

OUR MOST NEGLECTED TREASURE

MARK 8:35-38

I. THERE IS AN INVALUABLE TREASURE (8:36).

A. "his own soul."

1. **The soul is invaluable because of its creator.**
 - i. God is our Master Craftsman (Gen. 1:26-27; 2:7; Heb. 12:9; II Co. 5:1).
2. **The soul is invaluable because of its sustainer.**
 - i. God has provided for our needs (Acts 14:17; 17:25, 28).
3. **The soul is invaluable because of its Redeemer.**
 - i. God gave His best to save us (Jo. 3:16; Rom. 5:6-8; 8:32).

II. THERE IS AN INSANE TRANSACTION (8:36-37).

A. "What will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

1. **The truth about this transaction.**
 - i. Worldly gain is definitely short lived (I Tim. 6:7; Job 1:1:21).
 - ii. Worldly gain doesn't satisfy (Eccl. 1-2).
2. **The trouble with this transaction.**
 - i. There is an irrevocable loss (Heb. 9:27; Lu. 16:25-26).
 - ii. There is an immeasurable loss (Rom. 8:32; I Pet. 1:18-21).
 - iii. There is an inexcusable loss (I Tim. 2:4; II Pet. 3:9).

III. THERE IS AN INCOMPREHENSIBLE TRAGEDY (8:34-38).

A. "loses his own soul."

1. **Have you counted the cost of the cross?**
 - i. Has His desire become your desire (8:34-35)?
2. **Have you counted the cost of your loss?**
 - i. It is a complete loss (8:36-37).
 - ii. It is a catastrophic loss (8:38).

THE DANGER OF WORTHLESS RELIGION

JAMES 1:26-27

I. THERE IS EMPHASIS ON BRIDLING THE TONGUE (1:26).

A. "If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless."

1. The evaluation by a saint.

- i. A loose tongue reflects a deceptive heart (1:26a; Prov. 23:7; Matt. 12:34-35; 15:18-19).
- ii. A loose tongue reflects a destitute heart (1:26b; Matt. 12:36-37).

2. The verbalization of a saint.

- i. The power of the tongue (3:5; Prov. 18:21).
- ii. The perplexity of the tongue (3:8-10).

II. THERE IS AN EMPHASIS ON BENEVOLENT WORKS (1:27A-B).

A. "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble."

1. Saints care.

- i. About the helpless (1:27a; Gal. 6:2).
- ii. About the hurting (1:27b; Rom. 12:15).

2. Saints share.

- i. Monetarily (Gal. 6:10).
- ii. Materially (Matt. 25:31-40).

III. THERE IS AN EMPHASIS ON BEHAVING IN THE WORLD (1:27C).

A. "keep oneself unspotted from the world."

1. The world is dangerous.

- i. The danger of a Christian conforming to the world (1:27c; Rom. 12:1-2).
- ii. The danger of a Christian compromising with the world (Matt. 6:24).

2. The world is destructive.

- i. The world impacts our fellowship with God (4:4).
- ii. The world impacts our future with God (1 Jo. 2:15-17).

SAINTS THAT MADE A DIFFERENCE

I THESSALONIANS 1:1-10

I. DELIVERANCE BY THE LORD (1:1-6, 9).

A. “you turned to God from idols.”

1. The presentation of the gospel.

- i. The apostle Paul reached out to the Thessalonians (Acts 17:1-2).
- ii. The apostle Paul reasoned with the Thessalonians (Acts 17:3).

2. The power of the gospel.

- i. They were called by the gospel (1:4-6; II Thess. 2:13-14).
- ii. They were changed by the gospel (1:9; cf. I Co. 6:9-11; II Co. 5:17).

II. DEDICATION TO THE LORD (1:1-3, 10).

A. “your work of faith.”

1. The saints in Thessalonica had a serving faith.

- i. They were productive in their labors for the Lord (1:3a; Matt. 5:16).
- ii. They were passionate in their labors for the Lord (1:3b; Heb. 6:10).

2. The saints in Thessalonica had a sustaining faith.

- i. Their endurance in the Lord (1:3b; Heb. 12:1-3).
- ii. Their expectation in the Lord (1:10; 4:13-5:1-2).

III. DECLARATION OF THE LORD (1:6-8).

A. “For from you has the word of the Lord has sounded forth.”

1. The saints in Thessalonica were examples of the Lord.

- i. Their imitation of the Lord (1:7; I Tim. 4:12).
- ii. Their influence for the Lord (1:8).

2. The saints in Thessalonica were evangelistic in the Lord.

- i. The sharing of the gospel (1:8a).
- ii. The spreading of the gospel (1:8b).

HOW CAN I GET MY CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN INTERESTED IN SPIRITUAL THINGS?

DEUTERONOMY 5:31-6:9

I. PRIORITIES IN THE HOME (5:31-6:1-3).

A. "that you may fear the LORD."

1. **They were to fear the Lord (5:31; 6:1-2a).**
 - i. God is to be revered in the home (Prov. 1:7).
2. **They were to be faithful to the Lord (5:31-32; 6:1b-3).**
 - i. God wanted them to be Biblical (6:1b-3).
 - ii. God wanted them to be balanced (5:31-32).
3. **They would be fruitful in the Lord (5:33; 6:2-3).**
 - i. Faithfulness would cause them to prosper in the land (5:33; 6:2-3a).
 - ii. Faithfulness would cause them to populate the land (6:3).

