



SERMON: MARRIAGES ARE MADE IN HEAVEN! TEXT: Matthew 19:4-6
Introduction: The home is the backbone of society. Marriage is the most basic and influential unit in the world. The Biblical pattern for marriage works; thus, when a man and woman pledge their love for life, God is witness every time whether invited or not. Therefore, what God has joined, man must not separate. Consider...

1. **Christ must be central – Colossians 3:1-4.** This is the grand key to marriage. As Christians we are already married to Him (Rom. 7:4). However, when Christ is the center of our marriage He graces our marital love!
2. **Cross must be focal – Ephesians 5:23, 25.** Marriage is about dying because that is what Christ did for His bride. In marriage a single man and a single woman die to self and the two become one. Thus, one plus one equals one! But, the ceremony is only the beginning of death! A Christian marriage is a lifelong practice of death...of giving over not all you have, but all you are!
3. **Covenant must be priority** – marriage is a covenant before God, according to **Malachi 2:14**, “she is the wife of thy covenant.” It is a life-long commitment sealed with an oath before God; thus, every marriage enjoys two major benefits: security & growth. Security implies dependence: you can always count on each other. Growth implies advancement past the status quo; it involves growing in all areas.
4. **Commitment must be powerful – Hebrews 13:4.** Commitment is an outgrowth of covenant. Commitment is a powerful word and principle and should never be taken lightly. The way we show commitment is by what we put on. I.e., Colossians 3:14 – put on love! The truth is, marriages which depend on being “in love,” fall apart – why? Love is an emotion and emotions are often unstable. But, those that build their marriage on commitment will make it and demonstrate love!
5. **Character must be penetrating – Ephesians 5:25.** Christ was committed to the church to the point of death – now, that’s character. Character is who we are & who we are demands integrity. A husband that treats his wife well while loving & respecting her will be blessed. Women grace our world with beauty, tenderness & kindness. A loving wife is a blessing. The marriage of a loving man and loving women that strive to maintain Christian character in the home will be blessed in this life and the next.
6. **Cooperation must be consistent – 1 Peter 3:7.** When a married couple is headed in the same spiritual direction, serving the same Lord and abiding by the same standard of moral conduct, they will aid each other in reaching heaven as their eternal home. They must be “heirs together of the grace of life.” A spiritual cooperative contribution to a marriage will help the spouse get to heaven.
7. **Caring must be bountiful – Ephesians 5:28-31.** The time honored phrase “the two shall become one flesh,” is descriptive of oneness. Thus, if flesh is ever torn, that causes pain and when two are united and have difficulties pain occurs. However, a deep sense of caring and regular practicing of it strengthens marriage and sweetens the relationship.

Conclusion: Recent statistics caught my attention – 1 in 3 marriages end in divorce, 1 in 50 marriages (where the ceremony is in a church building) end in divorce, and 1 in 1105 marriages (who follow the Bible) ends in divorce. This just goes to show that when the Bible is our guide in faith and practice, life is MUCH better and eternity is MUCH brighter.

Adapted – Mark N. Posey

SERMON: Great Questions for Life!
TEXT: Mark 8:34-38

1. What are your present motives? TAKE UP YOUR CROSS!
2. What are your future aims? LOSE YOUR LIFE!
3. Where are your eternal values? GAIN YOUR SOUL!
4. What is your eternal goal? GLORIFY ALMIGHTY GOD!

SERMON: The Power of His Resurrection! OR Resurrection Great!
TEXT: Phil. 3:10; 1 Cor. 15:14-19

1. The DIVINITY of Jesus rests on the resurrection—Rom.1:4.
2. The SOVEREIGNTY of Jesus rests on the resurrection—Rom. 14:9.
3. Our JUSTIFICATION rests on the resurrection—Romans 4:25.
4. Our REGENERATION rests on the resurrection—1 Peter 1:3.
5. The SECOND COMING rests on the resurrection—Acts 17:31.
6. Our ULTIMATE resurrection rests on the resurrection—Romans 8:11.
7. The JUDGMENT rests on the resurrection—Acts 17:31.

Conclusion: We serve a risen Savior!

