

**SERMON:** Am I an Encouragement to others?  
**TEXT:** Genesis 15:1, *After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."*

- APPLICATION:** What do we learn from this passage?
1. **We learn about God's Precepts:** *"the word of the Lord came to Abram."* God's Word is like, bread, water, fire, power and seed. It nourishes our soul and lifts our spirit.
  2. **We learn about God's Peace:** *"Do not be afraid."* God's Word and Will are like a City of Refuge.
  3. **We learn about God's Protection:** *"I am your shield."* Read Psalm 91:1-2.
  4. **We learn about God's Prize:** *"your exceeding great reward."*  
There is no reward greater than God's reward!

**CON:** In times of trouble, where could I go but to the Lord? Read Philippians 4:19.

**SERMON:** What is Truth? Pilate asked, "What is Truth?" (Jn. 18:38)  
**TEXT:** John 8:32; 14:6; 17:17. Cf. 1 John 1:6,8; 2:4.  
**Intro:** Has God spoken? Cf. Hebrews 1:1-4. YES!

1. **Objective Truth Exists (John 8:32):** *"and you shall know [the] truth!"*
2. **Absence of Truth Imprisons (John 8:32):** *"and the truth shall make you free!"*
3. **Application of Truth Releases (John 8:32):** *"and the shall make you FREE!"*
4. **The Word of God IS Truth (John 17:17):** *"thy word is truth!"*
5. **Christ Embodies all Truth (John 14:6):** *"I am the way, truth and life!"*

- SERMON:** Beware of Immorality! **TEXT:** Genesis 34:7
1. **The FAULT of Immorality:** *"he had done a disgraceful thing in Israel."* Psalm 32:3-4.
  2. **The FOLLY of Immorality:** *"by lying with Jacob's daughter."* Hebrews 13:4; 1 Samuel 13:13.
  3. **The FORBIDDEN of Immorality:** *"a thing which ought not to be done."* 1 Cor. 6:18; Genesis 39:9.

**Con:** Let us protect our good reputation by living a godly life! May we always strive to remain pure and true!

*Pulpit Preview* is sent for the purpose of sharing sermon ideas & useful illustrations. It is sent via email each month. Editor: Mark N. Posey D.D., preaching minister for the Austinville Church of Christ (2833 Danville Rd. SW Decatur, AL 35603) since 1994. Please send all comments to—[pulpitpreview@austinvillecoc.org](mailto:pulpitpreview@austinvillecoc.org) or address above. **Thanks, MNP.**



# PULPIT PREVIEW

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**SERMON:** When HE leads me I will follow!

**TEXT:** Psalm 23:1-6

**Intro:** Psalm 23 is known and loved globally: *"The Lord is my Shepherd."* These words are not only beloved, but they introduce the psalm of God and the God of the Psalms. They are powerful, revealing and beneficial because they show the relationship forged between Almighty God and His human creatures. The Good Shepherd leads His flock...

1. **The right Power (vs.1):** *"The"* reveals that God is the One and Only true God. *"LORD"* reveals that God is our Master. *"Is"* - He was, is and will always be God. *"My"* reveals the personal relationship we should have with God. *"Shepherd"* - A good shepherd cares, feeds, guides and protects the flock.
2. **The right Path (vs.2-3):** You will never stray if you always follow the shepherd. Following Jesus is easy, because he *"left us an example so we can follow in His steps"* (1 Peter 2:21). The word "example" (*hypogrammos*) means, "a writing copy, including all the letters of the alphabet, given to beginners as an aid in learning to draw them" ([www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org)). The path is clear, narrow & available!
3. **The right Peace (vs.4a):** The sheep enjoy a peaceful existence in the presence of the Good Shepherd. We have peace with God through Jesus (Rom. 5:1); it even passes comprehension (Phil. 4:7). There is no price that can be put on peace that enables you to pillow your head at night and sleep in Christian Confidence!
4. **The right Protection (vs.4b):** The sheep experience wonderful comfort from a safe and secure environment. The Good Shepherd is ready, willing and able to protect from all harm. His "rod and staff" symbolize stability and security.
5. **The right Provisions (vs.5):** The sheep lack nothing; all needs are met. The Good Shepherd anticipates the needs and makes provisions for all arise, be it food, shelter or safety, no need goes unmet.
6. **The right Place (vs.6):** The sheep have direction through life (*"surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life"*) and destination in eternity (*"and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever"*).

**SERMON:** Christ is our example!

**TEXT:** 1 Corinthians 11:1, "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ."

Intro: The word "example" is found three significant times in the NT. Notice how Christ is our Example:

1. Christ is our Example in **Service** (John 13:15).
2. Christ is our Example in **Conduct** (1 Tim. 4:6,12).
3. Christ is our Example in **Living** (1 Peter 2:21).

**Con:** A good example is worth following and will be very influential.

**SERMON:** Jesus is better by far!

**TEXT:** Hebrews

1. He is better than angels (Heb. 1:4).
2. He is better than Moses (Heb. 3:3).
3. He is better than Aaron (Heb. 7:11-22).
4. His New Covenant is better than the Old (Heb. 8:6-13).

**Sermon:** NOW, MORE THAN EVER!

**Text:** Ephesians 2:13

1. Repentance, NOW more than ever before (Acts 17:30).
2. Baptism, NOW more than ever before (1 Peter 3:21).
3. Salvation, NOW more than ever before (2 Cor. 6:2).