II. PASSION IN THE HOME (6:1-5).

A. "you shall love the LORD you God."

1. **Their attitude toward the Lord (6:4).**
 - i. They needed a clear understanding of the nature of God (6:4).
 - a. In order to love God, we must know Him (cf. Acts 17:16-31).
2. **Their affection for the Lord (6:1-5).**
 - i. God desires wholehearted love (6:5; I Jo. 4:19).
 - ii. God desires wholehearted loyalty (6:1-5; I Jo. 5:3).

III. PERSUASION IN THE HOME (6:1-2, 6-9).

A. "you shall teach them diligently."

1. **There must be the profession of faith in the home (6:6-9).**
 - i. They were to teach their children diligently (6:6-7).
 - ii. They were to teach their children deliberately (6:3).
2. **There must be the possession of faith in the home (6:1-2, 6-9).**
 - i. The possession of faith in the lives of children is not:
 - a. Accidental, incidental, or coincidental (6:1-2, 6-9).
 - ii. The possession of faith in the lives of children requires:
 - a. Time (6:6-7; Ps. 90:12).
 - b. Teaching (6:1-2, 6-7; II Tim. 1:3-5; 3:15).
 - c. Training (6:6-7; cf. Ex. 24:13; Num. 11:28).

REASONS TO REJOICE IN THE LORD

PHILIPPIANS 4:1-7, 11-13, 19

I. REJOICE IN OUR SUBSTANCE IN LIFE (4:1-7).

A. "Rejoice in the Lord always."

1. **Rejoice in promises of the Lord (4:1-3).**
 - i. Our names are in "the Book of Life" (Lu. 10:20; Rev. 20:11-14).
2. **Rejoice in the presence of the Lord (4:4-5).**
 - i. God is always at our side (Heb. 13:5-6; II Tim. 4:16-18).
3. **Rejoice in praying to the Lord (4:6).**
 - i. There is no circumstance in life that shouldn't be met with prayer (I Thess. 5:17; Lu. 18:1).
4. **Rejoice in the peace of the Lord (4:7).**
 - i. We have the "peace that passes all understanding."

II. REJOICE IN OUR SITUATION IN LIFE (4:11-12).

A. "I have learned...to be content."

1. **The development of contentment (4:11-12).**
 - i. Learning contentment through education (I Tim. 6:6-11).
2. **The demonstration of contentment (4:12).**
 - i. Learning contentment through experience (Acts 16:16-25; II Co. 6:10).

III. REJOICE IN OUR STRENGTH IN THE LORD (4:13, 19).

A. "I can do all things through Christ."

1. **Our confidence in the Lord (4:13).**
 - i. Are you an optimist or pessimist (II Co. 4:8-10)?
2. **Our conquest in Christ (4:13).**
 - i. Our source of strength (4:13).
 - ii. Our supplier of strength (4:19).

THE AGONY OF ANXIETY

PHILIPPIANS 4:5-7

I. THE REALITY OF LIVING IN ANXIETY (4:6A).

A. The problem of anxiety.

- 1. Immensity of the problem.**
 - i. The “why” of anxiety (Matt. 6:28)?
- 2. Intensity of anxiety.**
 - i. The weight of anxiety (Lu. 21:34).

II. THE REMEDY FOR LIVING IN ANXIETY (4:6B-C).

A. The prescription for anxiety.

- 1. There is a place for prayer in life (4:6b).**
 - i. Every circumstance in life ought to be met with prayer (Mk. 1:35; Lu. 6:12; 22:44; I Thess. 5:17; Col. 4:2).
- 2. There is the privilege of prayer in life (4:6c).**
 - i. We have the privilege of making our “requests...known to God.”
 - a. God hears our requests (I Pet. 3:12; I Jo. 5:14-15).
 - b. God handles our requests (Isa. 40:28-31).

III. THE REASSURANCE TO THOSE LIVING IN ANXIETY (4:5, 7).

A. The power over anxiety.

- 1. There is the promise of God’s presence (4:5).**
 - i. It is encouraging and comforting to know that God is with us when faced with fears and anxieties (Josh. 1:9).
- 2. There is the promise of God’s peace (4:7).**
 - i. The “peace of God” will stand guard over our heart. The word “guard” means “to guard, protect by a military guard, either to prevent hostile invasion, or to keep the inhabitants of a besieged city from flight” (Thayer).

GET LOST SERVING OTHERS

MARK 10:35-45

I. THE PETITION (10:35-40).

A. "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory."

1. The request.

- i. They were looking for position in the Lord's kingdom (10:35-37).
- ii. They were looking for preeminence in the Lord's kingdom (10:35-37; 9:33-34).

2. The reply.

- i. Their confusion (10:38a).
- ii. The clarification (10:38b-40).

II. THE PROCLAMATION (10:41-44).

A. "whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant."

1. The aggravation of the disciples.

- i. Their displeasure (10:41).
- ii. Their discussion (9:33-37).

