hit a vital spot and he keeps coming.

But the hunter's only hope is to break one of his front legs. Then he will stand up and slow down considerably and expose his chest, giving the hunter a target and, can blow his heart or lungs out.

The service men in Alaska are warned to leave those bears alone. If one gets in the road, don't try to push him out of the way easily. He will tip your car over and dig you out and make quick work of you.

One time two soldiers with a jeep saw, way down a long slope an old Kodiak by the river catching fish to feed her two cubs. They had a machine gun and they fired. They wounded the old mother and that is the worst thing they could do. She sensed where it was coming from and started up the hill. That young man with his machine gun drilled holes in her all the way up the hill and they never did stop her. She tipped the jeep over and killed both of the young men and laid down under a bush and bled to death. Someone discovered the scene and put the story together.

When that Kodiak spirit gets into the church it works practically the same way, even though the circumstances are different. The pastor can open fire with his gospel machine gun, loaded with scriptures and flawless logic, but once that carnal, Kodiak spirit is wounded, it keeps coming until the pastor, his influence and his health are destroyed.

The old Kodiak spirit is revenge at any cost. When that battle rages the church becomes dead -- holy Ghost conviction becomes dead, and the spirit of revival becomes dead.

Last of all the old Kodiak dies also, and the eulogies come out in the Missionary Revivalist -- And the caption -- "Promoted to glory' ,when actually he is in hell before the undertaker embalms his body.

But, back to the story of the two soldier boys: The two cubs that were left behind learn to rustle food for themselves and they grow up just as mean and dangerous as their mother was. That Kodiak spirit never dies until the Holy Ghost moves in and makes conviction so strong and long-lasting that the OLD MAN that Paul speaks of dies.

IX. THE LAST ONE I WILL MENTION IS THE OLD TIMBER WOLF SPIRIT IN THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD

He is the one that hides in sheep's clothing, with a beautiful prayer and testimony, and an occasional present for the pastor, which is not at all sincere, but is designed to try to disarm the pastor and get him under his control, (Oh how sweet he can seem to be!)

This old wolf spirit kills for the sheer fun of killing, and when he gets into the flock, there is no telling where this awful spirit will stop.

We are told that these timber wolves multiply faster than hunters could kill them off. Someone found a way of eliminating them. They would use what they call a sticking knife such as they stick pigs with, sharp on both edges. drill a hole in the ice and put the handle of that knife into the hole with the blade sticking up. Then he puts blood on the blade until it freezes on. When the wolf smells that blood he goes after it until he cuts his tongue. Then, when the warm blood begins to show up he goes wild and licks worse and worse until his tongue is in ribbons. Then he starves and bleeds to death. Eventually other members of his pack do the same thing, with other knives planted at other spots, until the timber wolf becomes extinct.

There is a cure for all of the carnal traits that Paul mentioned in his epistles, and many more he did not mention, as the "BEASTS OF EPHESUS." NO DOUBT There are thousands upon thousands of birds, beasts and fish that can be used to represent old hateful carnality, but to make this point clear, we mention but nine. You may create as many more as you like. Worms and bugs could be added to an almost endless list.

Most people, when the right circumstances come up, will never cease to be a problem in the church until old Carnal self is crucified, dead and buried, and stays that way -- not all of them do!

You may be a pain to yourself and to everybody else and do not want deliverance? Amen!

* * * * *

SERMON 23

IF EVER YOU ARE ALMOST DISTRACTED BY DISCOURAGEMENT, READ THIS SERMON. PERHAPS IT WILL HELP OVER A HARD PLACE UNTIL THE STORM SUBSIDES. -- L.S.B.

THE FOUR TREES

Seeking a king

Judges 9:8-15

"The trees went forth on a time to anoint a king over them; and they said unto the olive tree, Reign thou over us. 9 But the olive tree said unto them, Should I leave my fatness, wherewith by me they honour God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees? 10 And the trees said to the fig tree, Come thou, and reign over us. 11 But the fig tree said unto them, Should I forsake my sweetness, and my good fruit, and go to be promoted over the trees? 12 Then said the trees unto the vine, Come thou, and reign over us. 13 And the vine said unto them, Should I leave my wine, which cheereth God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees? 14 Then said all the trees unto the bramble, Come thou, and reign over us. 15 And the bramble said unto the trees, If in truth ye anoint me king over you, then come and put your trust in my shadow: and if not, let fire come out of the bramble, and devour the cedars of Lebanon."

