

October 16, 2011

Pastor Ben

“BE COURAGEOUS”  
Luke 22: 7-27 (Part VI)

9/11/ Be Courageous and T\_\_\_\_\_ your S\_\_\_\_\_.

9/18 Be Couageous and T\_\_\_\_\_ J\_\_\_\_\_.

9/25- Be Courageous and C\_\_\_\_\_ in God’s W\_\_\_\_\_.

10/2 Be Courageous and Cry Out to the Lord.

10/9 Be Courageous and R\_\_\_\_\_ your L\_\_\_\_\_ for J\_\_\_\_\_.

1. Be Courageous and \_\_\_\_\_.

2.Be Courageous and \_\_\_\_\_.

3.Be Courageous and \_\_\_\_\_.

“ Impression Without Expression  
Causes Depression”

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- embodied the attitude of Jesus Christ

Philippians 2:3

- Timothy had to learn to be consistent-will you ask the Lord to help you to be consistent in Climb Mount Attendance –one week at a time!

□ You and I are already consistent in a lot of areas of our lives!!!!

- Let's now be consistent, as a body, in Bible Study
- Acts 2:46 “Every day they continued to meet together”  
Weekly, we will gather together to get into God's Word that enables us to KNOW HIM and to know each other better.
- Thanks for helping each other Climb Mount Attendance

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□ Bible Study thoughts about God's Consistency (used at home)

1. God consistently fulfills His promises

II Peter 3:9

2. God consistently forgives our sins

I John 1:9

3. God consistently ministers to us in our temptations

I Corinthians 10:13

4. God consistently responds to all ages at all times

Psalm 119:90

September 26, 2010

Pastor Ben

“Consistency –Part II”

Genesis 39:1-23

Many people think there is a great gap separating those who live an ordinary life and those who live an extraordinary one. But the truth is that there's only a fine line between where you are now and the next level. Sometimes all it takes to move up is a small change in your daily habits, a little different way of looking at things, or a willingness to get up one more time than you've been knocked down. The only real difference between ordinary and extraordinary is that little “extra”.

That little “extra” in the spiritual realm is becoming more and more consistent in your weekly Bible Study attendance. C.M.A. is all about that “little” change in life that will bring major spiritual growth.

What will add more integrity to your witness for Christ than anything else?

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□ Bible Study thoughts about Joseph:

- Joseph was consistent when his life was \_\_\_\_\_ upside down and \_\_\_\_\_ out.
- Joseph was consistent when people \_\_\_\_\_ him of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Joseph learned to be \_\_\_\_\_ when he was not in the place he wanted to be.
- His \_\_\_\_\_ behavior opened the door to God's favor.

□ You and I are already consistent in a lot of areas of our lives!!

- Let's continue to be consistent, as a body, in Bible Study (so few people really are)
- Acts 2:46 "Everyday they continued to meet together"  
Weekly, we will gather together to get into God's Word that enables us to KNOW HIM and to know each other better.
- Next week's goal "124"

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□ Bible Study thoughts about God's Consistency (use at home)

- 10:13
1. God consistently fulfills His promises      II Peter 3:9
  2. God consistently forgives our sins              I John 1:9
  3. God consistently ministers to us in  
our temptations    I Corinthians
  4. God consistently responds to all ages  
at all times    Psalm 119:90

October 3, 2010

Pastor Ben

### Benefits of Consistency Part III

Acts 11:19-30

Steadiness...you can count on it. It will be there tomorrow just like it was yesterday...free from silly moods, sudden changes, or fickle fads. Early in the day or late at night, consistency stands firm. When pain or hardship bite, consistency doesn't bleed. When the majority is tired and irritable, consistency is stable and resilient. Not insensitive or boring, but reliable, faithful. Not opposed to change or reason, but trustworthy. Not stubborn, but solid. Yes, that is it: SOLID.

It's the stuff most mothers are made of when their little ones get sick. And missionaries who loose themselves in their labor even though it yields limited fruit. It reveals itself in faithful employees who show up on time, roll up their sleeves, and commit themselves more to doing the job than watching the clock.

What will add more integrity to your witness for Christ than anything else?

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□ Bible Study thoughts about Barnabas:

- One who demonstrates consistency can be \_\_\_\_\_.
- One who demonstrates consistency \_\_\_\_\_ be given \_\_\_\_\_.
- One who demonstrates consistency will be \_\_\_\_\_ by the Lord in \_\_\_\_\_.
- One who demonstrates consistency \_\_\_\_\_ other avenues of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Barnabas' consistent behavior \_\_\_\_\_ whom he was \_\_\_\_\_.  
"called Christians first at Antioch"

Just a thought:

"What people say, what they do and what they say they do, can be entirely different things."

Or

"What you do underlines or crosses out what you say."

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Which type of individual have you become? Four types

1. They set no goals, make no decisions. - \_\_\_\_\_
2. They are uncertain if they can reach their goals, so they fail to start. - \_\_\_\_\_
3. They start, but stop when the going gets tough. - \_\_\_\_\_
4. They set goals, pay the price and reach

their goals. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

□Bible Study thoughts about God's Consistency (use at home)

1. God consistently fulfills His promises II Peter 3:9

2. God consistently forgives our sins I John 1:9

3. God consistently ministers to us in  
our temptations I Corinthians

10:13

4. God consistently responds to all ages  
at all times

Psalm 119:90

October 10, 2010

Pastor Ben

The Keys to Consistency (Part IV)

Colossians 2:13-15

Four types of people:

1. They set no goals, make no decisions. - \_\_\_\_\_

2. They are uncertain if they can reach their goals,  
so they fail to start. - \_\_\_\_\_

3. They start, but stop when the going  
gets tough. - \_\_\_\_\_

4. They set goals, pay the price and  
reach their goals. - \_\_\_\_\_

? Which type of person are you today?

□Bible Study thoughts on “Keys to Consistency”

- \_\_\_\_\_ your connection:  
\_\_\_\_\_ v13

□Dead but now \_\_\_\_\_: Hallelujah!!!

- \_\_\_\_\_ your connection:  
His power to \_\_\_\_\_ your past. v14

□Cancel means to \_\_\_\_\_, to \_\_\_\_\_,  
to \_\_\_\_\_

□I John 1:9

□Jeremiah 31:34c

- \_\_\_\_\_ to THE \_\_\_\_\_:  
\_\_\_\_\_ power to change you \_\_\_\_\_ v5

□Resurrection power can help you today

□ II Corinthians 5:17 “new creation”

“His transforming resurrection power can help you be more  
consistent in your walk with Him.”

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

□Bible Study thoughts about God's Consistency (use at home)

1. God consistently fulfills His promises II Peter 3:9

2. God consistently forgives our sins I John 1:9

3. God consistently ministers to us in  
our temptations I Corinthians

10:13

4. God consistently responds to all ages  
at all times Psalm 119:90

October 17, 2010

Pastor Ben

Consistency Part V

Acts 2:42-47

“Do not expect the same experience that you had two to twenty years ago. You will have a fresh experience, and God will deal with you in His own way.”

D. L. Moody

Learning to be consistent will open up many new experiences. Being consistent in Bible Study will help an individual to grow deeper in their relationship with Jesus Christ. Day in and day out consistency opens our eyes to the new levels of commitment, of strength, and of awareness. As

one becomes more consistent, your life will change for the better.

What will add more integrity to your witness for Christ than anything else?