2. The explanation to the disciples.

- i. The Lord's kingdom is different (10:42).
- ii. The Lord's kingdom is demanding (10:43-44).

III. THE PATTERN (10:45).

A. "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve."

1. The attitude of Jesus.

- i. His sacrificial attitude (10:45; Phil. 2:5-8; II Co. 8:9).
- ii. His submissive attitude (10:45; Jo. 6:38).

2. The actions of Jesus.

- i. He exemplified servanthood (10:45; Matt. 20:28).
- ii. He encouraged servanthood (10:45; Jo. 13:16).

THE CHALLENGE OF A BELIEVER

COLOSSIANS 3:1-16

I. OUR POSITION IN CHRIST (3:1A, 3A, 5-16).

A. "If then you were raised with Christ."

1. **We are delivered from sin.**
 - i. Our forgiveness in Christ (3:1a; 1:14).
 - ii. Our family in Christ (1:2; I Tim. 3:15).
2. **We are dead to sin.**
 - i. In Christ there is a translation (1:12-13).
 - ii. In Christ there is a transformation (3:3a, 5-16).

II. OUR PRIORITY IN CHRIST (3:1B-2, 4a).

A. "Set your mind on things above."

1. **Conflict in Christ.**
 - i. The pull of the world (I Jo. 2:15-17; Rom. 12:1-2).
 - ii. The philosophy of the world (Lu. 12:19; I Co. 15:32).
2. **Consecration to Christ.**
 - i. Our aim is Christ (3:1b-2; Matt. 6:19-21; Phil. 3:19b-21).
 - ii. Our allegiance in Christ (3:4a; Matt. 6:33; Gal. 2:20).

III. OUR PROMISE IN CHRIST (3:4).

A. "When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory."

1. **The promise of Christ's coming.**
 - i. He will be seen by all at the time of His coming (3:4; Rev. 1:7).
 - ii. He will be seated on a throne at His coming (3:4; Matt. 25:31-46; I Jo. 2:28-29).
2. **The promise to all who are in Christ at His coming.**
 - i. We will be with the Savior in glory (3:4; Rev. 22:3).
 - ii. We will be with the saints in glory (3:4; II Tim. 4:8).

THE THREAT TO PEACE: WORRY

MATTHEW 6:24-34

I. THE CAUSE OF WORRY (6:24-27, 34).

A. “why do you worry?”

1. Jesus identifies five reasons why we worry in life (6:24-27, 34).

- i. Finances (6:24).
- ii. Food (6:25a; I Tim. 6:6-8).
- iii. Fashion (6:25b; I Tim. 6:6-8).
- iv. Frame (6:27).
- v. Future (6:34; Prov. 27:1).

II. THE COST OF WORRY (6:26-32).

A. “which of you by worrying?”

1. Worry is counterproductive to our faith (6:26-32).

- i. The cases presented by Jesus (6:26-32).
 - a. The fowl of the air (6:26).
 - b. The flowers of the field (6:28-30).
- ii. The conclusion presented by Jesus (6:26-32).
 - a. He stressed our value to the Father (6:26-32).
 - b. He stressed our vanity before the Father (6:32).

2. Worry is counterproductive to our frame (6:27).

- i. Worry and stress create multiple physical and mental burdens.

III. THE CURE FOR WORRY (6:25, 31, 34).

A. “do not worry.”

1. The command of Jesus (6:25, 31, 34).

- i. The Lord said, “Do not worry.”

2. The cure offered by Jesus (6:26, 30, 33-34).

- i. Remember what Jesus said about the Father (6:26, 30; cf. Phil. 4:6-7).
- ii. Remember what Jesus said about being focused (6:33).
- iii. Remember what Jesus said about the future (6:34).

CARING ENOUGH TO BRING SOMEONE TO JESUS

MARK 2:1-12

I. THE CROWD (2:1-2).

A. “And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house.”

1. The presence of Jesus in the house.
 - i. Burdens are released in Jesus (2:1-2a; Matt. 11:28-30).
 - ii. Blessings are received by Jesus (2:1-2a; Jo. 10:10-11).
2. The people around Jesus in the house.
 - i. They had the opportunity to examine the person Jesus (2:1-2a; Jo. 6:69).
 - ii. They had the opportunity to evaluate the preaching of Jesus (2:2b; Jo. 7:46; 6:68).

II. THE CRISIS (2:2-4).

A. “And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was.”

1. The problem.
 - i. There was a building full of people (2:2a, 4a).
 - ii. There was a bed-ridden paralytic (2:3).
2. The plan.
 - i. They removed the roof (2:4b).
 - ii. They reached the Redeemer (2:4c).

III. THE CLEANSING (2:5-12).

A. “Son, your sins are forgiven you.”

1. The critics.
 - i. The people doubted Jesus (2:5-8).
 - ii. The people discovered something about Jesus (2:9-11).
2. The cure.
 - i. Jesus has the power to cleanse a life (2:5; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Heb. 8:12).
 - ii. Jesus has the power to change a life (2:11-12; II Cor. 5:17; Eph. 1:7).