**Conclusion:** NOW is vitally more important than later!

**SERMON:** Qualities of a good follower!

**TEXT:** Matthew 4:19

Intro: A follower of that which is right is one of the most powerful forces in the world!

1. A strong faith – John 10:26,27.
2. A relentless fear – 1 Samuel 12:14; 15:10.
3. A confident diligence – 1 Timothy 5:10.
4. A right spirit – Numbers 14:24.
5. A consistent willingness – 1 Kings 14:8.

**Con:** PRAYER: Lord, help me to follow Your will and always walk in Your way! Psalm 119:105

**SERMON:** Repentance, a command for ALL!

**TEXT:** Acts 3:19

Intro: "When our Lord & Master Jesus Christ said repent, he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance." Martin Luther (95 Thesis), October 31, 1517 – Wittenberg Germany.

1. MEANING of Repent: change in all areas of life. Cf. Matt. 21:28-29; Luke 15:11-31.
2. MOTIVATIONS to Repent: Godly sorrow (2 Cor. 7:9-10), God's goodness (Rom. 2:4); God's longsuffering (2 Pet. 3:9); God's judgment (Acts 17:31).
3. MUST of Repentance: God commands it NOW (Acts 17:30). God's commands are non-negotiable.

**Con:** When should you repent? Repent TODAY!

**SERMON:** Set Sin Aside!

**TEXT:** Col. 3:5. Cf. Judges 16 – Sin will always...

1. Take you farther than you wanted to go (vs.4-20): **Samson Tempted!**
2. Keep you longer than you wanted to stay (vs.21): **Samson in Bondage!**
3. Cost you more than you were willing to pay (v.30): **Samson Dying!**

**Con:** Sin will BIND you, BLIND you and GRIND you (vs.21). We must Set Sin Aside!

**SERMON:** The Heart of the Matter!

**TEXT:** Matthew 13:3-9

1. The Closed Heart (v.4): this heart is un-receptive to the gospel message.
2. The Casual Heart (v.5-6): this heart is shallow and can't maintain the gospel message.
3. The Crowded Heart (v.7): this heart is too busy and has not time for the gospel message.
4. The Compliant Heart (v.8): this heart is receptive of the gospel message and bears fruit.

**Con:** What kind of heart do you have?

**SERMON:** The WORD of LIFE!

**TEXT:** 1 John 1:1-2

Intro: Who is The Word of Life in regard to John's Epistles? What confirmation does John give?

1. The Word of Life was audible heard.
2. The Word of Life was physically seen.
3. The Word of Life was intently studied.
4. The Word of Life was tangibly touched.

**Con:** The Word of Life can be known because He has revealed Himself unto us! Cf. John 1:1-14

**SERMON:** What is NEW about the new life in Jesus Christ?

**TEXT:** 2 Corinthians 5:17

1. A New Standard – Jesus is our standard (Phil. 1:21).
2. A New Hope – Hope makes things bright (1 Peter 1:3).
3. A New Outlook – Our outlook expands to eternity (Heb. 12:2).
4. A New Incentive – We must press on (Phil. 3:13-14).
5. A New Purpose – We must please Jesus (2 Cor. 5:14-15).
6. A New Obligation – We must be found faithful (1 Cor. 4:2).
7. A New Reward – We look for new heavens and new earth (2 Peter 3:13).

**SERMON:** What to DO in Church?

**TEXT:** James 1:21-22

1. What to do BEFORE the Sermon (v.21a): "lay aside all filthiness and overflowing of wickedness."
2. What to do DURING the Sermon (v.21b): "receive with meekness the engrafted word."
3. What to do AFTER the Sermon (v.22): "be ye doers of the word and not hearers only."

**SERMON:** The Church of Jesus Christ!

**TEXT:** Matthew 16:18; Romans 16:16

Intro: The above phrase is not a denomina-

tional title but a declaration of ownership. Thus...

1. Christ's Church is a BODY (Eph. 1:22-23).
2. Christ's Church is a BUILDING (Eph. 2:19-22).
3. Christ's Church is a BRIDE (Eph. 5:22-25).

**Con:** Thank God for the glorious Church of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**SERMON:** Speak where the Bible speaks—the power of ONE word!

**TEXT:** James 2:12, "so speak and so do as they that shall be judged by the Law of Liberty."

1. For Paul, it was "faith" (Galatians 2:20).
2. For James, it was "works" (James 2:24).
3. For Peter, it was "hope" (1 Peter 1:3).
4. For John, it was "life" (John 10:10).

**Con:** Paul said, "this one thing I do!"

**SERMON:** Our Wonderful Savior

**TEXT:** Hebrews 2:14-17

1. The Cradled Savior (Mt. 2:1-6).
2. The Crucified Savior (Heb. 2:14-17).
3. The Conquering Savior (Lk. 24:1-7).
4. The Coming Savior (Acts 1:11).
5. The Copied Savior (1 Pet. 2:21).

- Justin Sivley

**SERMON:** 12 P's about the CROSS!

**TEXT:** Galatians 2:20

1. Promise – Genesis 3:15.
2. Prophecy – Isaiah 53:1-12.
3. Place – Mark 15:22.
4. Picture – Genesis 22.
5. Purpose – Luke 19:10.
6. Power – 1 Corinthians 1:18.
7. Price – Acts 20:28.
8. Peace – Ephesians 2:14.
9. Prayer – Luke 23:34.
10. Preciousness – 1 Peter 1:19.
11. People – Luke 23:13-43.
12. Preaching – Galatians 6:14.

**Con:** The Cross—the central event in history!