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■ Bible Study thoughts on “The Early Church”

- Consistency \_\_\_\_\_ us to new experiences. v42  
“They devoted themselves”
- Consistency opens the door to \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ . vv44-45  
“were together” “selling”
- Consistency \_\_\_\_\_ us to a deeper \_\_\_\_\_ upon the Lord. v46  
“everyday”
- Consistency exposes us to a \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Experience of the Lord. v47

■ Think on this:

“Spend a month on salvation, or the kingdom of God, or the church in the New Testament, or the attributes of God. It will help you in your spiritual walk, and you will become a workman who need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

■TIME??

“truth will set you free” John 8:32b

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■Bible Study thoughts about God’s Consistency (use at home)

1. God consistently fulfills His promises II Peter 3:9
2. God consistently forgives our sins I John 1:9
3. God consistently ministers to us in our temptations I Corinthians 10:13
4. God consistently responds to all ages at all times Psalm 119:90

October 31, 2010

Pastor Ben

Risk-Who Me?  
Matthew 25:14-30

As generations ago, we are less inclined toward risk than many. It seems to be a time when many play it safe, hedge their bets, and cover their tracks. We do a great deal of looking with very little leaping. In our lifestyle of comfort in Western culture, we are too easily lulled to sleep. We fail to live the life of obedient, faith-filled “risk” and so we fail to reach our great potential in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ is the greatest “Caller to Risk”. The one who told fishermen to drop their nets and follow Him always calls us toward risk. Christ expects those who claim to follow Him, to risk life for His sake. Jesus was a

risk-taker, perhaps as His followers, we should consider His lead.

1. Risk participating in what Christ is doing rather than \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Risk doing \_\_\_\_\_ for Christ rather than \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Risk accepting responsibility rather than placing \_\_\_\_\_.

“If your life is without mistakes,  
you’re not taking enough risks.”

November 7, 2010

Pastor Ben

“Conquering Inconsistency”

Various Scriptures

The disciples before us exemplified faithfulness and consistency, and we should also leave a legacy of persevering service. As the noted singer and writer Steve Green wrote;

“Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us run the race not only for the prize. But as those who’ve gone before us, let us leave to those behind us the heritage of faithfulness passed on through godly lives. May all who come behind us find us faithful.”

Yes, faithful and consistent! And yet at times we struggle to be consistent in a world of many options. But, God's Word can indeed encourage each one of us to conquer inconsistency in our walk as His disciple.

1. Focus on the \_\_\_\_\_

- John 1:29 “ \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ ”
- Hebrews 12:2 “ \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ ”
- Questions To Think on!
  - Have you gotten complacent with Jesus?
  - Are you in Love with Him?
  - Does Jesus excite you anymore?
  - Do you feel His presence?

2. Focus on The \_\_\_\_\_

- John 1:1, 14
- Hebrews 4:12-13
- Colossians 3:16
- The Scriptures will \_\_\_\_\_ you, will \_\_\_\_\_ you, will \_\_\_\_\_ you, will \_\_\_\_\_ you.
- Our actions may indicate that we really do not believe in the Word of God.

- The Word encourages us to live on a \_\_\_\_\_ level!  
Ephesians 4:21-32

3. Focus on a \_\_\_\_\_ life

- Ephesians 1:15-21 -this prayer will deepen your walk with Jesus
- In prayer time- the spirit gives us a \_\_\_\_\_  
for the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.
- As you pray (not criticize) for each other-you permit the Lord to guide you and to change you.
- Illustration: “Marathon Runner”  
Our race is not a sprint-we need the daily look to the Lord Jesus and His Word and His speaking to us so that we can consistently run the race marked out for us.

November 14, 2010

Pastor Ben

“Finishing Well”

James 1:1-4

“One’s Outlook Determines The Outcome”

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.” Hebrews 11:6

Finishing Well:

1) Reveals the \_\_\_\_\_ of one's faith.

2) Reveals the \_\_\_\_\_ of one's faith.

3) Reveals one's \_\_\_\_\_ of faith.

November 14, 2010

Pastor Ben

“Finishing Well”

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Finishing Well:

1) Reveals the \_\_\_\_\_ of one's faith.

2) Reveals the \_\_\_\_\_ of one's faith.

3) Reveals one's \_\_\_\_\_ of faith.

November 21, 2010

Pastor Ben

### Thanks-Giving

A grateful heart brings perspective. Practicing thankfulness teaches us to see the good in any situation. Giving thanks in our circumstances creates a winning spiritual attitude. We are freed from selfish expectations and our attention is placed upon the Lord and His goodness. A home filled with gratitude is a home where faith will flourish. Perhaps this week, you and I can practice Thanks-Giving.

1. Thanks for Giving us:

a. \_\_\_\_\_ ● Acts 4:12

b. \_\_\_\_\_ ● Colossians 1:20

c. \_\_\_\_\_ ● John 10:10

2. Giving Thanks because we have a :

a. \_\_\_\_\_ ● Philippians 2:1-2

b. \_\_\_\_\_ that gives \_\_\_\_\_ ● Psalm 119:105

c. \_\_\_\_\_ in His \_\_\_\_\_ mission ● II Corinthians 5:17-18

“Great Grace Gives Great Gratitude”

December 19, 2010

Pastor Ben

“Christmas Confusion”

Luke 2:1-7

“I Want to believe”

“Embracing the Plan Changes Your Life Forever”

Jesus

Is the Reason

for

All seasons

January 2, 2011

Pastor Ben

Exploring New Dimensions of Faith  
Matthew 16:5-12

F\_\_\_\_\_

A\_\_\_\_\_

I\_\_\_\_\_

T\_\_\_\_\_

H\_\_\_\_\_

A New Year's Resolution of Exploring Faith.

1. F \_\_\_\_\_ any \_\_\_\_\_ that hinders your walk with the Lord.

2. A \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord's \_\_\_\_\_.

3. I \_\_\_\_\_ anew to you, Lord.

4. T \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_ O Lord to your \_\_\_\_\_ for my life.

5. H \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ on me as I walk in faith.

Faith means abandoning all trust in our own resources, abilities and reasoning-the things we see and relying on things we cannot see-God's promises, provisions and His concern for us.

“And without faith it is impossible to please God.” Hebrews 11:6

January 9, 2011

Rev. Ben Lehmann

“Exploring New Dimensions of Faith - Part II”

Hebrews 11:1-12

“God has a thousand ways

Where I can see not one.

When all my means have reached their end,

Then He has just begun”

Faith means abandoning all trust in our own resources, abilities, and reasoning. – the things we see and relying on things we cannot see – God's promises, provisions, and His concern for us. Hebrews 11 is referred to as the

“faith chapter” in the Bible. This passage identifies several characteristics of faith.

1. Faith sees the \_\_\_\_\_ v. 8

“went, even through he did not know where he was going.”

2. Faith hears the \_\_\_\_\_ v. 8

“when called”

3. Faith believes the \_\_\_\_\_ v. 11

“It is often beyond the normal”

4. Faith thinks the \_\_\_\_\_ v. 7

“built an Ark”

The greatest faith one can achieve is the ability to believe when God's voice is silent and His hand is still.

“The smallest obedient act is better than the greatest intention.”

January 16, 2011

Rev. Ben Lehmann

Revolutionary Stewardship

Deuteronomy 5:32-33

In the area of stewardship we must realize we are stewards and not owners. Owners do have rights but stewards have responsibilities. God is the owner of everything thus we are His stewards. Revolutionary Stewardship is all about transferring ownership of all possessions to God: material possessions, money, time, family, education, hobbies, spiritual gifts, and even earning potential for the future. Doing so is essential to experiencing the Spirit-filled life.