This Scripture has heavy political overtones which had deep significance in the days of Joshua, but we will ignore all of that and simply draw some spiritual significance out of this portion of scripture.

The four trees which Joshua used to illustrate the point he was trying to make, were the Olive tree, the Fig tree, the Vine and the bramble, and in that order.

When they consulted the Olive tree, she was too busy taking care of a divine assignment from God to listen to them at all.

What are you doing that is so important that you would pass up an opportunity of a lifetime.

I'm in the oil business. Besides, every assignment from God is vastly important, even if it doesn't seem important to others.

Should I forsake my call and covet a promotion from men? The oil from the olive tree was very important to those people in those old days. They used it internally and externally and eternally.

Don't you want to be the greatest tree in the world, and all of the multiplied trees in the world will bow and scrape to you, and your name will go down in history, and generations will never forget how important you were. Many a ship with great potential has been wrecked on the rocks of personal ambition.

When a preacher panics and phones the Moderator and says, "Bro. Moderator, come quick. Sister Wagwag is on the war path and Bro. Grouch blue up over practically nothing and he is going to quit a hunt up a different church where he will be recognized for what he is really worth.

Both of these two people have quite a lot of influence and are pulling a lot of sympathy and I am in the middle, and Bro. Moderator, if you can't get here within hours I will have to apply for an opening on some other district. I have never been treated right anyway. I got wind of a church meeting they have planned for a week from tonight at the home of Bro. and Sis. Slippery, You've got to get here Mr. Moderator.

One time a superintendent said to me, "All I do any more is to go from one church to another and fight, fight, fight, fight, fight. No wonder the poor man got so lean in his soul, with a diet like that, that he got involved in such a manner that the Church had to take his credentials and put him out. This was an actual case.

On the other hand another pastor called his moderator and said, "Bro. Moderator, get down here just as quick as you can. This crowd have been fasting and praying for months, and suddenly the fire broke out and sinners are coming and altar calls with great victory and rejoicing goes on every night until real late. I have never seen such burden for souls as is on these people. And some of the hardest cases are breaking down and praying through an bringing in others, and Bro. and Sister Carnal have prayed through and shouted all over the church for the last three nights. Oh! Bro. Moderator, you just got to get over here an get into this. You will never be the same again!

Mr. olive tree don't you want to be important. Nobody will ever notice what you are doing.

"That doesn't bother me. If I shut down my business and betray my assignment from God there won't be any oil for the sacrifices on the altar, and no anointing oil for the spiritual needs of the sick ones, and no oil for the wounds that might never heal if there were no oil. Also, the oil represents the Holy Spirit and things get awfully dry in the services where there is an oil shortage and the Spirit of God withdrew. We simply can't neglect the oil business. All churches need a lot of oil. So do the homes and places of business.

There will be lots of friction where there is an oil shortage, where personalities of all different make-ups and backgrounds, and likes and dislikes. What would the Good Samaritan do if his oil was spent and not replaced. It takes frequent outpourings and; mighty renewings of the Holy Ghost to keep things running smoothly where even sanctified people worship together. (2 Cor. 4:16; Titus 3:5)

No, I would have to step down to accept your proposition. I would begin to put the emphasis in the wrong place. I would be out of the Lord's will for me. It would be sad to have money in the treasury and no oil in the cruise. I am willing to help all I can, but I'll have to turn down anything that interferes with the oil business. Some would jump at the chance to be more important. But I know when the oil gets low, friction builds up and the services in the church become a dread instead of a pleasure.

The olive tree wasn't even slightly interested. He had one passion and that was to keep the oil flowing.

Dear Ones, please do major in the oil business. Professors of holiness, your prayer and testimony will get awfully stale if you don't keep the oil of the Holy Ghost pouring into your soul.

Friction wears machinery out. It wears preachers out. It wears the people out. it kills the anointing and unction. it make for boredom in the services.

