

SERMON: A Beautiful Gift - the gift of Forgiveness!

TEXT: Ephesians 4:32; 2 Cor. 2:5-11

Introduction: We should never allow a forgiven sinner to turn away from the body of Christians and abandon the faith because of the Church's lack of Love! Thus, what is the Church's responsibility to a repentant sinner?

1. Forgive him/her - Cf. Matthew 18:15-17; Gal. 6:1-2.
2. Comfort him/her - Cf. Hebrews 3:12-13; John 13:34-35.
3. Affirm love for him/her - Cf. Matthew 22:37-39.

Conclusion: Paul exhorts the Corinthians to LOVE the repentant sinner from the HEART!

SERMON: Does God Care?

TEXT: 1 Peter 5:6-7, *6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty band of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.*

Introduction: "Don't Sweat the Small Stuff"—good advice for healthy living! However, following this prescription needs additional action, i.e., Do some CASTING! Peter's instruction involves "*casting all your care upon Him [God], for He cares for you.*" I like the last statement: "*He cares for you!*" This gives me courage, wisdom and strength. Courage to face my cares honestly! Wisdom to understand the situation! Strength to do what I must do! It builds my faith to trust God to do all that I cannot do! Thus, I know for certain that God CARES for me; He cares about every part of my life. Consider the following:

1. **Does God care what I THINK?** Rom. 12:2; Phil. 2:5; 4:8; 2 Cor. 10:3-6; Prov. 3:5; 4:23; Rom. 7:23; Jer. 33:3; Col. 3:1-2; Psalm 119:1-176.
2. **Does God care what I SAY?** Eph. 4:29; 5:4; Matt. 15:11; Col. 4:6; Prov. 15:1-2, 5; 18:20-21; Psalm 141:3; James 3:1-12.
3. **Does God care what I DO?** Rom. 12:2; 2 Tim. 3:16; 1 Tim. 4:7; Eph. 4:1-3; Gal. 5:22-23; 1 Cor. 11:1-4; Jam. 1:27; 1 Jn. 2:15-17; 2 Pet. 1:5-11; Jude 3.
4. **Does God care what I WEAR?** 1 Tim. 2:9-10; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; Matt. 5:27-29; 1 Pet. 3:3-4; Rom. 12:1-2; Prov. 31:17-22; Prov. 11:22; Gen. 3:7, 21.
5. **Does God care how I TREAT others?** Eph. 4:29-32; Jn. 15:12; Matt. 7:12; 1 Jn. 4:20-21; Prov. 24:17; Rom. 15:1-2; 1 Pet. 3:8-12; Phil. 2:4; 1 Cor. 13:4-13.

Someone has observed that the average person's anxiety is focused on...

- 40% - things that will never happen.
- 30% - things about the past that can't be changed.
- 12% - things about criticism by others, mostly untrue.
- 10% - about health, which gets worse with stress.
- 8% - about real problems that will be faced.

INTERESTING & REVEALING!

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

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The Gospel is SO Simple!

1 Corinthians 11:3

But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Introduction: Simplicity is Best! Simplicity is clarity! Simplicity gets to the point! Simplicity prevents confusion! I like things that are simple! The simplicity of the gospel is salvation!

1. Salvation is as simple as coming when you're called - Matthew 11:28-30.
2. Salvation is as simple as doing as you're told - Mark 16:16; Eccl. 12:13.
3. Salvation is as simple as growing where you're planted - Romans 6:5.
4. Salvation is as simple as entering through a door - Rev. 3:20.
5. Salvation is as simple as going home - John 14:1-6.

Conclusion: Have you obeyed Jesus? If you haven't, you've not obeyed the gospel!

SERMON: *Five attitudes every man, woman & child cannot live without!*

TEXT: 1 Peter 3:8-12

Introduction: The background to 1 Peter 3:8-9 is Psalm 34.