Revolutionary Stewardship does not happen overnight but rather it is a daily faith-walking journey. Revolutionary means a sudden, radical, or complete change. As the snow and ice storm changed a lot of plans this past week, may we consider some ideas to enhance or to propel us into another dimension of faith in the area of stewardship. These ideas once implemented will revolutionize your thinking about stewardship.

1. Keep \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord God

- God speaks to us through:
  - The message of His Word
  - The evidence of God-directed circumstances
  - The council of Godly People
  - The Witness of His Spirit in prayer

- Deuteronomy 30:30
- 1 Samuel 3:9
- Proverbs 1:5
- John 10:27
- James 1:19

2. Keep \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord.

- The Stewards life is not lived on the basis of a one-time commitment but the discipline of a daily commitment and a daily surrender.
- Galatians 2:20
- Romans 12:1-2

3. Keep \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord God.

- “The Smallest act of obedience is better than the greatest intention.”
- God measures love by obedience not warm feelings.
- 1 Samuel 15:22
- Matthew 28:20
- John 14:23
- Acts 5:29
- Deut. 6:3
- Romans 1:5
- II John 1:6
- 1 Peter 1:14-15

Revolutionary Stewardship – Part II  
“Timeless Truths”  
Proverbs 3:5-6

Stewardship begins with the recognition that God owns everything in our lives, and that we are to manage carefully all the resources He has entrusted to us. We are stewards, called and chosen by God to manage the resources that He places in our care. To manage wisely we must grasp essential principles that will under-gird our lives.

Revolutionary Stewardship includes God’s timeless truths that, once implemented, will change a disciple’s life. Though these principles are simple, they are not simplistic; in practicing them we will experience a revolution in our thinking as well as in our lives.

1. God \_\_\_\_\_.

- Psalm 24:1-2
- I Chronicles 29:11-13
- We speak of what is “mine” or “our possessions,” but the basic fact of scripture is that we actually own nothing but are \_\_\_\_\_.
- I Timothy 6:7
- The inescapable reality is that “we \_\_\_\_\_ into this world, and it’s certain we can \_\_\_\_\_ out.
- Question? ? ?  
When a billionaire dies, how much does he leave?  
\_\_\_\_\_!
- Deuteronomy 8: 16-18
- Revelation 21:21 “Gold Street”
- He is the \_\_\_\_\_ owner of all things, and real \_\_\_\_\_ comes to us only in \_\_\_\_\_ Him and \_\_\_\_\_ managing His resources.

2. God holds \_\_\_\_\_ person \_\_\_\_\_.

- I Corinthians 4:2
- Luke 19:13
- Matthew 25:19
- I Peter 4:10
- “The most profound and important thought ever to occupy my mind is that I am individually accountable to Almighty God.”

Daniel Webster

3. God says that the “\_\_\_\_\_” is \_\_\_\_\_ to Him.

- Leviticus 27:30
- Malachi 3:10
- Matthew 6:24
- Luke 6:38
- Examine Malachi 4:10-11  
When you give what’s Holy – you put yourself, your children, and your family in a position to receive a blessing from God Almighty.
- Consider Tithing – not for the church’s sake but for your sake.
- Goal of Revolutionary Stewardship:  
To use all of the resources God has entrusted to your care: talents, time, treasures, spiritual gifts, all that you are – to fulfill His will of reaching the nations for Christ.

January 30, 2011

Pastor Ben

Revolutionary Stewardship Part III  
“Trustworthiness”  
Colossians 3:15-17

Trustworthiness—faithful dependability—is the mark of the excellent steward. Jesus said,

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Mark 10:45.

At the most basic level, the true steward is a true servant. As disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, we have been given a trust—a great responsibility and it is imperative to make the most of it. The God of the universe has entrusted us with time, treasures, material things, spiritual gifts, talents, and great opportunities. Our objective is to maximize the investment of all that He has given us. Every day is a opportunity for service and stewardship. Thus, we need to continue to learn how to be more trustworthy each day.

1. To become a trustworthy steward, you and I \_\_\_\_\_ handle the \_\_\_\_\_ the things with the same \_\_\_\_\_ as the \_\_\_\_\_ things.

✚ “whatever you do”

✚ Stewardship applies to the \_\_\_\_\_ items as well as the \_\_\_\_\_.

✚ Luke 16: 10-12

“Spiritual wealth is far more valuable than worldly wealth, we will not be trusted to manage heavenly riches if we have proved ourselves untrustworthy with money on earth.”

✚ Christ-\_\_\_\_\_ stewardship is the by-product of a Christ-\_\_\_\_\_ attitude.

2. To become a trustworthy steward, you and I must \_\_\_\_\_ everything in life as \_\_\_\_\_.

✚ “do it all for the glory of God”

✚ I Corinthians 10:31

✚ We have put our lives on “files” so much that they never \_\_\_\_\_ with each other. Thus, we do not show any transformation of Christ-likeness in our daily lives.

✚ As followers of Christ-He is interested in every “file” of our lives.

Goal of Revolutionary Stewardship:

To use all of the resources God has entrusted to your care; talent, time, treasures, spiritual gifts, influence, all that you are—to fulfill His will of reaching the nation for Christ.

## Revolutionary Stewardship—Part IV

## “Becoming a Witness”

Acts 1:8

A witness begins with a need. For the Christian witness, it's the need people have for a Savior. They are separated from God, and they need a bridge to get back into relationship with Him. Not the God of a particular religion, but the one and only, true and living God who gave us His Word, the Bible, and gave us His son, Jesus Christ. The all-knowing, all-sufficient, all-powerful God who has one amazing purpose toward mankind: to reconcile mankind to Himself. The God/Man Jesus Christ, who lived a perfect life, died a sacrificial death and rose from the dead to open the bridge to God the Father. He paid the price for our sins to offer us a free gift of salvation. This gift of salvation not on any merit on our part, but simple His limitless grace.

God has chosen us who have trusted Jesus as our Lord and Savior to be “stewards” of His gospel. We are the appointed givers of truth (I Corinthians 5:20-21) to other human beings. He has determined to use us as the stewards of His message, to share our own stories of His saving power. We have the joy of telling others of Jesus' love and to warn those without Him that the bridge is out and disaster awaits if they do not trust Him. We are His witnesses, and the Good News we bear is absolutely, positively revolutionary. Thus, we need to continue to learn how to be a revolutionary witness.

1. Seize the \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ opportunities to give away your \_\_\_\_\_.

✝ Acts 2:14

✝ Acts 2:38-41

✝ Acts 3:11-13

✝ Acts 4:13

- “unschooled, ordinary men”
- “been with Jesus”

- ✝ When you spend \_\_\_\_\_ with non-believers you must \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ to share God's love and trust with them.
- ✝ As His Steward I am responsible to tell my story of how Christ changed my life and help me to bring together all the "files" in my life.
- ✝ A part of revolutionary Stewardship is sharing about the "One" who is guiding my life.

2. Present Christ \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

- ✝ Romans 1:16
- ✝ John 14:6
- ✝ John 3:16

✝ The Gospel is not a clever \_\_\_\_\_ or system. It is a message about a \_\_\_\_\_ -the central person in all history- \_\_\_\_\_.