"No" said the olive tree. "I don't want to be important. I've been in the oil business and I am spoiled for anything else. I am immensely happy because I am doing the work the Lord called me to do. If I became king, I know I would not be this happy for very long. I might lose the unction and would have to substitute zeal and enthusiasm⁹ and try to cover up for my loss. I'm sorry, but I can't accommodate you. I am happy right where God put me. I'm not in the limelight, but this oil is one of the most important things in the world. Good by, thanks for your visit, I appreciate your confidence in me. But I don't think I would make a very good king anyway. I am not adapted to such as that."

SO THEY RELUCTANTLY WITHDRAW AND CONSULT THE FIG TREE. They found him too busy also. He said, "I'm in the fruit business. Paul gives us a list of the fruits in my basket, and I would have to give up this which answers my call and satisfies my heart.

I have the fruit of Love -- holy love in my fruit basket -- the kind of love that beareth all things and hopeth all things and endureth all things. The kind of love that suffereth long and is kind. The kind that never faileth.

I also have joy in my fruit basket and millions are eating daily from my basket of love and joy. If I forsook all of this to be the king I would be the most lonely tree in all the world. I might lose this joy unspeakable and full of glory, and I eat from this basket while I am feeding the hungry hearts of the world.

The other very important fruit in my basket, to go with the love and joy is peace. Peace that passeth all understanding and full of glory.

If I should fail to keep my fruit basket full, then spiritual starvation would set in, and I would be a victim as well as those I have been feeding. Oh, I must not forget the longsuffering and gentleness and goodness. My conscience would kill me if I went off to be the king and failed Christ, the bread of life in my basket. Keeping this fruit basket is a full-time job. I am sure being king would hurt the fruit business. That would never do!

I don't want God's saints to get weak for lack of spiritual food. I want a bumper crop of these luscious fruits every season. I have known some fruits to be sour, but not these. I have also knows some to be wormy and eventually spoil, and hardly fit for the pigs, but not mine. Mouldy fruit? Never! Its freshness is renewed with fresh visitations of the Holy Ghost every day.

I don't want to become side-tracked. I might get to putting the emphasis in the wrong place. I might get to feeling my importance, and what wouldn't that do to my spirit. It would be torture to wake up to the wrong choice I made and find myself locked out of the sweet will of God, and unable to get back, and have things as they were. I have seen some souls that literally locked themselves out of the perfect will of God. I don't want that to happen to me. Promotions have ruined a lot of greatly anointed preachers. The worldlings are starving, and feeding on husks, and so are most of the professed Christians. But once they eat from my fruit basket, they will never be happy with the husks that the swine do eat.

Satan fooled Eve with the wrong kind of fruit, but he couldn't fool Jesus. O' Israel, with your Godly heritage, your bloody sacrifices, your mighty prophets, your terrible backslidings, your awful reproaches, your pitiful captivities -- you thought it would be all right to feast from the devil's basket, but you learned your mistake after it was too late. In eternity I would never forgive myself if I went out of this fruit business and starved the people and myself as well, because I eat also from my own basket that the Holy Ghost guards faithfully and fights off the birds

I know you will never understand, but He knoweth the way that I take, and when he has tried me I will come forth as gold. I have the assurance that if I am faithful unto death He will give me a crown of life.

SO, THEN THE SEEKERS FOR A KING, AGAIN, TURNED AWAY FRUSTRATED. THEY HAD FOUND TWO THAT KNEW THEY WERE IN THE WILL OF GOD AND NO POSITION ON EARTH IS BETTER THAN THAT.

So they turned to the vine, thinking, the clinging vine that couldn't even stand alone, without another to cling to.

The Olive tree would have been their first choice -- she is so stately and impressive. The fig tree would have been definitely the second choice, but still might make a model king, with what fine qualities as he has.

As the Olive tree represented the old Patriarchs, and the fig tree, always referred to Old Israel, so the vine stood for Jesus Christ. He acknowledged He was not the most glamorous of all the trees -- there was no beauty that we should desire him, but if the more impressive trees won't have it, well perhaps the vine will do.

So they made the proposition as glamorous and got Satan to help them with the biggest promise that was ever made to anyone -- all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them.