MAKE SURE GOD IS IN YOUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

JAMES 4:13-17

I. THERE WAS PRESUMPTIVE PLANNING (4:13).

A. “Come now, you who say, today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city.”

- 1. Efforts of presumptive planning.**
 - i. His time (4:13a).
 - ii. His travels (4:13b).
- 2. Example of presumptive planning.**
 - i. His focus (Lu. 12:16-19).
 - ii. His fault (Lu. 12:20-21).

II. THERE WAS A PROFOUND PROBLEM (4:14).

A. “you do not know what will happen tomorrow.”

- 1. Challenges of life.**
 - i. Facing an uncertain future (4:14a; Prov. 27:1).
 - ii. Facing an uncontrollable future (14a).
- 2. Considerations in life.**
 - i. Life is transitory (4:14b; Heb. 11:13; Ps. 89:47; Eccl. 12:1-5a).
 - ii. Life is terminal (4:14c; Heb. 9:27; Eccl. 12:5b-8, 13-14).

III. THERE IS A POWERFUL PRINCIPLE (4:15-17).

A. “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.”

- 1. Be wise with your time.**
 - i. Stay focused (4:15; Ps. 90:12).
 - ii. Stay faithful (1:12).
- 2. Be wise in your tour.**
 - i. Live in the will of God (4:15).
 - ii. Live in the ways of God (4:15; Prov. 3:5-7).

THE REALITY OF JESUS

I JOHN 1:1-10

I. FACTS ABOUT THE LORD (1:1-3).

A. "That which was from the beginning."

1. The pre-incarnate Christ .

- i. The constant Word (1:1-3; Jo. 1:1-2; Mic. 5:2).
- ii. The creative Word (1:1; Jo. 1:3; Gen. 1:1, 26-27; Col. 1:15-17).

2. The incarnate Christ.

- i. The truth about God in the flesh (1:1-3; Jo. 1:14).
- ii. The testimony about God in the flesh (1:1-3; Jo. 1:34; 6:69; 20:26-28).

II. FELLOWSHIP WITH THE LORD (1:3).

A. "that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.."

1. Fellowship with Deity.

- i. We have fellowship with God (1:3; 3:1).
- ii. We have fellowship with the Son of God (1:3; I Co. 1:9).

2. Fellowship with the disciples.

- i. Our bond in the Lord (1:3; II Pet. 1:1; Acts 2:48).
- ii. Our brotherhood in the Lord (1:3; I Pet. 2:17).

III. FULLNESS IN THE LORD (1:4-10).

A. "And these things we write to you that your joy may be full."

1. Confidence in Christ.

- i. We have assurance in Christ (1:4-7).
- ii. We have an Advocate in Christ (1:8-2:2).

2. Crown in Christ.

- i. We have a victorious faith (1:4; 5:4-5; Jo. 16:33).
- ii. We have a victorious future (1:4; 2:25; 5:11-13).

GETTING A GRIP ON LIFE

ECCLESIASTES 12:1-8

I. THERE ARE CHOICES IN LIFE (11:9-12:1A).

A. "Remember now your Creator."

1. **The time to remember the Creator (11:9-12:1a).**
 - i. In youth (11:9-12:1a; II Tim. 1:5; 3:15).
2. **The threat of rejecting the Creator.**
 - i. Captivated by Satan's lies (II Tim. 2:24-26).
 - ii. Calloused to the Savior's love (Eph. 2:4-9; I Tim. 4:1; Heb. 3:12-13).

II. THERE ARE CHANGES IN LIFE (12:2-6).

A. "Remember now your Creator...before the difficult days."

1. **The outward man is subject to change (12:2-6).**
 - i. The human body is constantly changing (Ps. 37:25).
2. **The inward man is subject to change.**
 - i. The frailties of the body can be offset by a strong faith (II Co. 4:16-18; II Pet. 3:18).

III. THERE IS A CONCLUSION TO LIFE (12:7).

A. "the spirit will return to God who gave it."

1. **Check out time is coming (12:7a).**
 - i. Death is no respecter of persons (Heb. 9:27; Jas. 4:14).
2. **Check in time is coming (12:7b).**
 - i. Where will you spend eternity (Matt. 25:46)?

A NATION THAT FORGOT GOD!

JEREMIAH 2:32; 3:14; 6:16

I. ISRAEL'S RELATIONSHIP TO GOD (3:14).

A. Their connection.

- 1. God's association to Israel (3:14).**
 - i. "I am married to you" (3:14; Rom. 7:4).
- 2. God's affection for Israel (31:3).**
 - i. His everlasting love (31:3; Rom. 5:8; Eph. 2:4).
- 3. God's action on behalf of Israel (2:5-7).**
 - i. He was good to Israel (2:5-7; Ps. 68:19).

II. ISRAEL'S REBELLION AGAINST GOD (2:32).

A. Their corruption.

- 1. They had forgotten the Lord (2:32).**
 - i. How could this have happened?
 - a. They had the Scriptures (Rom. 3:2).
 - b. They had the Sabbath (Ex. 20:8-10).
- 2. They had forsaken the Lord (2:13).**
 - i. They were ingenious (4:22).
 - ii. They were imprudent (2:17; 6:10).
 - iii. They were idolatrous (6:13; 8:19).
 - iv. They were insensitive (6:15).
 - v. They were irresponsible (7:23-24).

