

SERMON: *The Perfect Law of Liberty!*

TEXT: James 1:19-27. Let God's Word...

1. Enter Your Life (1:19-21).
2. Rule Your Life (1:22-25).
3. Move Your Life (1:26-27).

Con: Let the Word of God dwell in your heart, mind and soul!

INTERESTING: Faithful attendance with the saints is not only commanded, but influential. Consider this...

- If both Mom and Dad attend church regularly, 72% of their children remain faithful in attendance.
- If only Dad attends regularly, 55% remain faithful.
- If only Mom attends regularly, 15% remain faithful.
- If neither attend regularly, only 6% remain faithful.

Hebrews 10:24-25, "*And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*"

SERMON: God teaches us to GIVE!

TEXT: John 3:16. Giving in variation...

1. Some Give Up—self-righteousness.
2. Some Give Over—cares to God.
3. Some Give To—others.
4. Some Give In—to God's desires.
5. Some Give Away—love & kindness.

SERMON: Transformed to Inform!

TEXT: Romans 12:1-2

Intro: We must be transformed NOT conformed!

1. Present your bodies to God (v.1): Yield to God Cf. Rom. 6:12ff.
2. Renew your mind (v.2): Knowing the Truth Cf. Col. 1:9.
3. Proving of God's will (v.2b): Practicing Righteousness Cf. Matt. 7:21.

Con: Transformation works!

SERMON: Christ is the Answer!

TEXT: Acts 8:35

- Law gives the *foundation* for Christ.
- History shows the *preparation* for Christ.
- Poetry expresses *aspiration* for Christ.
- Prophecy proclaims an *expectation* of Christ.
- Gospels record the historical *manifestation* of Christ.
- Acts relates the *circulation* of Christ.
- Epistles give the *interpretation* of Christ.
- Revelation shows *consummation* of all things in Christ.

Con: Christ is the key to the interpretation of the Bible.

SERMON: The BIBLE answers ALL!

TEXT: 1 John 5:13, "*that you may know that you have eternal life.*"

1. Who am I? 2 Corinthians 5:17.
2. Why am I here? Ephesians 2:10.
3. Where did I come from? Genesis 2:7.
4. What is my purpose? Eccl. 12:13.
5. What is the significance of my life? Matthew 6:33.
6. Where am I going? Colossians 3:1-4.
7. What is my destiny? 1 Peter 1:3-6.
8. What should I do? 1 Timothy 4:12.
9. How should I live? Titus 2:11-14.
10. To whom do I answer? Romans 14:12.

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.**



PULPIT PREVIEW

January 30, 2015 ● Vol. 7, No. 2



SERMON: *A Christ Centered Church!*

TEXT: Acts 11:26

Introduction: The Church is the most glorious institution in existence! God's Holy Word reveals the Church in promise (Gen. 3:15; Eph. 1:4-5) in prophecy (Dan. 2:44), in preparation (Matt. 16:18; Mark 9:1), in perfection (Acts 2:1-47) and preservation (Rev. 12-22). Christ is the head of the Church (Eph. 1:22-23), savior of the body (Eph. 5:23), theme of the Bible (Luke 1:68) and the key to both the inspiration (John 12:48) and interpretation (Luke 24:27, 44-45). Furthermore, Christ is the center of both the Bible and the Church. The goal in Church-Growth must reflect our desire to be a Christ Centered Church. We must be...

1. **A Converted Church.** Many people are convinced, but less are converted. We must be converted to Jesus, not preachers, Elders or Deacons. Cf. Acts 3:19; Matt. 4:19; 18:3; 1 Cor. 1:18.
2. **A Convicted Church.** The pulse of a local congregation must beat in unison. We must have "*one heart and one soul*" (Acts 4:32). We must be "*likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind*" (Phil. 2:2). We must stand together on the solid rock of Jesus (Eph. 6:10-11).
3. **A Confident Church.** Those who obey Jesus and live by His word are RIGHT! And, when you're right, you're right. There is no shame in obeying, loving, defending, studying and proclaiming the Gospel (Rom. 1:16). Jesus strengthens those in him (Phil. 4:13) and His strength is our confidence.
4. **A Cooperating Church.** The letter "I" does not appear in the word TEAM or CHURCH. We are all a part of the body of Christ. We must work together (1 Cor. 12:12-27). The Christians on Pentecost "*were together, and had all things common*" (Acts 2:44). If we do not work together, we will segment and separate. There must be "*no divisions among you*" (1 Cor. 1:10).
5. **A Commissioned Church.** God loves souls so much that He "*gave His only begotten Son*" so that we might be saved (John 3:16). He revealed His Word and gave His grace (2 Tim. 3:16; Tit. 2:11). His Son is the pattern for our life (1 Pet. 2:21). He does not want anyone to "*perish*" (2 Pet. 3:9), but wants all to be saved (1 Tim. 2:4). Therefore, because our soul is so important, shouldn't other souls be important enough to us to save (2 Tim. 2:2)?