But the vine too was in a business far greater than being the king of the trees. He chose to hang on a tree, because the wine represented his blood. He alone knew the deepest significance of the blood which the wine represented. The devil failed to keep Jesus from going to the cross and shedding that blood. The motley crowd challenged him to retain what blood He still had and come down from the cross, and he could have done it, but he knew why He had come into the world and the cross with its symbol of atonement was not a surprise to Him.

The vine, also would not be deterred from his producing of his purpose for which He had come all the way from Heaven. He would not be deterred from his purpose, a divine assignment to which he agreed before he ever left heaven.

The solicitors need not wonder if He would be willing to be king. He would, but not then. Many of His followers wanted him to be king then and there and overthrow the Caesars under which they were chafing, but He knew where tie was going and why, and He could not be turned aside by any decoy.

He must produce that wine that cheereth God and man -- the New wine of the Kingdom! Where would we be if Jesus succumbed to either pressure or enticement. The soul-thirst of the finally repentent will be torture enough in hell forever.

Hear Him! Caesar can have his throne, power, fame and wealth, but I have a message to deliver, a hill to climb, a crown of thorns to wear, a call from the dying millions to answer, a death to die, and a hell to visit and keys to retrieve. I also have a cup to drink, a cup of mortification, of suffering to the extreme. He suffered on the cross a million times more than the thieves that were crucified with him, because he bore in His bosom the sin and guilt load of every person that ever had lived or ever would live, infants included! The suffering of the two thieves wouldn't "hold a candle" to His suffering.

He made the "new wine of the kingdom, still available to all who will meet the conditions. For all who partake of this new wine of the kingdom, no service is drudgery -- No suffering is complained of as being too much or unfair. There is romance for these forgiven ones, cleansed by that fountain that was opened in the house of David for sin and uncleanness. Each one can rejoice even in great tribulation as Paul did. There is romance even in suffering with him, knowing we shall reign with him forever!

It is a wonderful fountain. "Millions their thirst now are slaking, but it never runs dry!"

The Vine did not have to hunt for the answer. He didn't have to pray about it! It was settled before the first earthly king ever sat on a throne. "No way! said the one who had declared, "I am the vine and ye are the branches. There is too much at stake! There may be ten thousand easier roads through this world, but I'm taking this one, and don't you try to coerce me to change my mind. I'm going to be influenced just like a fence post would, if you were talking to it.

And the solicitors left again, shook up worse than the two previous visits. They had heard what He said, and they knew He meant it.

BUT WHAT WOULD THEY DO NOW? THERE WOULD BE NO FURTHER TREES TO CONSULT! But wait a minute, there is one more, if you could call it a tree.

And if the Olive tree stood for the Patriarchs, and the fig tree stood for Old Israel, chronologically, and the vine represented the "fountain opener," then the only possibility left would be the little bramble bush representing the Gentiles. So they hunted him up, and put the same proposition to him.

The Vine which had power to topple the Caesars, the Charlemagnes, the Napoleons, the Alexanders, the Wilhelms, the Hitler's, the Carl Marxes, the FDR's, the Lenins the Darwins, the Wellhausens, the John DEWEYs, the Sigmund Freuds, the Maynard Keynes, the Soren KIERKEGAARDS AND multiplied missions of others! -- even the Castros!

Yes, He could have toppled them all, and He did; one by one as he turned the pages of history.

But what about the bramble? How did he respond to the proposition? You can guess by now! "If you want me to be your king; let all of the trees in the world come and hide in my shadow!" Poor little scrawny thing -- didn't have a shadow! -- especially with the sun shining straight down from the sky.

I have always been the nearest thing to a bramble bush in the ministry. I remember a man, Hank Reeves, business manager at Eastern Nazarene College who confronted me one day when I was in the Academy (high school), and he said, "Boardman, you are going to be a preacher, aren't you? I agreed. Then he continued: "Well, I'll tell you something, you'll never make it." He left the school later on and took a pastorate, for a very short time, and took another, contracted Pneumonia shortly after that and died. But after more than sixty years, I'm still preaching. Talk about a bramble bush well, enough said.