III. ISRAEL'S ROAD HOME TO GOD (6:16).

A. Their choice.

- 1. The will of God (3:14; 4:1; II Pet. 3:9).**
 - i. The Lord wanted Israel to return to Him.
- 2. The way to God (6:16).**
 - i. It is a good way (6:16a; Jo. 6:44-45; 14:6).
 - ii. It is a guaranteed way (6:16b; Matt. 11:28-30).

IT'S TIME TO TAKE A KNEE

ISAIAH 37-38

I. THE PROBLEMS THAT CALLED FOR HEZEKIAH'S PRAYERS.

A. The adversities of the king.

1. **Hezekiah was facing imminent danger.**
 - i. The threats of Assyria (36:14-15).
 - ii. The taunts of Assyria (37:10-13).
2. **Hezekiah was facing imminent death.**
 - i. The messenger of death (38:1a).
 - ii. The message of death (38:1b).

II. THE PURPOSE OF HEZEKIAH'S PRAYERS.

A. The attitude of the king.

1. **Hezekiah prayed for deliverance from a public crisis.**
 - i. The simplicity of his prayer (37:14-20).
 - ii. The specificity of his prayer (37:14-20).
2. **Hezekiah prayed for deliverance from a personal crisis.**
 - i. His touching prayer (38:2-3).
 - ii. His tearful prayer (38:2-3).

III. THE POWER OF HEZEKIAH'S PRAYERS.

A. The advantage of the king.

1. **The privilege of reaching out to God in prayer.**
 - i. Hezekiah recognized the privilege of prayer (37:14-15; 38:1-3; Prov. 15:8b).
 - ii. Hezekiah recognized the power of prayer (37:14-16; 38:2-3).
2. **The power of reaching out to God in prayer.**
 - i. Hezekiah was delivered from public crisis (37:33-36).
 - ii. Hezekiah was delivered from personal crisis (38:4-5).

IT'S TIME TO COME HOME

LUKE 15:11-24

I. THE REASONS TO COME HOME (15:11-16).

A. "The younger son...wasted his possessions with prodigal living."

1. **Realize you left the blessings of your Father behind (15:11-14).**
 - i. You left the companionship of home (cf. I Co. 1:9; Heb. 13:5).
 - ii. You left the comfort of home (cf. II Co. 1:3; I Pet. 5:7).
2. **Realize you lost the blessings of your Father's bounty (15:14-16).**
 - i. Depletion of riches (15:14).
 - ii. Destitution without riches (15:15-16).

II. THE ROAD COMING HOME (15:17-19).

A. "But when he came to himself."

1. **There must be awareness (15:17).**
 - i. Be aware of your position in life (15:17a; II Tim. 2:24-26).
 - ii. Be aware of your poverty in life (15:17b).
2. **There must be action (15:18-19).**
 - i. Resolve to come home (15:18a).
 - ii. Repent and come home (15:18b-19; II Co. 7:10).

III. THE RECEPTION TO COMING HOME (15:20-24).

A. "And he arose and came to his father."

1. **You will be met with a comforting homecoming (15:20).**
 - i. There will be a compassionate embrace (15:20a).
 - ii. There will be a cherished embrace (15:20b).
2. **You will be met with a cheerful homecoming (15:21-24).**
 - i. There will be riches (15:21-22; cf. Eph. 1:3).
 - ii. There will be rejoicing (15:23-24).

A WISE MAN WHO DID FOOLISH THINGS

I KINGS 3:3-13; 10:26-11:13

I. THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON (3:3-13).

A. His fame.

1. The request of Solomon for wisdom (3:3-13).
 - i. He excelled in wisdom (4:29-34).
2. The renown of Solomon's wisdom (10:1-7).
 - i. The "wisdom and prosperity" of Solomon exceeded what the Queen of Sheba heard.

II. THE WRECKLESSNESS OF SOLOMON (10:26-11:3).

A. His forewarning.

1. God instructed the king about:
 - i. Selecting a wife (Deut. 7:1-4; 17:17; 11:1-3).
 - ii. Stockpiling wealth (Deut. 17:14-17; 10:26-29).
 - iii. Studying the word (Deut. 17:18-20).

III. THE WAYWARDNESS OF SOLOMON (11:1-13).

A. His foolishness.

1. Solomon refused to listen to God (11:1-2).
 - i. His accumulation of the forbidden (10:26-29).
 - ii. His affection for the forbidden (11:1-2).
 - iii. His association with the forbidden (11:3-8).
 - a. Solomon's wicked ways (11:4-5).
 - b. Solomon's wicked works (11:6-8).
2. Solomon's repercussions for not listening to God (11:9-13).
 - i. The removal of the kingdom.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT

DEUTERONOMY 34:1-12

I. THE OBSERVATION OF MOSES (34:1-4).

A. "the LORD showed him all the land."

- 1. Moses was blessed to view the land (34:1-4a).**
 - i. It was a land of promise (Gen. 12:1-7).
 - ii. It was a land of plenty (Num. 13:27).
- 2. Moses was blocked from visiting the land (34:4b).**
 - i. His fault (Num. 20:7-11).
 - ii. His forfeiture (Num. 20:12-13; Gal. 6:7-8).