SERMON: Abounding Workers!
TEXT: 1 Corinthians 15:58

- Introduction:** Abounding (*perisseuo*) - to exceed a fixed number of measure.
1. Abounding work is willing work - Matthew 20:1-16.
 2. Abounding work is fervent work - Romans 12:11.
 3. Abounding work is priority work - Matthew 6:33.

SERMON: I AM Resolved!
TEXT: 1 Corinthians 15:58

- Introduction:** New Year's resolutions are important, but they need RESOLVE to last longer than February!
1. "my beloved brethren" - I will not neglect doing my part for the Lord.
 2. "be ye steadfast" - I will not quit serving the Lord.
 3. "unmovable" - I will not move from serving the Lord.
 4. "always" - I will not cease serving the Lord.
 5. "abounding" - I will not give less than my all in serving the Lord.
 6. "not in vain" - I will have not regrets in serving the Lord.
 7. "therefore" - I will be motivated by the Resurrection of Jesus in serving the Lord.

SERMON: The Dangers of Sin!
TEXT: Judges 16:21

1. Sin will BIND you - the Philistines "took him" and "bound him."
2. Sin will BLIND you - the Philistines "put out his eyes."
3. Sin will GRIND you - the Philistines put him in prison and forced him to "grind."

Conclusion: Each one of these illustrates sins danger to our life and soul.

Pulpit Preview is sent for the purpose of sharing sermon ideas & useful illustrations. It is sent via email on a bi-weekly bases. 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 or address above. **Thanks, MNP.**

SERMON: The Wonderful Words of Life!**TEXT:** 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Intro: Ronald Reagan said, "Within the covers of the Bible are the answers for all the problems men face." So true! It is our guide in all matters of FAITH and PRACTICE. Psalm 119:89 says, "Forever, O Lord, they word is settled in heaven." According to the text, Timothy had been taught the Bible from an early age. It guided him through life and illuminated his way. It will do the same for us; however, there are certain facts about the Bible that should always enthrall us. For, if the Bible had never been written, we would be most poor and desolate; however, people of all walks and stations of life have been made better because it was written. John Locke once said, "The Bible is one of the greatest blessings bestowed by God on the children of men. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture for its matter. It is all pure, all sincere; nothing too much; nothing wanting." Notice what we learn from Paul as he wrote to Timothy about the "Book of Books."

1. **The Bible contains Holy Scriptures (v.15a).** Literally, "sacred letters." Let us never be guilty of mistreating the Bible or handling it inappropriately! Its message is "consecrated for sacred use." Regardless of the form used: printed page, digital or memorized; the message should be reflected in our rightly handling of The Wonderful Words of Life!
2. **The Bible leads us to Salvation (v.15b).** Humanities common problem is SIN; thus, our greatest need is the FORGIVENESS of sin! The Bible reveals the mind and purpose of God – i.e., Redemption of Humanity (Luke 1:68). God has provided for us in Jesus Christ reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:17-21) – our deepest need has been met! We are not saved by our mental accent to the contents of the Bible; we are saved by Grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8). God gives us His grace (2 Cor. 9:15) and we must in turn "receive" that grace by a living and obedient faith (2 Cor. 6:1; Heb. 5:9; Matt. 7:21). God's promise of eternal life is true and trustworthy, revealed and contained in the Bible (1 John 2:25); therefore, we can grow in confidence and assurance – Blessed Assurance (1 John 5:13). Thank God for The Wonderful Words of Life!
3. **The Bible is true and dependable (v.16a).** The phrase "inspired of God" is literally "God breathed." God actually gave the writers their message (2 Peter 1:21). Cf. 2 Samuel 23:1-3; Jeremiah 1:9; Micah 3:8; Acts 1:16; Romans 1:16; 1 Cor. 14:37; 1 Thess. 2:13; et al. As Paul clearly stated: "For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you..." (1 Cor. 11:23). Remember, prayer is how we talk to God; the Bible is God talking to us! Praise Him for The Wonderful Words of Life!
4. **The Bible is profitable in all areas of living (3:16b).** Lexicons use such words as "useful, beneficial, and advantageous" in defining the word "profitable." The true reverence of the heart and life for God is profitable (1 Timothy 4:8); also, good works of God's people are good and profitable to men (Titus 3:8). Thus, Scripture is profitable, useful, and beneficial in setting forth God's truth by which one's heart and life are governed. Paul gives Timothy a quartet of truths upon which to settle his life: doctrine (What is right!), reproof (Which is not right!), correction (How to get right!) and instruction in righteousness (How to stay right! The Wonderful Words of Life are alive and powerful!
5. **The Bible equips us for service (3:17).** There is no magic formula, no short cut to spiritual maturity. As one faces a need in spiritual development, the words of Scripture underscore the importance and in turn guide in the attaining of this level, to be followed by the next level of maturity. Thereby the fully equipped man, ready unto every good work, is shaped & molded into Christ. The Wonderful Words of Life transform!