They propositioned the poor little bramble, and painted the picture as glamorous as they could. You can be our king. All of the other great trees are too busy and too much absorbed in their own ministry. But surely, you are not too busy! You are sitting around here in this old sun-bleached desert. You never grew a fig. you never produced a drop of oil. or a cup of wine, or a stick of lumber. You are good for nothing, Nobody wants you. No beauty, -- only a twisted, gnarly, ugly. You are the last resort -- you've got to take the position. No more desert. No more blistering sun. You will abide in a gorgeous palace, servants to wait on you -- live in luxury -- admired and renounded by all of the multitudes of others. Surely, you would not turn down wealth, fame, and all that goes with it, after what you have had to put up with out here in this desert.

Here is the answer they got. I will take the position if all of the trees in the world will hide in my shadow. They caught on!

Why would you turn down such a promotion. You've never amounted to a hill of frostbite beans. You never will amount to anything out here in this desert. You never preached a camp meeting. You never have amounted to anything in the world and never will.

How did you imagine he responded? "That's what you think! I have kept fires burning in the ovens of the housewives, to bake their bread throughout the centuries, past. I was right here when Moses walked by and God put a fire in my branches and His voice came out of my roots and hit that man and completely altered the course of history. When God wanted to kindle a fire in the bosom of that man that would never go out, he overlooked the great cedars of Lebanon, and the great olive orchards, and the grape vineyards stretched out as far as the eye could see, and He

came out here in the driest, deadest place on earth, and with that fire and that voice, changed the history of the world.

Don't tell me, I'm no account, and I never amounted to anything.

But what are you doing now?

"Just standing here where God Put me." Wurmbrand (Sp.?) said, "A man really believes, not what he recites in his creeds, but only the things he is ready to die for."

John Tiethoff, little bramble bush -- but since the first shall be last and the last shall be first, you may be one Christ will choose to return to this world with Him when He sets up His Millennium Kingdom. Some of the big olive trees and Fig trees have already had their reward. God can sometime use little bramble bushes in positions that even the giant red woods of California would never fit into.

But what are you doing now? We don't see any fire or hear any voice..

"I'm just here. Maybe God will find another use for me some day. God made me like I am and planted me here. And I'm not going to run off. He may need me again sometime.

So, Mr. Bramble bush turned them down also.

Some time later a mean-looking man came along. He paused and looked at that bramble bush and thought to himself, "I think that will do." So he put on some heavy gloves. He wanted someone else to hurt with the thorns, but he didn't want to get hurt. He had a huge sharp knife in his hand. And he cut that little bush down and dragged it away. He was later seen cutting off the branches and weaving them into a crown for someone's head.

Our Saviour was nailed by His hands and feet to the cross and the cross lifted and dropped into a hole that had been made on the ledge The crown of thorns was placed on his precious head. Where is our thorny, despised bramble bush now? TALK ABOUT A PROMOTION

The greatest olive or fig trees could not share in this promotion! But as a result -- There is now a fountain filled with blood, drawn from Immanuel's veins; and sinners *[plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains!]

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*[The remaining words of this sentence were supplied here by the Transcriber, and, unfortunately, the text of the closing part of this message was garbled in transmission over the Internet and thus lost.]

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SERMON 24

SUBJECT--THE WICKED ONES

TEXT --"GOD IS ANGRY WITH THE WICKED EVERY DAY" (Psalm 7:11).

WHAT THE WICKED ARE COMPARED TO IN THE BIBLE:--Tares Matt.-13:38; Chaff--Matt. 3:12; Corrupt trees Luke 6:43; Wells without water 2 Peter 2:17; Troubled sea Isa. 57:20; Whitened sepulchres Matt. 23:27; Foolish builder Matt. 7:26; Deaf adders Psalm 58:4; Scorpions Ezek. 2:6; dogs 2 Peter 2:22; Goats Matt. 25:32.

GOD HATES THEM Psalm 5:5.

GOD'S SPIRIT WITHDRAWS FROM THEM Gen. 6:3

THEY HATE THE RIGHTEOUS Matt. 5:11-12

THEIR WORSHIP IS OFFENSIVE TO GOD (Isa. 1:11-15; Amos 5:21)

THEIR SACRIFICES ARE AN ABOMINATION TO GOD Prov. 15:8.