II. THE TERMINATION OF MOSES (34:5-8).

A. Moses...died."

- 1. There was no more time for Moses (34:5).**
 - i. His brevity (34:5, 7; Job 14:1-2; Ps. 89:47-48; 90:10; Jas. 4:14).
 - a. Time ran out for Moses (34:5).
 - b. Time will run out for all men (Heb. 9:27).
 - ii. His burial (34:6).
 - a. The body of Moses was laid to rest (Eccl. 12:7).
- 2. There were tears for Moses (35:5, 8).**
 - i. Moses left a void in death (35:8).
 - ii. Moses was victorious in death (35:5; Ps. 116:15).

III. THE REPUTATION OF MOSES (34:5, 9-12).

A. "there has not arisen in Israel a prophet like Moses."

- 1. He was a servant of the Lord (35:5).**
 - i. He was a man of God (35:5, 10).
 - ii. He was a messenger of God (35:11-12; Ex. 5:1).
- 2. His successor in the Lord (35:9).**
 - i. Joshua was mentored by Moses (34:9a; Ex. 24:13).
 - ii. Joshua was the man who followed Moses (34:9b; Num. 27:15-23; Josh. 1:1-9).

CHALLENGES WE FACE AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT

EPHESIANS 5:1-12

I. THE CHALLENGE TO IMITATE THE LORD (5:1-2).

A. The Christlikeness of a saint.

1. **The Person we are to imitate (5:1-2; I Co. 11:1; I Pet. 2:21).**
 - i. The declaration of His love (5:2a; Gal. 2:20).
 - ii. The demonstration of His love (5:2b; Jo. 15:13).
2. **The precept we are to integrate (5:2a).**
 - i. Our behavior in the Lord (5:2a; Jo. 13:34-35).
 - ii. Our blessing in the Lord (pleasing to God, 5:2b).

II. THE CHALLENGE OF AN INCONSISTENT LIFESTYLE (5:3-6).

A. The conduct of a saint.

1. **The danger of sub-standard living (5:3-6).**
 - i. It is demeaning (5:3-4).
 - a. Remember who you are (5:3; I Co. 1:2).
 - b. Remember whose you are (5:1; I Co. 6:19-20).
 - ii. It is damning (5:5-6).
 - a. God's wrath is reserved for the disobedient (I Co. 6:9-11).

III. THE CHALLENGE OF BEING AN INCORRUPTIBLE LIGHT (5:7-12).

A. The commission of a saint.

1. **The road of the righteous (5:7-10).**
 - i. Our fellowship (5:7, 11a).
 - ii. Our fruitfulness (5:9-10; Jo. 15:8).
2. **The responsibility of the righteous (5:8, 11b).**
 - i. We must be a shining light for the Lord (5:8; Phil 2:15; Matt. 5:14-16).
 - ii. We must sound out the light of the word of the Lord (5:11-12; 1:13; Phil. 2:16).

JESUS SEES THE PERSON, NOT JUST THE CROWD

JOHN 5:1-16

I. THE HUGE MULTITUDE (5:1-3).

A. "In these lay a great multitude of sick people.'

1. The people were hurting (5:1-3).
 - i. The diversity of their pain (5:1-3; Jas. 1:2).
 - ii. The depth of their pain (5:1-3; Job 14:1).
2. The people were hopeful (5:1-3).
 - i. They were looking for a better life (5:1-3; cf. Jo. 14:6).
 - ii. They were looking for a blessing in life (5:1-3; cf. Eph. 1:3).

II. THE HELPLESS MAN (5:5-7).

A. "Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years."

1. The disability of the man (5:5-6).
 - i. His pitiful condition (5:5).
 - ii. His protracted condition (5:5-6).
2. The disappointment of the man (5:6-7).
 - i. His helpless condition (5:6-7a).
 - ii. His hopeless condition (5:7).

III. THE HELPFUL MESSIAH (5:6-16).

A. "Do you want to be made well?"

1. The concern of Jesus (5:6).
 - i. His interest in the man (5:6).
 - ii. His inquiry of the man (5:6).
2. The compassion of Jesus (5:7-16).
 - i. He cured the man (5:7-13).
 - ii. He cautioned the man (5:14-16).

HOME AT LAST

JOHN 14:1-3

I. THE PLACE CALLED HEAVEN WILL BE HOME.

A. "I go to prepare a place for you."

1. **The incomparable builder of our home in heaven (14:1-2).**
 - i. The designer of heaven (14:1-2; Heb. 11:10).
 - ii. The distinctiveness of heaven (14:1-2).
2. **The incomparable beauty of our home in heaven (14:1-2).**
 - i. The design of heaven (14:1-2; Rev. 21:10-27).
 - ii. The dimensions of heaven (Rev. 21:15-16).

II. THE PEOPLE WHO WILL CALL HEAVEN HOME.

A. "I will come again and receive you to Myself."

1. **We will be in the presence of God (14:3).**
 - i. The sovereign God will be in heaven (Rev. 21:3; 22:3).
 - ii. The Son of God will be in heaven (14:3; Rev. 22:3).
2. **We will be with the people of God (14:3).**
 - i. It will be a place of rejoicing (Rev. 14:13; Phil. 1:21, 23).
 - ii. It will be a place of reuniting (14:3; Gen. 25:8; II Sam. 12:23).