Conclusion: Scripture, God's inspired word, guides us in becoming & being the people of God. May we ever cherish and profit from it in life and trust it in death. It is our standard, our compass & our guide. **MNP**

SERMON: "A Word Fittly Spoken is Like Apples of Gold..."**TEXT:** Proverbs 25:11

1. The Right Words (Mat. 12:36-37; Prov. 29:20; 11:30; Mat. 11:28-30).
2. The Right Voice (Prov. 15:1; 27:14; Col. 4:6; Mk 16:15-16; Gal. 6:1).
3. The Right Impression (Matt. 5:13-16; 10:16; 12:18-21; Isa. 53:7; Matt. 26:59-64; Eccl. 3:7; Matt. 27:11-14; 1 Peter 2:11-12; 21-24; 3:15-16).

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SERMON: The All-Sufficient Gospel!**TEXT:** Acts 20:24

1. The Gospel is PERFECT (complete in all its parts and ways): James 1:25.
2. The Gospel is POWERFUL (*dynamis*, in English is dynamite): Romans 1:16.
3. The Gospel is PENETRATING (it goes to the heart of every matter and issue): Hebrews 4:12.
4. The Gospel is PROFITABLE (beneficial, gainful, enriching): 2 Timothy 3:16.
5. The Gospel is PERMANENT (enduring, lasting, dependable): 1 Peter 1:25.

SERMON: Don't Follow the Crowd!**TEXT:** Psalm 1:1

1. Don't listen to what the crowd says: Blessed is the man who doesn't follow the counsel of the ungodly.
2. Don't do what the crowd does: nor stands in the way of sinners.
3. Don't go where the crowd goes: nor sits in the seat of the scoffer.

Conclusion: Old saying, "Misery loves company!" Also, sin loves company! Thus, we must NOT follow the crowd because the crowd is often wrong.

SERMON: Paul: picture of Commitment!**TEXT:** 2 Timothy 1:12

1. Paul was committed to prayer - Phil. 1:3; Rom. 10:1; 1 Tim. 2:1-2.
2. Paul was committed to purpose - Phil. 1:21, 25.
3. Paul was committed to purity - Phil. 2:5; 1 Thess. 4:7; Rom. 12:1.
4. Paul was committed to persistence - Phil. 3:13-14; Acts 14:21-22.
5. Paul was committed to positive thinking - Phil. 4:8, 13.

Conclusion: Phil. 4:9 - Paul was not perfect, he was purchased; purchased by the Blood of Jesus.

SERMON: God's Promise to Givers!

TEXT: 2 Corinthians 9:8, "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work."

1. Blessing: "all grace."
2. Duration: "always."
3. Adequacy: "all sufficiency."
4. Result: "all things."

Conclusion: God blesses those that sacrificially give!

SERMON: The Work of the Lord!**TEXT:** 1 Corinthians 15:58**Introduction:** The work of the Lord is...

1. Evangelism - proclaiming Christ and His salvation to the world - Mk. 16:15-16.
2. Benevolence - sharing with those in need - Gal. 6:10.
3. Edification - building up the saved by Bible study, prayer, worship - Eph. 4:12.

SERMON: The Power that works in Us!**TEXT:** Ephesians 3:20-21

1. The presence of God—abiding.
2. The plenitude of God—abounding.
3. The power of God—achieving.