THEY ARE CHILDREN OF THE DEVIL. Acts 13:10

THEIR PRAYING IS AN ABOMINATION TO GOD Prov. 28:9.

THEY HAVE NO HOPE OF HEAVEN Eph. 5:5.

THEIR DESTINY IS EVERLASTING FIRE. Mt. 25:41.

THEY HAVE BEEN SUFFICIENTLY WARNED Rom. 1:20

WHO ARE THE WICKED ONES?

I. THE FIRST WICKED ONE WE MENTION IS THE DEVIL.

"I write unto you young men because you have overcome the Wicked one" (I John 2:13).
"Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one and slew his brother" (I John 3:12).

".. .he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not" (I John 5:18) "...the tares are the children of the wicked one" Mt. 13:38).

Satan is the originator of wickedness and rebellion against God. The first carnality that ever existed found its origin in his own heart. The first pride was satanic. before he was cast out of heaven he started a war which caused one third of all of God's holy angels to be cast out with him. Like Absalom, he got a tremendous following, but compared with the length of eternity, he didn't last long. When he became wicked, then all of his followers become wicked if they at one time had

had God in their lives, otherwise they are just plain sinners. Sinners have never known God, but the wicked ones are those who have known God, but have fallen from that state.

II. ANOTHER GROUP OF WICKED ONES ARE THE DEMONS.

"Then he goeth and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in, and dwell there, and the last state of that man is worse than the first" (Luke 11:26).

All demons at one time were in good standing with God. All fallen angels are in the same plight as demons. All humans who die in their sins are no better off. They will be the companions of devils and demons forever in hell. The reason they won't take warning is because the devil has them hoodwinked. (2 Cor. 4:4).

III. A THIRD GROUP OF WICKED ONES ARE THE APOSTATE JEWS.

"...even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation" (Matt. 12:45).

"A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas." (Matt. 14:4).

This was the crowd that said, "Let him be crucified.... his blood be on us and on our children. They got what they asked for and they are going to get a lot more. When Titus destroyed their temple in 70 A.D. many of these apostate Jews threw themselves into the burning inferno, not realizing that they were heading out into a lake of fire that is a million times worse. Jesus said the fires of hell affect both body and soul and burn forever. They will be confined in the place where the beasts and false prophets are and will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

IV. A FOURTH WICKED ONE IS THE ANTICHRIST, AND ALL OF HIS WICKED ASSOCIATES.

"And then shall that wicked one be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming" (2 Thess. 2:8).

"For many deceivers are entered into the world.. This is a deceiver and an antichrist" (2 John 7).

The antichrist spirit is in control of every individual that rebels against Christ in his heart. This hateful, antichrist spirit is graphically pictured in Mark 3:6 in a bitterness from those that try so hard to destroy Christ that they finally destroy themselves. "And the Pharisees went forth [in the spirit of the antiChrist] and straightway took counsel with the Herodians against him, how they might destroy him. (Mark 3:6). Anyone who has any rebellion in his heart against Christ is listed with the wicked ones.

V. A FIFTH GROUP OF WICKED ONES ARE FALSE PROPHETS, LYING PREACHERS AND SATAN'S MINISTERS -- ARCH DECEIVERS.

"Behold, a whirlwind of the Lord is gone forth in fury, even a grievous whirlwind: it shall fall grievously upon the head of the wicked" (Jeremiah 23:19).

Christ denounces the Pharisees. They were wicked because they wanted to kill him.

(John 8:40). They were so wicked Christ told them they were of their father the devil: (John 8:44).

In Jer. 23:16-27 WICKED prophets are vividly depicted, and in verse 19 they are referred to as "WICKED". Verses 30-32 goes on to describe them.

The WICKED are the arch deceivers. (Matt. 24:5, 23-26; Mark 13:6; 21-22; Lk.21:8; Jer. 14:13-16.

VI. THE SIXTH GROUP OF WICKED ONES ARE CHRIST'S OWN SERVANTS WHO HAVE FALLEN BACK INTO SIN, AND STILL CARRY ON AS USUAL IN THE CHURCH AND STILL PROFESS EVERYTHING IN THE BIBLE, BUT HAVE LOST GOD OUT OF THEIR HEARTS AND WON'T ADMIT IT! SOME OF THEM HAVE MADE VERY SUCCESSFUL PASTORS AND EVANGELISTS AND DISTRICT AND GENERAL LEADERS OF THE CHURCH.