III. THE PROMISE TO ALL WHO CALL HEAVEN HOME.

A. "I will come again and receive you to Myself."

1. **The Lord will come for us (14:3).**
 - i. The Lord will return for us (14:3; I Thess. 4:13-18).
 - ii. The Lord will raise us (Jo. 5:28-29; I Co. 15:50-58).
2. **The Lord will care for us (14:3).**
 - i. We will be liberated from the separations of this life (Rev. 21:4).
 - ii. We will be liberated from the sorrows of this life (Rev. 21:4).

THE CRUCIFIXION OF KING JESUS

JOHN 18:33-19:37

I. THE CONDEMNATION OF KING JESUS (18:33-19:15).

A. "He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God."

1. The crowd before Jesus (18:33-19:2).
 - i. The ruler (18:33-19:6).
 - ii. The Romans (19:2).
 - iii. The religious (18:39-40; 19:6).
2. The chastening of Jesus (19:1-3).
 - i. They scourged Jesus (19:1).
 - ii. They stripped Jesus (19:2; Matt. 27:28).
 - iii. They struck Jesus (19:3).
3. Their contempt of Jesus (19:2-3-15).
 - i. They were cruel (19:2-3).
 - ii. They were calloused (19:7).
 - iii. They were cold (19:8-15).

II. THE CRUCIFIXION OF KING JESUS (19:16-29).

A. "Crucify Him!"

1. The place where they crucified the Lord (19:16-17).
 - i. Golgotha (19:16-17).
 - ii. Calvary (Lu. 23:33).
2. The people who were crucified with the Lord (19:18).
 - i. Two thieves or malefactors (19:18; Lu. 23:33).
3. The pain of the crucified Lord (19:18-29).
 - i. The immense pain of the cross (19:18-29; Matt. 27:46).
 - ii. The intense pain of the cross (19:18-29).
4. The purpose of the crucified Lord (19:18).
 - i. Jesus died to destroy Satan (Heb. 2:14; I Jo. 3:8).
 - ii. Jesus died to deliver sinners (I Tim. 1:15; 2:4-6; I Pet. 1:18-21).

III. THE CONQUEST OF KING JESUS (19:30-37).

A. "It is finished."

1. The cry of Jesus (19:30-37).
 - i. Jesus finished the work the Father gave Him to do (Jo. 17:4; Heb. 10:5-7).
 - a. He sacrificed His body for sin (I Pet. 2:22-25).
 - b. He shed His blood for sin (19:30-37; Eph. 1:7).
2. The conquering Jesus (20:1-10).
 - i. The resurrected Savior (Matt. 28:1-6; Rom. 1:4).

WHAT IS RIGHT WITH THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

EPHESIANS 1:22-23; 4:4-6; 5:23-27

I. THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IS RIGHT IN ORIGATION.

A. "I will build My church" (Matt. 16:18).

1. **The church was planned by the Lord (Eph. 3:9-11).**
 - i. Jesus founded the church (Matt. 16:13-19).
 - ii. Jesus is the foundation of the church (I Co. 3:11; Eph. 2:20).
2. **The church was purchased by the Lord.**
 - i. The church was bought by the Lord (Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:25).
 - ii. The church belongs to the Lord (Matt. 16:18; Heb. 12:23).

II. THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IS RIGHT IN AUTHORIZATION.

A. "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth" (Matt. 28:18).

1. **The authority of Christ.**
 - i. The church is governed by the authority of Christ (Matt. 28:18; 17:5; Col. 3:17; Acts 2:48; I Tim. 4:16; II Tim. 1:13).

III. THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IS RIGHT IN SALVATION.

A. "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38).

1. **Salvation is in Christ (II Tim. 2:10).**
 - i. Belief in Christ (Jo. 8:24).
 - ii. Baptism into Christ (Acts 2:38).
 - iii. Blood of Christ (Jo. 19:34-35; Eph. 1:7; Rom. 6:3-4).
2. **Salvation is in the church of Christ.**
 - i. Body of Christ (Acts 2:38, 41, 47; I Co. 12:13; Eph. 5:23).

IV. THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IS RIGHT IN ORGANIZATION.

A. "Christ is the head of the church" (Eph. 5:23).

1. The organizational structure of the church.

- i. Universally (Eph. 1:22-23; 5:23; 4:4; Col. 1:18).
- ii. Regionally (Gal. 1:1-2; Rev. 2-3).
- iii. Locally (Phil. 1:1).

V. THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IS RIGHT IN ADORATION.

A. "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (Jo. 4:24).

1. The acts of worship.

- i. The Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7; I Co. 11:23-30).
- ii. Singing (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Heb. 2:12).
- iii. Preaching (II Tim. 4:1-5).
- iv. Praying (I Tim. 2:8; Acts 2:42).
- v. Giving (I Co. 16:1-2).