1. **Harmony.** Jn. 17:21 (example), Acts 4:32 (enjoyed) & 1 Cor. 1:10 (expected).
2. **Sympathy.** Hebrews 13:1-3; Matthew 25:36.
3. **Sincerity.** 1 Pet. 1:22; 2 Pet. 1:7; Rom. 12:10; 1 Jn. 4:7-8; Jn. 15:13-15.
4. **Compassion.** Ps. 103:13; Prov. 28:8; Matt. 18:33; James 5:11; Eph. 4:32.
5. **Humility.** Acts 27:3; 28:7; Eph. 5:1,2; Phil. 4:8,9; Col 3:12; 1 Pet. 5:5.

Conclusion: Example & Illustration - John 21:15-17.

SERMON: Do You LOVE the Lord?

TEXT: James 1:12, "*Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.*"

1. **Fill your mind with Love for the Lord (Think it)**—Romans 8:37-39.
2. **Fill your heart with Love for the Lord (Believe it)**—John 3:16.
3. **Fill your words with Love for the Lord (Say it)**—John 13:34-35.
4. **Fill your petitions with Love for the Lord (Pray it)**—1 Peter 5:6-7.
5. **Fill your life with Love of the Lord (Live it)**—1 John 4:9-11; Gal. 2:20.



SERMON: We Preach Christ Crucified!

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 1:23

Intro: Crucifixion in Galatians.

1. Crucified with Christ (Gal 2:20).
2. Christ crucified for me (Gal 3:1).
3. The flesh crucified in me (Gal 5:24).
4. The world crucified to me (Gal 6:14).
5. Crucified unto the world (Gal 6:14).

SERMON: The Church of Christ!

TEXT: Matthew 16:18

1. **PERSONAL:** I will build My Church. It was not John, Elijah, Jeremiah or one of the prophets. It was Jesus!
2. **PURPOSEFUL:** I will build My Church. According to 1 Cor. 3:11, Jesus is the foundation upon which the Church is built.
3. **POSSESSIVE:** I will build My Church. This statement of Jesus was a clear claim of ownership; the church belongs to Jesus.

SERMON: Christ Loves the Church!

TEXT: Ephesians 5:25. What did He do?

1. Ransomed the Church (Matt. 20:28). Cf. 1 Tim. 2:6. The Eerdmans Bible Dictionary defines "ransom" as "a price paid to release a captive or seized property, or the act of procuring release in this manner."
2. Reconciled the Church (2 Cor. 5:19). Cf. Rom. 5:1. Reconciliation involves change in the relationship between God & man (Rom. 6:18).
3. Redeemed the Church (1 Pet. 1:19). Cf. Eph. 1:7. Everyone stands in need of redemption! Why? Because every person has sinned (Rom. 3:23). Thus, God gave us a Savior (Mt. 1:21; Jn. 1:29; 1 Tim. 1:15).

Title: Living the Crucified Life!

Text: Gal. 2:20 *The crucified life involves...*

- I. Living Right (Rom. 6:1-ff).
- II. Speaking Right (Eph. 4:15).
- III. Thinking Right (Phil. 4:8).
- IV. Treating Others Right (Lk. 10:25-ff).
- V. Dying Right (Psa. 116:15; Rev. 14:13).

Robert Alexander

Sermon: "Three Trees in God's Scheme of Redemption"

1. The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil--the Tree Which Necessitated Redemption (Genesis 2:17; 3:1-ff).
2. The Tree of Calvary--the Tree Which Provides Redemption (Lk. 23:33; Gal. 3:13; 1 Pet. 2:24).
3. The Tree of Life--the Tree of Eternal Redemption in Heaven (Rev 22:2; 14).

Robert Alexander

SERMON: What TIME is it?

TEXT: Romans 13

1. It is time to KNOW (v.11): "knowing the time, that now it is..."
2. It is time to AWAKE (v.11): "it is high time to wake from sleep..."
3. It is time to be SAVED (v.11): "for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed."