"And his Lord answered and said unto him, Thou WICKED and slothful servant, Thou knowest that I reap where I sowed not, and gathered where I have not strawed; etc.. .Cast the UNPROFITABLE SERVANT into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matt. 25:30). (These false ones mingled and labored with the true ones for years while classified, by Christ Himself) as wicked ones by recording angels.

"Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desirest me; etc. (Matt. 18:32).

"And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matt. 25:30).

"And he saith unto him, out of thine own mouth will I judge thee thou WICKED servant (Luke 19:22). They served Christ with a wicked heart for years.

"But them that are without [sinners in the world] God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that WICKED person: (I Cor. 5:13). NOTE: the wicked are in a different classification from the sinners out in the world. The wicked are often in the church (running it) and are mingling with the righteous, and pose as true servants of - Christ, which they are not. Ananias and his wife were extremely wicked. They could not be classified as sinners out in the world. They even dared to lie to the Holy Ghost. Paul spoke of "spiritual wickedness in high places (Eph. 6:12).

I present these Scriptures to show you the personalities you will be associated with in hell if you get a good, saved and sanctified experience and then lost it, or grieve God out of your life and resort to WICKED practices.

Backsliding often begins subtly and gradually, while wickedness follows and results. Notice all of the wicked mentioned in the Scriptures at one time had a good relationship with God. Satan, himself, was created holy, but he turned away from that holy state and rebelled against God.

The demons, wherever they came from (there are different theories), but it is clear that they are wicked spirits that one time had a good relationship with God.

The APOSTATE JEWS also at one time, lived righteously before God, but by the time Jesus came they were far gone from the ways of righteousness and God.

The FALSE PROPHETS in the Scriptures are always pictured as having been true to God, to begin with, but they turned from the holy commandment (2 Peter 2:21).

Drifting is very dangerous, and yet, so prevalent. We see evidences of it through every channel of the church world. We fear that in the "ranks of the holy" there are many more that are not where they ought to be spiritually than the ones that are where they ought to be.

When the best and holiest of God's children become lax in their devotional life, and disobedient, and lose the keen edge from their experience, and give in to the pressures of the world and worldly peers, and cowardly fail to take their stand -- the time comes when they completely lose out. Many times they keep on professing, and laboring in the duties of the church. Eventually they wind up in the ranks of the wicked.

It is very dangerous to fall into the habit of careless treatment of the Holy Ghost. The best advice one can give is this: if you slip the least bit in your walk with God, confess it at once. Do not try to live on with a guilty conscience. Make all wrongs right as far as possible. Pray your way back into the favor of God, and be more careful from then on.

When one loses the Holy Ghost out of his life, the unclean spirit that had been cast out, comes back and brings seven spirits, more WICKED than himself, and they enter into that man's heart, and make him worse than he was before he ever was saved in the first place (Matt. 12:43-45). He who once was pure and holy became wicked.

Brother H. B. Huffman used to preach from this passage something like this:

There is the spirit of a false profession, and the spirit of touchiness (super sensitiveness), and the spirit of retaliation and revenge, and the spirit of surmise, suspicion, jealousy and slander. Then follows the spirit of downright meanness. I have known people that had backslidden from holiness to treat other Christians worse than a sinner would treat an unwanted, stray dog--with hateful downright meanness. Then comes the spirit of dryness and apathy. Finally all desire to get back one's lost experience is gone. No desire to get straightened out ever comes back. Such an one's appetite for the sacred experiences of the past hold no relish. There is now, nothing left but

undisturbed indifference. No sermon will reach him now. No light penetrates the darkened mind and soul. It is easier to get in this hopeless state than most folk realize. When they never feel guilt or remorse for wrongdoing, and never receive Holy Ghost conviction from God, they likely have lived through the wicked state into apostasy. Their conscience doesn't seem to bother them any more, no matter how cruelly and hatefully they treat God, and God's anointed. When one gets in that hopeless condition, if he is a preacher, he may preach as good as he ever did, and have altars lined with seekers. Many are fooled by that ability into thinking they still must be right with God. But since the gifts and callings of God are without repentance, God may never withdraw the gift and calling which He bestowed. One who has a gift and calling from God, may be in a backslidden state and have sin in his heart and life, and preach masterfully, while he has no valid hope of heaven for himself.