✝ Three items in your story:

♥ \_\_\_\_\_

♥ \_\_\_\_\_

♥ \_\_\_\_\_

✝ Has the Gospel changed your life?

✝ The Gospel (Good News of Jesus Christ) is the explosive power of God to change lives.

✝ "A faithful witness realizes that people die, and when they die they will either be with the Lord forever or separated from Him forever. There's no middle existence."

Let's ask the Lord to use us to be His  
"Revolutionary Witnesses."

Jesus' Words for Today  
Mark 13:1-13

Recent events in the Middle East again call our attention to a Biblical reality. Both the beginning and the end of history center in that area, according to Biblical prophecy. Even a superficial reading of the scriptures indicate that the decisive and final events of time will in some way be connected with events in that part of the world. How are we to weigh present events in light of Biblical belief?

Our Lord Jesus Christ always gives us a sufficient Word. He does not tell us everything, but He tells us enough (Deuteronomy 29:29). Jesus predicted that some of the problems today would characterize the entire age until He comes. He told us specifically what our responsibility should be during this age. In an age of deception, disruption, and persecution, we must take the Gospel to everyone and see that we stand firm in the Gospel.

1. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ the difficulties. vs. 5-9

♥ Jesus warns against \_\_\_\_\_

When life's race get you down, remember, the greatest incentive you as a Christian have is awaiting you at the finish line—~~a~~ seeing Christ face-to-face and sharing in His eternal glory. Keep that prize in mind, and you'll keep going.

h out that no one deceives you”

♥ Jesus warns against \_\_\_\_\_  
“wars and rumors of wars”, “earthquakes”,  
“famines”

♥ Jesus warns about \_\_\_\_\_

“you will be handed over”

➤ The world will never be friendly to the people of the Gospel.

2. Jesus delineates our \_\_\_\_\_ . vs. 10-13

♥ We must pay attention to \_\_\_\_\_.

“Gospel must first be preached”

➤ Remember, it is proclamation not speculation that brings back King Jesus.

♥ We must pay attention to \_\_\_\_\_.

“he who stands firm to the end will be saved.”

➤ Anyone can start a race, but it is those that finish that count.

“In the race of life, it’s always too soon to quit”

“Transformational Truths”

John 17:14-20

Transform: to change in structure, appearance, or character

D. L. Moody: “The Bible was not given to increase our knowledge, but to change our lives.”

Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” John 8: 31-32.

**Four Transformational Truths**

1. Truth of His \_\_\_\_\_ v.14

A. Two Results

(1) N \_\_\_\_\_ ● \_\_\_\_\_

(2) P \_\_\_\_\_ ● \_\_\_\_\_

2. Truth of His \_\_\_\_\_ v.15

A. Two Aspects

(1) S \_\_\_\_\_

(2) P \_\_\_\_\_

Faith-s  
shared

3. Truth that causes \_\_\_\_\_ vs. 16-17

A. Word sanctify means: \_\_\_\_\_

B. The World vs. The Disciple

1. Standing:

▶ \_\_\_\_\_ or A \_\_\_\_\_ in love

2. Nature:

▶ F \_\_\_\_\_ or S \_\_\_\_\_

3. Master:

▶ S \_\_\_\_\_ or L \_\_\_\_\_ J \_\_\_\_\_  
C \_\_\_\_\_

4. Aim for Life:

▶ P \_\_\_\_\_ S \_\_\_\_\_ or P \_\_\_\_\_ the  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Citizen ship:

▶ E \_\_\_\_\_ or H \_\_\_\_\_

6. Destiny:

▶ F \_\_\_\_\_ or H \_\_\_\_\_ on  
H \_\_\_\_\_

4. Truth of His \_\_\_\_\_ v.18

✦ Jesus said, "I have sent them"

✦ John 20:21 "I am sending you"

✦ Matthew 28:19 "Therefore go and make disciples"

✦ Acts 1:8 "will be my witnesses"

✦ II Corinthians 5:18 "the ministry of reconciliation"

## “Jesus Christ”

## John 1-5

Our world offers a variety of gods to worship. One major religion features a god of power and revenge; another worships one that is silent and indifferent to the sufferings of people; still another offers a god that is mysterious and unknowable, absorbing all of humanity into a great cosmic ocean of oneness. Some people worship gods of possessions, fame, and entertainment. Only one faith worships a person known primarily for His sacrificial love. The Gospel of John profiles that God, revealed in the person of Jesus Christ.

John himself explains the goal of the Gospel of John:

“That you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that by believing you may have life in His name.” John 20:31

Chapter 1 Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ who \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world.

✚ John 1:1-3, 29

✚ Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ and became \_\_\_\_\_.

Chapter 2 Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ W \_\_\_\_\_.

✚ John 2:10-11

✚ First miracle is at a big event.

✚ V.17 Jesus' actions at the \_\_\_\_\_  
demonstrate the \_\_\_\_\_ of His desire that His  
\_\_\_\_\_ remain \_\_\_\_\_ to the  
\_\_\_\_\_ of His church.

Chapter 3 Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

- ✚ John 3:7 “you must be born again.”
- ✚ John 3:16 “whoever believes in ...”
- ✚ To believe in Christ involves more than just agreeing that Jesus’ words are true. It means to trust in Christ \_\_\_\_\_ for your salvation. It is deciding to place your fate in the hands of Jesus, trusting Him to be your Lord and His Word to be your command.

Chapter 4 Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_.

- ✚ John 4:13-14 Jesus will quench your thirst if you look to Him.
- ✚ John 4:34 “make my agenda your agenda and you will be transformed.”

Chapter 5 Jesus is the Great Physician

- ✚ John 5:8-9
- ✚ Do you want to get well? Not every moment of life is equally open to spiritual change. The Spirit of God comes, moves, and goes on His way. You cannot even make a move toward God without His initiative—John 6:44. There is a moment of spiritual drawing when you must seize that moment – when He speaks – you must respond.

The question is — Do you want to get well?

## “Jesus Christ”

## John 1-5

“He’s the one who made us, it is He who made us and not we ourselves, the heaven declares the Glory of God and the firmament shows His handiwork. No means of measure can define His limitless love and no far seeing telescope can bring into visibility the coastline of His shoreless supply, I’m telling you today.” He is the Christ.

“No barrier can hinder Him from pouring out His blessings. He’s enduringly strong, and entirely sincere. He’s eternally steadfast and He’s immortally graceful. He’s ingrediently powerful and He’s impartially merciful. He’s the greatest phenomenon that ever crossed the horizon of this world. He’s God’s Son, He’s the sinner’s Savior. He’s the center piece of civilization.” Yes, He is Jesus Christ!

Chapter 1 Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

✚ John 1:1-3, 29

✚ Jesus is God and became man.

Chapter 2 Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ W \_\_\_\_\_.

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## “Jesus Christ”

## John 3

“He does not have to call for help and you can’t confuse Him. He doesn’t need you and He doesn’t need me. He stands alone in the solitude of Himself. He is unique. He is unparallel. He’s unprecedented. He’s supreme. He’s preeminent. He’s the loftiest idea in literature. He’s the highest personality in philosophy. He’s the supreme problem of higher criticism. He’s the fundamental doctrine of true theology. He’s the cardinal necessity of spiritual religion. He’s the miracle of the age. He’s the superlative of everything good that you can call Him.” Yes, He is the Christ.