VI. THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IS RIGHT IN IDENTIFICATION.

A. "And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11:26).

1. Identifying the church collectively.

- i. Church (Acts 2:47).
- ii. Kingdom of heaven (Matt. 4:17).
- iii. Kingdom of God (Mk. 9:1).
- iv. Churches of Christ (Rom. 16:16).
- v. Church of God (I Co. 1:2).
- vi. Israel of God (Gal. 6:16).

2. Identifying the church individually.

- i. Believers (Acts 5:14).
- ii. Disciples (Acts 9:1).
- iii. Christians (Acts 11:26).
- iv. Saints (I Co. 1:2).
- v. Members (I Co. 12:20, 27).
- vi. Brethren (Col. 1:2).
- vii. Priests (I Pet. 2:9).

THE LORD IS NEVER TOO BUSY FOR US

MARK 10:46-52

I. THE CONDITION OF BARTIMAEUS (10:46).

A. "blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the road begging."

1. **Bartimaeus was blind.**
 - i. His unfortunate condition (10:46a).
 - ii. His unfortunate circumstances (10:46b).
2. **Bartimaeus was a beggar.**
 - i. The burden of being disabled (10:46a).
 - ii. The burden of being destitute (10:46b).

II. THE CRY OF BARTIMAEUS (10:47-48).

A. "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

1. **Bartimaeus cried out to the person Jesus.**
 - i. He pled with the one who is Deity (10:47; Jo. 1:1-3, 14).
 - ii. He pled with the one who is the Deliverer (10:47; Matt. 10:41-46).
2. **Bartimaeus cried out persistently to Jesus.**
 - i. It was a cry of hope (10:48; cf. Col. 1:27; Jo. 14:6).
 - ii. It was a cry for help (10:47-48, 51; cf. Ps. 46:1; 121:1-2).

III. THE CURE OF BARTIMAEUS (10:49-52).

A. "Go your way; your faith has made you well."

1. **Jesus had time for Bartimaeus.**
 - i. The Lord wasn't too busy for Bartimaeus (10:49a; Heb. 4:15-16).
 - ii. The Lord wasn't bothered by Bartimaeus (10:49; I Pet. 5:7; Ps. 55:22).
2. **Jesus treated Bartimaeus.**
 - i. The Lord is the master who gives hope (10:50-52; cf. Eph. 2:12-14).
 - ii. The Lord is the master who heals (10:52; cf. Eph. 1:7; Heb. 8:12).

I. THE CONDITION OF THE MAN (5:1-5, 8-9).

A. "there met Him a man out of the tombs with an unclean spirit."

- 1. The dwelling of the man.**
 - i. He lived in morbid places (5:1-3, 5).
 - ii. He lived in mountainous places (5:5).
- 2. The description of the man.**
 - i. He was demonic (5:1-2, 8-9; Jo. 8:44).
 - ii. He was destructive (5:3-5).

II. THE CURE OF THE MAN (5:2-5, 6-17).

A. "Come out of the man, unclean spirit!"

- 1. His confrontation with Jesus.**
 - i. He praised Jesus (5:6).
 - ii. He pled with Jesus (5:7-13).
- 2. His transformation by Jesus.**
 - i. In the past he was helpless, hopeless, and hurting (5:2-5).
 - ii. In the present he is cured, clothed, and coherent (5:14-17).

III. THE COMMISSIONING OF THE MAN (5:18-20).

A. "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you."

- 1. The man was immensely blessed by Jesus.**
 - i. His request of Jesus (5:18).
 - ii. His reply by Jesus (5:19).
- 2. The man immediately became a broadcaster for Jesus.**
 - i. The message he proclaimed (5:20a).
 - ii. The marvel of the people (5:20b).

THE MAJESTY OF JESUS

COLOSSIANS 1:15-23

I. JESUS REVEALS THE FATHER TO MANKIND (1:15, 19).

A. "He is the image of the invisible God."

1. The identification of Jesus (1:15, 19).

- i. He is the Son of Man and the Son of God (Matt. 20:28; 16:16).

2. The revelation by Jesus (1:15).

- i. The visible Jesus revealed the invisible God (Col. 2:9; Heb. 1:3; Jo. 14:9; Matt. 11:22). The word "image" (eikon) means "figure, likeness" (Thayer). The term denotes an "exact representation."

II. JESUS REIGNS FAITHFULLY OVER MANKIND (1:16-18).

A. "For by Him all things were created."

1. He is the Creator in the physical realm (1:15-17).

- i. His power in creation (1:16; Jo. 1:1-3; Heb. 1:10-12).
- ii. His preservation of creation (1:17; Heb. 1:3).
- iii. His purpose in creation (1:16b).

2. He is the Creator in the spiritual realm (1:18).

- i. He is the originator of the church (1:18; Matt. 16:18; Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:25).
- ii. He is over the church (1:18; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:22-24).

III. JESUS RECONCILES FALLEN MANKIND (1:20-23).

A. "having made peace through the blood of His cross."

1. The state of sinful people (1:22a).

- i. Sin alienates people from God (Isa. 59:1-2; Eph. 2:12).

2. The state of saved people (1:20-21).

- i. There is redemption in Christ (Col. 1:12-14).
- ii. There is reconciliation in Christ (1:20-21; II Co. 5:18-21; Eph. 2:16).
- iii. There is reassurance in Christ (1:22-23; I Co. 15:58).