- Mark N. Posey



SERMON: The Baptism of the Eunuch!

TEXT: Acts 8:35-39

1. The Learning About Baptism (35).
2. The Necessity of His Baptism (36-37).
3. The Action of His Baptism (38-39a).

CON: The Rejoicing of His Baptism (39).

Jeffrey Archery

SERMON: The Gospel of Christ!

TEXT: Gal. 1:6-10

1. Blessings when called by the Gospel (vs. 6-7).
2. Tragedy when carried from the Gospel (vs. 6-7).
3. Price when corrupting the Gospel (v.8-9).

CON: vs. 10...we persuade men with the gospel. Are you persuaded? **Jeffrey Archery**

SERMON: God Will Give You UP...

TEXT: Rom. 1:24-28

1. If your heart lusts for the world (24-25).
2. If your affections for the world continue (26).
3. If your plan for human affection alters His (26-28).
4. If your knowledge for God ceases (28).
5. If your path of sin continues (29-32).

Jeffrey Archery

SERMON: The Christian's Motivation!

TEXT: 2 Cor. 5:9

1. Motivated by the fear of the Lord - v. 9.
2. Motivated by the love of Christ - v. 14.
3. Motivated by what He has made of us - v. 17.
4. Motivated by the stewardship of the Gospel - v. 19.
5. Motivated by the status He gave us - v. 20.

Lee Snow

SERMON: Christian's Don't Worry About...

TEXT: 1 Peter 5:6-7

1. Being Forsaken—Hebrews 13:5.
2. Feeling Useless—1 Cor. 12:12-31.
3. The Future—Jeremiah 29:11.
4. Bothering God w/Prayer—1 Thess. 5:17.
5. Feeling Unforgiven—1 John 1:9.

Con: Casting cares on God clams the soul!

SERMON: Yesterday, Today & Forever!

TEXT: Hebrews 9:24, 26 & 28

Intro: Jesus is the perfect sacrifice entering the perfect sanctuary; He appears in the...

1. PAST—Hebrews 9:26.
2. PRESENT—Hebrews 9:24.
3. FUTURE—Hebrews 9:28.

Conclusion: Jesus is Lord yesterday, today and forever!

SERMON: Blessed are the Pure in Heart!

TEXT: James 1:26-27

1. Purity of Language—vs.26.
2. Purity of Love—vs.27a.
3. Purity of Life—vs.27b.

Con: The pure in heart shall see God!

SERMON: What Jesus has done for YOU!

TEXT: Hebrews 9:26

Intro: At the cross, Christ "put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself." What do we see?

1. Jesus' Positive Finality: "but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared..." Cf. Hebrews 7:25.
2. Jesus' Perfect Word: "He has appeared to put away sin..." Cf. 1 Peter 2:24; 3:18.
3. Jesus' Personal Sacrifice: "by the sacrifice of Himself." Cf. Galatians 1:4.

Con: We see what Christ has done for us; what have you done for HIM?

SERMON: God's Commandment to Repent!

Text: Acts 3:19-21; 17:30-31

QUESTION: What does true repentance involve?

1. A change of mind – Matthew 21:28-29; Luke 15:17-18; Acts 2:38.
2. Godly sorrow for sin – Psalm 38:18; Luke 10:13; Luke 18:9-14.
3. Confession of sin – Luke 15:18; Luke 18:13; James 5:16; 1 John 1:9.
4. Forsaking of sin – Proverbs 28:13; Isaiah 55:7; Matt. 5:29, 30; John 8:11.
5. Turning to God as Savior and Lord – Acts 26:18; 1 Thess. 1:9; Luke 15:7.