“He can satisfy all your needs and do it simultaneously. He can supply strength for the weak and He’s available for the tempted and tired. He sympathizes and He sees. He guards and He guides. He heals the sick. He cleansed the leper. He forgives sinners. He discharges debtors. He delivers the captive. He defends the feeble. He blesses the young. He regards the age. He rewards the diligent. He beautifies the meek.” Yes, He is Jesus.

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## A. John 3:7 “you must be born again”

-“born again”- the \_\_\_\_\_ which takes place when the \_\_\_\_\_ activity \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_.

- The person is \_\_\_\_\_ all over again by the very spirit of God.

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- Thoughts on “born again”
  - Called \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_
  - Beginning of \_\_\_\_\_ life
  - It introduces one to the light of the Gospel
  - Just the \_\_\_\_\_ of so much in the Gospel
  - Do not \_\_\_\_\_ everything at \_\_\_\_\_

B. John 3:16 “whoever believes in...”

- To believe is to \_\_\_\_\_, to \_\_\_\_\_, to \_\_\_\_\_
- To believe in Christ involves more than just agreeing that Jesus’ words are true. It means to \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ alone for your \_\_\_\_\_. It is deciding/committing to place your fate in the hands of Jesus, trusting Him to be your Lord and Savior and His Word to be your command.

C. John 3:16-18—Contrast between Believers and Unbelievers

- Believers have \_\_\_\_\_ life—unbelievers \_\_\_\_\_ not v.16
- Believers are not \_\_\_\_\_—unbelievers are \_\_\_\_\_ vs. 17-18
- Believers live in the \_\_\_\_\_—unbelievers live in \_\_\_\_\_ vs. 19-21

D. Think on this:

- ♥ New life is not an achievement. It is a gift. In John 3:16, Jesus gathered up the message of the Bible—He loves you!
- ♥ It says that love is the great reality in God. It says you do not have to persuade God to love you. It says life is a purchased gift waiting for you to accept it. It says that the moment you respond to God’s love in Christ, life becomes yours

If you want to find life, stop trying to achieve it and let God give it to you. Only then will your search be over!

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## “Jesus Christ”

## John 4

“He’s the key to knowledge. He’s the well spring of wisdom. He’s the doorway of deliverance. He’s the pathway of peace. He’s the roadway of righteousness. He’s the highway of holiness. He’s the gateway to glory.” He is the Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away our sin.

“His office is manifold. His promises are sure. His life is matchless. His goodness is limitless. His mercy is everlasting. His love never changes. His word is enough. His grace is sufficient. His reign is righteousness. His yoke is easy. His burden is light. I wish I could describe Him to you but He is indescribable because He is incomprehensible. He is irresistible because He is invincible.” Yes, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Beginning and the End.

## Chapter 4

Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_.

A. John 4:14 “but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst.”

- Jesus will \_\_\_\_\_ your thirst if you look to Him

- v.7 Jesus broke two barriers:

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B. John14:32 “I have food”

- Jesus’ food was summed up in John 14:14
  
- What moved God’s son out of the glorious home of heaven down to earth?  
  
\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_
  
- Spiritual Harvesting Impacts Life in three ways:
  - Spiritual Harvesting \_\_\_\_\_ life vs. 31-34
    - ✧ Going with Christ after the lost gives to life and inward energy that nothing can match.
  - Spiritual Harvesting \_\_\_\_\_ life v. 35
    - ✧ Sowing and Reaping
  - Spiritual Harvesting \_\_\_\_\_ life vs. 36-38
    - ✧ When we sow or reap our lives become \_\_\_\_\_ because we are allowing the Giver of Eternal Life to use us—Wow!
  
- Not Everyone Everywhere is ready but Someone Somewhere is ready right now.
  
- II Corinthians 2:1-5  
“so that your faith might not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power”
  
- We major on what we don’t know and it diminishes our enthusiasm for what we do know.

A Soul-Winner shares what Jesus has done in their life.

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Ben

“Jesus Christ”

John 5

In the midst of routine faithfulness the extraordinary can take place. A striking aspect of Jesus’ ministry was His willingness to observe common religious customs practiced by everyone else. He went to the local synagogue in Nazareth, kept the feasts, and even paid temple tax. Even though He was the fulfillment of the Hebrew race, every feast, and the temple itself, he was not above commitment to the routine faithfulness of everyone else. What a reminder to us when we might consider ourselves “above it all.”

The faithful were required to go to Jerusalem three times a year for feasts. On one such occasion Jesus went to Jerusalem alone to avoid recognition because of His controversial presence. There He was confronted by a hopeless man who wanted to be well.

Yes, the Lord Jesus can make you spiritually well if you seize the moment of possibility and really want to be well.

Chapter 5: Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_

A. John 5:6 “Do you want to be well?”

✧ Not every moment of life is equally open to spiritual change. The Spirit of God comes, moves, and goes on His way. You cannot even make a move toward God without His initiative (John 6:44). Yet, there is a moment of spiritual drawing when you must seize that moment—when He speaks—you must respond.

1. Do you want to be Well in spite of \_\_\_\_\_?

✧ At times in our lives, we live in places and times of

\_\_\_\_\_ the pool of Bethesda represents such a place

✧ v. 5 One man is singled out—How old? \_\_\_\_\_

3/27/2011

Pastor

Ben

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✧ Not everyday can witness a spiritual \_\_\_\_\_

✧ v. 4 is not apart of the original text yet it reflects a popular,  
early explanation for the bubbling up of the water (v. 7 “water  
is stirred”) Intermittent spring

✧ John 3:8 and 6:44—He speaks—\_\_\_\_\_

3. Do you want to be Well as a Point of \_\_\_\_\_?

✧ Jesus works in \_\_\_\_\_ ways.

✧ Jesus cuts through the games of our lives to the real issue—  
v.6 \_\_\_\_\_ want to \_\_\_\_\_

✧ Often times, we can love our \_\_\_\_\_, nurture our  
\_\_\_\_\_, and inside \_\_\_\_\_ our messes.

✧ v. 7 the man imagines \_\_\_\_\_ difficulties

This paralyzed man raised trivial difficulties in the face of a  
tremendous opportunity—Jesus’ Power. Are we different?

✧ Jesus’ Gives His Word of Power in v. 8

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you want to get Well Today

✧ Read v. 21

- You are blind to the truth about yourself.
- You are lame not physically, but emotionally.

- You are paralyzed in fear.

Seize the moment Right Now—Jesus wants to make you Well.

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April 3, 2011

Pastor Ben

“T. D.”

Jude 17-23

Nominal Christianity has always been the enemy of the church. Jesus warned against the nominal kind of spiritual lifestyle when He quoted Isaiah in Mark 7:6-8:

“Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: ‘These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.’ You have let go of the commands of God and are holding onto the traditions of men.”

Years ago, Christian leaders gathered from around the world to prayerfully plan strategy to reach some twenty categories of people’s groups. There are people who have not yet been reached with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It was discovered that one such group was the most difficult to reach with the gospel- the category assigned to that group – “Nominal Christians.”

Jude understood that principle years ago and was deeply concerned with encouraging believers to avoid the satanic trap of becoming merely “nominal.” Jude believed that the best defense against nominalism was a strong, offensive, dynamic faith in Jesus Christ.

Thus, these scriptures encourage us to become “T.D.” people for the Lord Jesus Christ.

T. D. stands for \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Tenacious Disciples persevere when \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ vs. 17-18

✧ Scoffers are \_\_\_\_\_.