Gus Nichols

SERMON: Three (3) levels of giving.

1. "I have to" - Law.
2. "I need to" - Obligation.
3. "I want to" - Love.

Conclusion: 1 Chron. 16:29

SERMON: I want to be GREAT!

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 13:13

Intro: Faith, Hope & Love remain after ALL else has passed away!

1. To be Great - BELIEVE (Faith Makes things Possible)!
2. To be Great - HOPE (Hope Makes things Bright)!
3. To be Great - LOVE (Love Makes things Easy)!

Con: One day Faith will be sight, Hope will be Reality & Love will be Eternal!

SERMON: Overcoming Anxiety!

TEXT: 1 Peter 5:6-7

Intro: Three ways to overcome worry!

1. Fret not—because God loves you (1 Jn. 4:16).
2. Faint not—because God holds you (Ps 139:10).
3. Fear not—because God keeps you (Ps 121:5).

SERMON: A Christian NEW YEAR all year long!

TEXT: Philippians 3:13-14

Introduction: Resolutions are typical this time of year. Most of us will make a resolution, promising to make change in our lives for the better. Thus, commitment, dedication and determination are in full swing and great abundance. Losing weight, exercising more, better financial stability and enjoying life rank high on most lists. However, as February rolls around, fires cool and steam fizzes; but it shouldn't, especially for Christians. Resolute and resilient Christians should blaze the trail in the land called "Promises Kept," but in what areas? In what ways will this year be any different than the previous?

1. **THIS YEAR I will lose the weight of sin.** I will lay aside every weighty transgression, encumbrance and distraction, and run with perseverance the Christian race (Heb. 12:1-2). I will NOT run a competitive race, but a cooperative one. I'm running with, not against, my brethren.
2. **THIS YEAR I will exercise greater discernment between good and evil.** I will repetitiously and habitually train my spiritual senses to discern good from evil (Heb. 5:14). In doing so, my ability to teach God's Word will dramatically increase; I will go from being a student to being a teacher.
3. **THIS YEAR I will save the souls of my friends and family.** Jesus is the only savior; so, I will live like Him, love like Him and labor like Him in bringing my loved ones to the precious and redeeming blood (1 Pet. 1:19).
4. **THIS YEAR I will improve my spiritual health.** I will consume large quantities of spiritual meat (Heb. 5:13-14). My hunger and thirst for righteousness (Matt. 5:6) will help me grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ (1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:18). I will be faithful and fit for the Lord!
5. **THIS YEAR I will better organize my thoughts, words and deeds.** I will clean out all the evil from my heart, mind and soul, replacing it with virtuous and praise worthy thoughts, words and deeds (Col. 3:5-17; Phil. 4:8).
6. **THIS YEAR I will enjoy my spiritual life more.** I will rejoice in "newness of life" (Rom. 6:4), repentance of sin (2 Cor. 7:9, 10), "joy of faith" (Phil. 1:25), "the Lord" (Phil. 4:4) and difficulties that strengthen my faith (Jam. 1:2-4). I will realize more than I have in the past that lasting joy comes from a Christ-like mind (Phil. 2:5), faith filled heart (Phil. 1:3-11), soul centered hope (Heb. 6:19; 1 Pet. 3:15) and love motivated life (Matt. 22:37-39).
7. **THIS YEAR I will quit making excuses and always abound in the Lord's work.** I will conduct myself as an effective and faithful worker for the Lord (Eph. 2:10). I will refuse the notion that my efforts for Him are empty and worthless (1 Cor. 15:58b). I will work, not to gain salvation (Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5), but to display it (Jam. 2:18).

Conclusion: Resolutions are only as good as the ability and dedication of the promise maker to reach their goal. Therefore, my work is clear and ordered! I must determine to be unwavering, grounded and unmovable in my commitment to reach spiritual goals. This year is for the Lord!

- Mark N. Posey