Con: Repentance = "change." It is a thorough and complete change from wrong to right.

SERMON: Building Up the Faithful to remain faithful!

TEXT: Hebrews 10:24-25 **Thesis:** To exhort the faithful to remain faithful in attendance.

Intro: *The Musk Ox seems to have more sense than God's family at times. When faced with danger the musk oxen form a circle with their heads and horns outward and their young and weak in the center. They gather for mutual protection rather than trying to go out on their own or running away. We can learn a lot from the Musk Ox. When things get tough we have a tendency to withdraw from those who care for us the most. When trouble comes, instead of coming together to draw on our mutual strength, we stray from the pack and conjure up lame excuses to justify our actions. This sermon stresses the important of sticking together!*

1. The **FAILURES** of those that had left the Church.

- They had begun to "**SLIP**" (2:1). Slip (*pararheo*) means, "to flow past, glide by, drift away" (Vine's, V.1,p.339). A ship loosed from its moorings drifts out to sea. Christians leave the Church by gradually and subtly forsaking the assembly. They drift away and became erring Christians. Cf. Gal. 6:1; Jam. 5:19-20; 2 Pet. 2:21-22.
- They had developed "**HARD HEARTS**" (3:7-8). The "wayside" soil was beaten hard and would not receive the seed (Matt. 13:4; Lk.8:11). The devil took the seed from their heart. Hard hearts produce NO fruit.
- Their spiritual development had **CEASED** (5:12). The Lord wants spiritually growth (1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:18). The Corinthians did not grow (1 Cor. 3:1-4). Those that stop growing are "blind, and cannot see afar off, and have forgotten that he was purged from his old sins" (2 Pet. 1:9). We must grow or we'll die

2. The **FACTORS** that led to the **FAILURES**.

- They had **NEGLECTED salvation which resulted in slowly drifting away from the Church** (2:3). Neglect (*ameleo*) means, "to be careless, not to care" (Vine's, V.3, p.107). Those invited to the marriage feast (Matt. 22:1-14) paid no attention to the invitation and went their way (v.5). Neglect causes Christians to lose interest and drift away from the Church.
- They had engaged in the **DECEITFULNESS OF SIN, which had made their hearts hard against the Church** (3:13). Satan's sinful devices are division, destruction and deception (2 Cor. 2:11). Cf. 1 Cor. 3:18; Gal. 6:7; 1 Tim. 2:14; Jam. 1:22,26; 1 Jn. 1:8. Deception is Satan's most powerful weapon in his arsenal (Eph. 6:10-12). Cf. Jn. 8:44.
- They had become **DULL OF HEARING, which caused their spiritual development to completely stop** (5:11). Dull (*nothros*) means, "slow, sluggish, lazy" (Vine's, V.1,p.343). Lazy Christians cultivate no home for the word in their heart. Their heart is crowded with worldly cares.

3. The **FORMULA** for remaining faithful in Church attendance.

- They needed to "**take the more EARNEST heed to the things which they had heard**" (2:1). Earnest (*perissoteros*) means, "super abundantly, more exceedingly" (Vine's, V.2, p.12). James said, "be swift to hear" (1:19). Cf. Acts 2:41; 10:33; 17:11.
- They needed to **EXAMINE their own lives and be EXHORTED by the brethren** (3:12-13). Looking into the "perfect law of liberty" reveals our true self (Jam. 1:23-25). Examination reveals inadequacies. Exhortation encourages needed change (Jam. 1:21; 2 Cor. 3:18).
- They needed to **EXERCISE their senses to discern good from evil** (5:14). Our body was made to work and so was our soul. Laziness hinders growth; exercise strengthens discernment. Cf. 1 Tim. 4:7,8. We exercise our soul using God's Word (Heb. 4:12). Good & evil are diametrically opposed; discernment enables us to see the separation.

Conclusion: Faithful attendance blesses in this life and the life to come. Cf. Psalm 23:6.

Adapted from numerous sources—**Mark N. Posey**