✧ Last Days people will follow their own desires and not God's desires. II Timothy 3:1-5

✧ What is faithfulness to you?

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2. Tenacious Disciples persevere when \_\_\_\_\_ to  
\_\_\_\_\_. v. 19

✧ The main intent of Nominal Christianity is

\_\_\_\_\_.

✧ Hypocrites

3. Tenacious Disciples persevere because they \_\_\_\_\_ to  
\_\_\_\_\_ up their \_\_\_\_\_. vs. 20-23

✧ How can we build up our faith?

a. \_\_\_\_\_ in the spirit. v.20

b. \_\_\_\_\_ His love. v. 21

c. \_\_\_\_\_ mercy and compassion. vs. 21-22

“...snatch others from the fire.”

T. D.'s will impact and influence the community

whereas

N.C.'s will hinder and hurt the community.

What will you choose?

T.D or N.C.

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April 17, 2011

Pastor

Ben

## “Radical Forgiveness”

Luke 23:26-34

Are people losing interest in Calvary? Is Calvary the rallying point for the church? Is Calvary really necessary in our age? Let's be honest, Calvary happened such a long time ago, over 2,000 years. That's a long time to keep a memory alive. A long time to ask people to “cherish the old rugged cross.” Plus, the Cross of Calvary was just too violent. For whatever the reason or reasons, it does seem that the Cross of Calvary has lost some interest.

But Calvary is the start of the Gospel and the heart of the Gospel. Here are a few ideas to consider about Calvary:

### Calvary

- ✧ The place of curse and the place of blessing.
- ✧ Where we see man at his worst and God at His best.
- ✧ Where the Lamb of God was slain and sin dealt a death blow.
- ✧ Where the Son of God gave up His life for you and me.
- ✧ Where we see the awful depths of humanism and the tremendous heights of divine love.
- ✧ Where every person must come if he/she expects to find everlasting HOPE.
- ✧ Where all our Hopes are centered, both for this world and the next.
- ✧ Where Radical Forgiveness starts.

April 17, 2011  
Ben

Pastor

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## 1. Radical Forgiveness

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✧ Do you forgive someone when they do you wrong?

## 2. Radical Forgiveness

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Perhaps, the 3 Greatest Words in the Bible

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May 8, 2011  
Ben

Pastor

“Faith Worth Passing On”

II Timothy 1:3-7

There is no more influential or powerful role on earth than that of a mother. As significant as political, military, educational, or religious public figures may be, none can compare to the impact made by mothers. Their words are never fully forgotten, their touch leaves an indelible impression, and the memory of their presence lasts a lifetime.

Paul is writing this letter to his close friend in the Lord, Timothy, while in prison. In Paul’s lonely moments, he is reflecting back to better days. The Lord God puts into his heart some qualities that were demonstrated in Timothy’s life through the personal touch of his mother, Eunice, and his grandmother, Lois (v. 5). Those qualities transformed and

shaped Timothy's young life into one who contends for the faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Perhaps these five qualities could be passed on to help any mother become a more godly mother, or to help anyone who desires to impact others for the cause of Christ.

1. T \_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 4)

✧ "recalling your tears"

2. R \_\_\_\_\_ S \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 5)

✧ Lois and Eunice passed on " \_\_\_\_\_ "

✧ sincere is best translated un \_\_\_\_\_

3. Inner P \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 6-7)

✧ "fan into flame the gift of God"

✧ spirit of " \_\_\_\_\_ "

4. Unselfish L \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 7)

✧ Love when it h \_\_\_\_\_

✧ Love ACTS

5. Self-C \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 7)

✧ Moms set boundaries, not children

✧ S\_\_\_\_\_ C\_\_\_\_\_ will pay dividends

Illustration: Four scholars were debating over Bible translations trying to determine which is best.

\*One preferred the K.J.V. because...

\*One preferred the American Standard Bible because...

\*One preferred Moffatt because...

\*The last one, giving careful thought, preferred his mother's translation because "she translated the pages into life"

May 15, 2011

Pastor

Ben

"Are You Hanging Out With Pigs?"

Luke 15: 11-24

Are you deliberately missing out on what the Father has for you? Are you hanging out with thoughts or plans that keep you away from the BEST GOD has for you? Are you so discouraged that you are hanging out with shallow dreams and thoughts that have put you into a pool of sin that has impeded any good thoughts? Are you hanging out with Pigs?

How does God react if you come to Him or come back to Him? Tension fills the moment we return to someone from whom we have been alienated. Will He rebuke me, insult me, give me the cold shoulder, act indifferently, or welcome me?

How the Father receives us back is the heart of this parable. The Lord Jesus Christ longed for us to believe that God is really like the Father in this story. The very moment you make a real, actual, decisive move toward the Father, He has already received you back. This scripture is not saying, “You lousy, no good prodigal. I’m going to make you miserable.” No, a thousand times NO! His appeal to us is, “My daughter, my son, I love you. Don’t miss your party.” Today, you can stop hanging out with the pigs. Come and enjoy His party for you.

1. You can leave,

\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ vs. 11-16

2. He is \_\_\_\_\_ vs. 17-19

3. God the Father \_\_\_\_\_ . v.  
20

4. When you are tired of hanging out with the pigs –  
\_\_\_\_\_ . v. 21

\_\_\_\_\_ is a \_\_\_\_\_ word!!

May 22, 2011  
Ben

Pastor

Jesus Christ  
“The Bread of Life”  
John Chapter 6

v. 67 “From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.”

Some may have been disappointed and discouraged that Jesus refused to become the conquering king they had anticipated. Others found His teaching too hard, His instructions too threatening. Some may have thought that there should be at least another way, not just His way.

Jesus offers eternal life, but He requires acceptance of Himself as Savior and Lord. This means His agenda must become His followers' agenda; that is unacceptable to many would-be disciples.

Peter declared in v. 69  
“We believe and know that you are  
the Holy One of God.”

The Great Question is still, “Who is Jesus?”

May 22, 2011  
Ben

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May 29, 2011  
Ben

Pastor

Jesus Christ  
“I am the Bread of Life”  
John 6:30-70

Jesus said, “I am the Bread of Life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.” John 6:35

✧ Yes, Coming to Jesus totally satisfies spiritual hunger. One comes to Jesus in a personal appropriation of His Life and Death. “To eat and drink Jesus” is to assimilate and allow Him into every aspect of our lives. He calls those that will follow Him to base their entire lives, their very survival, upon Him and His words.

✧ Jesus alone has seen God. He alone has come from God to earth. Therefore, only Jesus can reveal the true character, nature, and person of God. We can comprehend God only through comprehending Jesus. But through Jesus we can know God and possess eternal life (John 17:3). He, Jesus, becomes the only means by which we gain eternal life.

v67 “From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.”

- Some may have been disappointed and discouraged since Jesus would not do any more miracles.
- Some found His teaching too hard, His instructions too threatening, His ways just too narrow.
- Some simply refuse to believe that His way was the Only way.

✧ Only One offers eternal life – what's His name?

\_\_\_\_\_

✧ The Great Question still remains –  
“Who is Jesus?”

Think on This:

- Jesus fulfilled 48 specific prophecies given in the Old Testament. The odd of one man fulfilling even eight of these is one chance in one hundred million.
- Who will you trust: Pastor Ben, Pastor Harold, or Jesus Christ?

