



SERMON: We Serve A Risen Savior!
TEXT: John 11:25, *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live."*

1. The Divinity of Jesus rests on His resurrection (Rom 1:4).
2. The Sovereignty of Jesus rests on His resurrection (Rom 14:9).
3. Our Justification rests on Jesus' resurrection (Rom 4:25).
4. Our Regeneration rests on Jesus' resurrection (1 Pet 1:3).
5. Our Ultimate resurrection rests on Jesus' resurrection (Rom 8:11).

SERMON: A Few Good Men!
Text: Exodus 18:21, *"Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens."* NKJV
Intro: "There is no greater art in the world than to develop the latent capacities of those around us by yoking them to useful service" (F.B. Meyer). E.g., 2 Timothy 2:2.

1. **Men of ability:** *able men.* Are you ready to do God's Work?
2. **Men of godliness:** *such as fear God.* Job was such a man!
3. **Men of God's Word:** *men of truth.* Buy the truth & sell it not!
4. **Men of honor:** *hating covetousness.* My treasure is in heaven!

Con: Are you a man of God worthy of His work delegated into your care? Are you one of the Few Good Men?

SERMON: How's Your Prayer Life?
TEXT: 1 Peter 3:7, 8-12; 4:7
Intro: Whatever hinders our prayer life must be eliminated. However, right living will enhance our prayer life! Notice 3 ways prayers are strengthened:

1. Faithful Husbandry (1 Peter 3:7). Pray with her!
2. Faithful Service (1 Peter 3:8-12). Pray for them!
3. Faithful Expectation (1 Peter 4:7). Pray for self!

Con: Prayer is an area which Satan attacks relentlessly because it is a great weapon against evil. May we always live in such a way that our prayers are never hindered.



New Creation (A Broken Stradivarius): One of the greatest ambitions of any violinist is to play a Stradivarius. Meticulously handcrafted by Antonio Stradivari these very rare violins produce an unrivalled sound. So you can imagine the excitement of acclaimed British violinist Peter Cropper when, in 1981 London's Royal Academy of Music offered him a 258 year old Stradivarius for a series of concerts. But then the unimaginable. As Peter entered the stage he tripped, landed on top of the violin and snapped the neck off. I can't even begin to imagine how Peter Cropper felt at that moment. A priceless masterpiece destroyed! Cropper was inconsolable. He took the violin to a master craftsman in the vain hope he might be able to repair it. And repair it he did. So perfect was the repair that the break was undetectable, and, more importantly, the sound was exquisite. The Academy was most gracious and allowed him to continue using the Stradivarius. And so night after night, as Peter drew his bow across those string, Peter was reminded of the fact that what he once thought irreparably damaged had been fully restored by the hand of a Master craftsman (www.storiesforpreaching.com).

→ **"Not forsaking" (Heb. 10:25):** The present tense can be rendered not continually neglecting our meeting together.

→ **Why Go To Church?** - In a letter to the editor of a British newspaper, a man complained that he saw no sense in going to church every Sunday.

"I have been attending services quite regularly for the past 30 years," he wrote, "and during that time...I have listened to no less than 3,000 sermons. But, to my consternation, I discover I cannot remember a single one of them. I wonder if a minister's time might be more profitably spent on something else."

That letter sparked many responses. One, however, was the clincher:

"I have been married for 30 years. During that time I have eaten 32,850 meals -- mostly of my wife's cooking. Suddenly I have discovered that I cannot remember the menu of a single meal. And yet, I received nourishment from every one of them. I have the distinct impression that without them I would have starved to death long ago."

SERMON: What are YOU to World in which you LIVE? **TEXT:** Matthew 5:16

1. Christians are the Bibles the world is reading.
2. Christians are the truths the world is needing.
3. Christians are the sermons the world is heeding.

<p>SERMON: Jesus Christ the Righteous, The Christian's Advocate. TEXT: I John 2:1-6</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Admonition (v. 1). 2. The Advocate (v. 1). 3. The Atonement (v. 2). 4. The Awareness (v. 3). 5. The Affirmation (v. 4). 6. The Assurance (v. 5). 7. The Aspiration (v. 6). <p>(Borrowed from the late brother William Woodson) *submitted by Roger L. Leonard.</p>	<p><i>Pulpit Preview</i> 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.</p>
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SERMON: Faithful Attendance!

TEXT: Hebrews 10:25

Intro: Faithful attendance to all worship assemblies provides spiritual growth that is inexpressible valuable. Notice the following benefits of faithfulness...

1. **God's Worship is Transforming**—Christians have been transformed into a "new creature" (E.g., Rom. 12:1-2). Ongoing sanctification is necessary for spiritual growth (2 Pet. 3:18).
2. **God's Love is Compelling**—It is the "love of Christ" that compels us to strive for "goodness and mercy" here and dwelling in the "house of the Lord forever" (Ps. 23:6).
3. **God's Family is Encouraging**—We "admonish one another" in singing, provoke one another to love and good works," and "build you up" with God's Word. Thank God for our Church Family.
4. **God's Children are Hungering**—Kingdom citizens "hunger & thirst for righteousness" (Mt.5:6). Since the Gospel reveals the "righteousness of God" (Rom. 1:17), we know that it is God for which we hunger & thirst.
5. **God's Enemy is Prowling**—Like a roaring Lion the Devil seeks his prey (1 Pet. 5:8). Thus, our sobriety and diligence is imperative in the wonderful arena of faithful living for the Lord.