People who become genuinely converted and truly sanctified, receive those experiences instantly, but usually when they lose those blessings, which they received instantaneously, they lost gradually. No one ever becomes lukewarm on their way up the spiritual scale. They always experience lukewarmness on their way back down from a glowing experience to coldness and deadness.

"What I say unto you, I say unto all, watch" (Mark 13:37). Watch the spirit you manifest under pressure. Watch the way you feel toward those who have wronged you. Watch your motives. No one can keep right with wrong motives. Watch your ambitions lest they become carnal and worldly. Watch your prayer life and your relish for the Word of God. Watch your Sunday habits. Do only the most necessary kind of work on the Lord's day, and certainly no buying and selling. Keep your tithe up to date. God will never bless people who don't tithe. Stay awake and alert to the wiles of the devil.

"Therefore, let us not sleep as do others, but let us watch and be sober" (First Thess. 5:6).

Dr. J. B. Chapman years ago was holding a meeting out in the state of Washington, and staying in the home of a rancher. The man had migrated from the East some years before, and had taken out a homestead in the state of Washington. But he had no water for his stock or his household use. So he always had to hitch his mules onto a tank wagon every so often and drive five miles for a load of water. This went on for some time until he longed for an easier way. So he went to the bank, mortgaged his place, and borrowed the money, secured a well-driller who drilled down until he struck a vein of water. He installed a pump in that shaft and did very well until the long, hot summer came on, and the well went dry. Then again, he had to hitch onto the tank wagon and drive again, that long, hard trip for a load of water. (Incidentally, that is the way vacillating Christians live.) The time came when he got tired of that. He went again to the bank and borrowed more money, and engaged the well driller again.

He drilled down through more layers of rock until he struck the deeper stream. This time when they pulled their drill out, they had an artesian stream of water which went several feet into the air, and never let up summer nor winter. It resulted in a stream of water that ran down into a hollow and created a pond. Dr. Chapman asked the man how long that perennial stream would flow. The man pointed to the staggering heights of the mountains in the distance that were

snow-capped summer and winter, and said, "Just as long as snow falls on that mountain in the night, and melts during the day, and just as long as water runs down hill, this stream will flow."

The application is obvious. To many professed Christians have to drive for miles now and then to a revival meeting, to get a little splashover from someone else, hoping that might keep them alive spiritually. Others do quite well after an outstanding time of praying through, then along comes a long dry spell and they dry up again. But, thank God, there is the Holy Ghost filled ones of whom Jesus spoke when He said, "But whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: but whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

St. Paul spoke of "spiritual wickedness in high places (Eph. 6:12). The Pharisees were terribly wicked at heart (Luke 11:39; Matt. 22:18). Anyone, who through jealousy, or for a grudge, or ambition, tries to destroy another's ministry or influence, is very wicked. Anyone who passes judgment, audibly, on an uninvestigated rumor is doing wickedly. Some have wicked ambitions; wicked hands; wicked hearts; wicked motives; (Ezekiel 22:27; Matt. 7:15). You have heard of "wicked devices; wicked scheming (I Tim. 3:13) wicked ways; wicked servants; wicked spirits; wicked conversations (2 Peter 2:7)

A little study will reveal that the "wicked" and the "apostate" are very nearly synonymous terms in the New Testament. The apostates got that way because they allowed themselves to become wicked, but the wicked ones, either are already apostates, or they eventually will be unless they turn back to God and humbly repent before they go too far.

The great difference between the wicked and the apostate, is that the wicked ones seldom turn back to God, and the apostate can't.

If a saved person remains carnal too long he is most apt to backslide and become wicked. Therefore the best guard against becoming wicked is to receive and maintain a sanctified heart. The best insurance a sanctified person has against losing his sanctification and salvation, and eventually losing his soul, is to strictly walk in the light which God has given him; obey the checks and promptings of the Spirit, and maintain a romantic devotional life of Bible reading, prayer and obedience to God.

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THE END