Jesus Christ  
“What Are You Drinking?”  
John 7:1-52

All the events of chapter seven took place during the Festival of Tabernacles. The Festival of Tabernacles or Booths was the third of the trio of great Jewish Festivals, attendance at which was mandatory for all adult male Jews who lived within fifteen miles of Jerusalem. It fell on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the seventh month, that is, about October 15<sup>th</sup>. Like all the great Jewish Festivals, it had a double significance.

First, it had an historical significance. It memorialized the journey from Egypt’s bondage to Canaan freedom. Second, it had an agricultural significance. It was supremely a harvest-thanksgiving festival, giving thanks for the rich harvest of the promise land. On the last day of the feast, Jesus stood at the critical moment of the ceremony to cry out:

“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink,” (v. 37)

He was using this dramatic moment to turn men’s thoughts to the thirst for God and to eternal things.

Question is for you today, “What are you drinking?”

A. God’s Timing vs. 1-9

B. Who Is This Jesus? vs. 10-13

C. Jesus, who do you think you are? vs. 14-24

D. Is Jesus The Christ? vs. 25-44

E. Unbelief or Belief — you decide vs. 45-52

“Whatever your heart thirsts for,  
He is the fulfillment.”

June 12, 2011  
Ben

Pastor

“Keys To Reenergizing”  
Isaiah 40:21-31

Two interesting questions:

“Do you not know?  
Have you not heard?”

Isaiah was addressing a nation of people who had forgotten who God was. The nation was in bondage because of their disobedience to the Lord God. Israel was God’s chosen people and still they were disciplined for their disobedience. They were conquered and put into captivity; they had a debt to pay to the Lord and would work it off by being taken to Babylon. They were weary, they were doubting and they were sighing for deliverance. During the whole time, God rose up prophets to speak the words of God; Isaiah was one of the most powerful prophets of the day. Isaiah’s words were penned before the exile, giving keys that would help the people of God to reenergize themselves in very difficult days.

First Key: We must \_\_\_\_\_ His \_\_\_\_\_ power. vv. 21-28

Second Key: We must \_\_\_\_\_ His \_\_\_\_\_. vs. 29-30

Third Key: We must \_\_\_\_\_ consistent \_\_\_\_\_  
upon the \_\_\_\_\_. v. 31

“Jacob’s Lessons of the Heart”

Are dreams messages from God? They can be; though they are not always. Here in Genesis 28, God repeats the promises made to Jacob’s father, Isaac, and grandfather, Abraham. The dream corresponds to the already revealed will of God. Likewise, if God chooses to reveal His will to us in dreams, it will always correspond to the teaching of scripture.

This dream was given to assure Jacob that God was present with him and that he intended to bless him; keeping the promise made to his family. It also marked the beginning of Jacob’s lifelong heart relationship with the Lord God.

1. Jacob’s heart was \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord’s \_\_\_\_\_. vv10-15

2. Jacob’s heart led him to a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_. vv16-19

3. Jacob's heart \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord God with a \_\_\_\_\_. vv20-22

Ezekiel 36:26

“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.”

Two Practical Points for Dads:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

“Throwing Stones”  
John 7:53-8:11

A daily and common experience is that of judging and being judged. Someone throws a stone at us and then we throw a stone to someone else. The Lord Jesus could not speak to life as it is without a word about condemners and those they condemn. Remember: Hurt People Hurt People! John 8 may be the most dramatic episode in the Gospels. We are brought to face with one judged and those who judged her. She is guilty without a doubt. They judge her and call on Jesus to do likewise. Jesus’ response is awesome. Again, He demonstrates a standard that raises people up rather than tearing them down. He resisted throwing stones. May we learn from Jesus’ actions to do likewise.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

✧ Those who judge \_\_\_\_\_ at nothing.

✧ Jesus \_\_\_\_\_

✧ What did Jesus write?

2. \_\_\_\_\_

✧ Great Spiritual Principle:

\_\_\_\_\_

✧ Jesus \_\_\_\_\_  
Matthew 18:21-22

“Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?” Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times (seventy times seven).”

3. \_\_\_\_\_

✧ March out—oldest to the youngest

4. \_\_\_\_\_

✧ She was left all alone, she offers no excuses. (What a lesson when being corrected—takes the correction and stop offering an explanation for your actions.)

✧ The liberating work of Jesus did not mean the excusing of sin. Rather, encountering Jesus always has demanded the transformation of a life turning away from sin. This little story captures magnificently both the gracious, forgiving spirit of Jesus and His firm call to the transformation of a life.

✧ II Corinthians 5:17

“Praying for Our Nation and Our Church”  
Amos 7:1-9; 8:1-2

Our great national holiday ought to raise the question, “What can I do for my nation?” Christians should vote, pay taxes, and serve. But, there is a unique contribution that we as believers can make to our nation as well as to our churches. What is it? Amos would say, “Plead with God to forgive and cease from judgment.” Yes, we can pray and ask the Lord for His mercy.

Amos was a rural shepherd who lived in isolation. He was a layman, not a priest or a figure of the religious establishment. God showed Amos His intent to judge Israel. Israel was deep into materialism and had fallen to new depths of morality. The nation had learned these traits of paganism from their neighbors and were unable to point them to a Holy God. Thus, God’s chosen people were about to be disciplined by a Merciful and Holy God. Amos begged God to forgive and cease. What was the nature and content of this layman’s prayer—perhaps we could learn a lesson or two as we pray for Our Nation and Our Churches.

1. How should we pray?

a) Prayer begins when we \_\_\_\_\_ what other do not \_\_\_\_\_.

✧ II Corinthians 4:18

b) Prayer \_\_\_\_\_ as we understand the \_\_\_\_\_.

c) Prayer often \_\_\_\_\_ at the most \_\_\_\_\_ moment.

- ✧ Some day some generation of praying American Christians will plead with God before the final crises. Who knows when that generation will be?

2. What should we pray?

a) Prayer comes with the appropriate attitude.

- ✧ “Sovereign Lord” vv 2, 5
- ✧ An unusual sense of God’s awesome Lordship over history.
- ✧ Basis of our own personal relationship with God through the Lord Jesus Christ.

b) Prayer comes with appropriated content.

- ✧ Represents our “\_\_\_\_\_”
- ✧ We seldom go wrong pleading with God for His compassions.

3. How does God respond to our prayer?

a) God may relent from what He actually intended to do

- ✧ God does relent. vv3, 6
- ✧ The God of the Bible is not an inflexible machine.

b) But, a time comes when God cannot relent. (8:1-2)

- ✧ “plumb line”- God has taken the final measure of the nation and will no longer bypass judgment.

- ✧ America is still living in the days of God's mercy—  
let's together continue to pray for America and our  
Churches.

“Jesus: He is Lord”  
Ephesians 4

Paul’s prayer for the Ephesians was “that Christ may dwell in your hearts” (3:17). When we receive Jesus as Savior and Lord, we open the doors of our hearts and let Jesus enter to dine and reside. Receiving Jesus as Lord is like transferring the title of our hearts to Him. He comes not only to dine, but also to redesign our lives; not only to reside, but also to renovate.

He goes through every room – not only to spring clean our hearts but to completely remodel them from ceiling to cellar. He takes out a door here, puts in a window there; creates a wall where there was permissiveness, and takes out a dark closet where pet sins were once privately fed and nurtured. He rewires our thinking, replumbs our emotions, and expands the square footage of our hearts to dimensions we never dreamed were possible.

Yes, Jesus transforms our lives into a brand new home.