Con: Our desire to be with God and His people must be strong, faithful & secure!
-Adapted

SERMON: Heaven is "BETTER" by far!

TEXT: Philippians 1:23, "...having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better."

1. Better MULTITUDE – Hebrews 12:22-24.
2. Better MANSION – John 14:1-3.
3. Better MORTALITY – 1 Corinthians 15:53-58.
4. Better MUSIC – Revelation 5:9.
5. Better MENTALITY – Colossians 3:2.

SERMON: Prison Didn't Rob Paul of his...

1. Pen – Eph., Phil. Col. & Phile. (prison epistles),
2. Purpose – Phil. 1:21.
3. Pulpit – Phil. 1:14.
4. Prayer – Eph. 1, 3; Phil. 1 & Col. 1.
5. Praise – Acts 16:26—sang praises.
6. Patience – Phil. 1:19-24.
7. Peace – Phil. 4:11.

SERMON: Contentment to Completeness!

TEXT: Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!"

1. "I can" – Be Positive.
2. "Do all things" – Be Passionate.
3. "Through Christ" – Be Possessive.
4. "Who strengthens" – Be Powerful.
5. "Me" – Be Personal.

SERMON: When a Brother Comes Home!

TEXT: 2 Cor. 2:7-8. The sinner repented so Paul instructions how to welcome him back home.

1. "FORGIVE him." True forgiveness is letting go of any desire for revenge!
2. "COMFORT him." Comfort means, "call him near, invite, invoke, exhort, entreat."
3. "CONFIRM your love to him." Confirm (affirm) means, "ratify, make authoritative."

Conclusion: Forgiveness is a precious gift!

SERMON: What God's Word will do for YOU!

TEXT: Acts 2:22-47

1. Charge you – v.22.
2. Convict you – v.36.
3. Convince you – v.37.
4. Convert you – vs.38,41.
5. Change you – vs.41-47.

SERMON: Let God Transform Your Life!

TEXT: Romans 12:2

1. The Enemy of a Transformed Life: **The World's Mold**, "be not conformed to this world."
2. The Entrance into a Transformed Life: **A Renewed Mind**, "by the renewing of your mind."
3. The End Result of a Transformed Life: **The Will of God**, "prove the good, acceptable & perfect will of God."

Conclusion: Full surrender will Transform your life!

SERMON: GO Preach the Word of God!

TEXT: Matthew 28:18-20

1. Jesus' Authority (28:18): He has been given all authority in heaven & on earth.
2. Jesus' Assignment (28:19-20a): We are to reach and teach all nations.
3. Jesus' Assurance (28:20b): He will always be with us!

Philip was born with Downs Syndrome. He was a pleasant child, happy it seemed, but increasingly aware of the difference between himself and other children. Philip went to Sunday School faithfully every week. He was in the third grade class with nine other eight-year olds.

You know eight-year olds. And Philip, with his differences, was not readily accepted. But his teacher was sensitive to Philip and he helped this group of eight-year olds to love each other as best they could, under the circumstances. They learned, they laughed, and they played together. And they really cared about one another, even though eight-year olds don't say they care about one another out loud.

But don't forget. There was an exception to all this. Philip was not really a part of the group. Philip did not choose, nor did he want to be different. He just was. And that was the way things were.

His teacher had a marvelous idea for his class the Sunday after Easter. You know those things that pantyhose come in . . . the containers that look like great big eggs? The teacher collected ten of them. The children loved it when he brought them into the room and gave one to each child. It was a beautiful spring day, and the assignment was for each child to go outside, find the symbol for new life, put it into the egg, and bring it back to the classroom They would then open and share their new life symbols and surprises, one by one.

It was glorious. It was confusing. It was wild. They ran all around the church grounds, gathering their symbols, and returned to the classroom.

They put all the eggs on a table, and then the teacher began to open them. All the children gathered around the table. He opened one and there was a flower and they ooh-ed and aah-ed. He opened another and there was a little butterfly. "Beautiful!" the girls all said, since it is hard for eight-year old boys to say 'beautiful.' He opened another and there was a rock. And as third-graders will, some laughed, and some said, "That's crazy! How's a rock supposed to be like new life?" But the smart little boy who'd put it in there spoke up: "That's mine. And I knew all of you would get flowers and buds and leaves and butterflies and stuff like that. So I got a rock because I wanted to be different. And for me, that's new life." They all laughed.

The teacher said something about the wisdom of eight-year olds and opened the next one. There was nothing inside. The children, as eight-year olds will, said, "That's not fair. That's stupid! Somebody didn't do it right."

Then the teacher felt a tug on his shirt, and he looked down. "It's mine, Philip said. It's mine."

And the children said, "You don't ever do things right, Philip. There's nothing there!"

"I did so do it right!" Philip said. "I did do it right. The tomb is empty!"

There was silence, a very full silence. From that time on, it was different. Philip suddenly became a part of that group of eight-year old children. They took him in. He was set free from the tomb of his differentness.

Philip died last summer. His family had known since the time he was born that he wouldn't live out a full life span. Many other things were wrong with his little body. And so, late last July, with an infection that most normal children could have quickly shrugged off, Philip died.

At his memorial service, nine eight-year old children marched up to the casket, not with flowers to cover over the stark reality of death . . . but nine eight-year olds, along with their Sunday School teacher, marched right up to that casket, and laid on it an empty egg . . . an empty, old, discarded pantyhose egg. And the tomb is empty!