- I. Jesus: Lord of All My \_\_\_\_\_
- a. Lord of my \_\_\_\_\_ vv1-3
    - Is Jesus Lord of your \_\_\_\_\_? Does \_\_\_\_\_ regulate them?
    - Jesus’ example—Philippians 2:3-7
    - What about gentleness? Are you gentle to others?
    - Other qualities...
  - b. Lord of my \_\_\_\_\_ vv4,11
    - Is there a dichotomy between what goes on in your life on Sunday and what goes on during the rest of the week?
    - A vocation is literally a calling. God calls us into certain fields of service by giving us specific gifts.
    - If He’s not Lord Monday through Saturday, there’s little good in making Him King for a day on Sunday, is there?
  - c. Lord of my \_\_\_\_\_ vv 14-15
    - If Jesus is Lord of your \_\_\_\_\_, all your seas may not be calm – but you will be.
    - If He can rule the wind and the waves, He can rule anything in your life.

- d. Lord of my \_\_\_\_\_ vv 16
- Our bodies are the Temple of the Holy Spirit  
I Corinthians 3:16-17 • II Corinthians 6:14-18
  - Our bodies need to go to the altar  
Romans 12:1-2

II. Jesus: Lord of All My \_\_\_\_\_

The key to getting a grip on the externals comes with maturity. So, the real key to having Jesus as master of your externals is to first enthrone Him over your \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. Lord of my \_\_\_\_\_ vv 17-19
- Notice the terms Paul uses to describe a sinful heart: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
  - Hardly the type of heart Christ would feel at home in.
- b. Lord of my emotions vv25-29
- lay aside the old self and put on the new affects
  - Emotion can take us \_\_\_\_\_
  - Paul unmasks four terrorists:  
f \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_  
s \_\_\_\_\_ u \_\_\_\_\_ talk
  - I must allow the Lord to train my tongue to lick wounds, not inflict them, even when I've been bitten first.
- c. Lord of my \_\_\_\_\_ vv 30-32
- verse 30, the construction of the Greek verb helps make a dramatic point:  
"Stop it! Stop grieving the Holy Spirit!"
  - Are you for Christ or against Him? Is it time to lay aside the old self and enthrone Jesus as Lord – or are you going to continue to walk around in unwholesome living?

"If Christ is the center of my life,  
the circumference will take care of itself."

## “Think Lifetime Commitment”

T.L.C.

II Corinthians 8:7-12

There was a time not so long ago when no one could have conceived of replacing the horse-drawn buggy with an automobile. Even more farfetched was the concept of flying through the air like a bird. And traveling through space? A phone in your pocket? A device that holds gigabytes of information and you can carry it. So much has happened in a short period of time. We have moved far beyond the wildest imaginations of our ancestors because someone somewhere dared to dream.

For many, dreaming of what might be is often eclipsed by the fear of what could be. Daring to move beyond the present is, for sure, a frightening experience. It is treading on the unknown, walking in the unfamiliar, exercising faith in the Lord God when fear is all around. But, then again that's what faith is all about; “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” Heb. 11:1 T.L.C. is all about walking in faith not in fear. Fear can strangle the will to live. Think Lifetime Commitment is about looking into that fear and asking the Lord to continue to stretch us to new dimensions.

T.L.C. is simply a reminder to us that as His disciples we are to be rivers, not reservoirs. The power and love of God is not just to flow into us and be stored. It is to flow through us. We are to be rivers of blessings to people today as well as to tomorrow. T.L.C. is a great reminder to be stretched in the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Think Lifetime Commitment reminds us that \_\_\_\_\_ is a vital part of our \_\_\_\_\_. v.7

✧ Excel means to \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

✧ Excess grace overflows to others in a variety of ways, including the giving of gifts.

2. Think lifetime Commitment reminds us to follow \_\_\_\_\_  
example of giving. vv8-9

✧ Rich became poor

✧ When does the Lord stop giving to you?

✧ Great Principle  
“Always Give Because Jesus Gives.”

Think on this as you pray about giving to T.L.C.:

Hundreds will benefit in the untold years  
ahead because some of us were  
extravagant to make provisions today.  
We give today so that many others in the  
future will be able to hear the Gospel of  
Jesus Christ.

Jesus Is the Light  
John 8:12-30

Michael Horton wrote, “Satan lost the war on Good Friday and Easter, but has shifted his strategy to a guerilla struggle to keep the world from hearing the Gospel that dismantles his kingdom of darkness.”

At times, it seems like darkness is winning. But, the light has the power to dispel darkness. Light is more visible when the darkness seems to be it’s most intense. Sometimes, we hear Christians despair about the gathering darkness in our world. Rather than wringing our hands and complaining, we are to be Light! When we stand out like stars in the darkness, we draw attention to our Lord Jesus who is the LIGHT. Our light will be so distinctive that the people in darkness will see our good works and give glory to our Father in Heaven. When we are light, we do not draw attention to ourselves, but point people to Jesus, who is the very source of our light.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Light. vv 12-18

✝ Jesus’ bold statement

“\_\_\_\_\_.”

✝ Jesus’ \_\_\_\_\_

Darkness vs. Light

✝ Jesus claimed to be not only on a mission from God, but He claimed to be the \_\_\_\_\_ Son of God, who always does what pleases God and who brings \_\_\_\_\_ to the entire world.

✝ Anyone who makes such a claim!

L\_\_\_\_\_ or L\_\_\_\_\_ or L\_\_\_\_\_

✝ I John 1:7

2. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Light. vv 19-24

† Fascinating Concept:

\_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_.

“If you knew me, you would know my Father also.”

(John 10:28-31; John 5:18; John 1:1,14; Phil. 2:6)

† verse 24-clearly teaches that those who refuse the light (Jesus) will end up in eternal darkness and there is no escape.

† I John 1:8-10

† verses 25-29 “Who Are You?”

Jesus is saying,

“The one who sent me is with me;  
he has not left me alone.”

† Jesus being Light wants to shine Himself on the problems of our lives.

† When we receive the Light, we are to become the light. It is God’s plan for lighting a dark world to reveal Himself in and through His followers.

† Verse 30 “many put their faith in him.”

F =F \_\_\_\_\_

A =A \_\_\_\_\_

I =I \_\_\_\_\_

T =Trust \_\_\_\_\_

H =H \_\_\_\_\_

Realities of Hell  
Luke 16:19-31

What is the worst thing that can happen to a person? The answer is for that person to die lost, without Jesus. The reason why it is the worst thing is the reality of Hell. A person who dies without a relationship with Jesus Christ will spend eternity in Hell (Revelation 20:15).

Heaven is real, but so is Hell. Heaven is wonderful; Hell is horrible. Death takes place when the spirit of the person leaves the body, but that is not the end. It is the beginning of another whole new existence in another world. There is Heaven for those who have put their faith in Jesus (John 3:16; Ephesians 2:4-10). Then on the other end of the spectrum, there is this place of torment called Hell for those who have rejected Jesus as their personal Savior and have chosen to their own path. This knowledge should ignite within believers the desire to tell others about Jesus, so that they will not experience the worst thing that can happen to a person (Mark 8:36-38). As we look at our text, we read of several realities about Hell.

1. Hell is for \_\_\_\_\_ v23
  - † Jesus said, “In hell”
  - † It is a \_\_\_\_\_ place.
  - † Hell is not a \_\_\_\_\_ for the tragedies of life.
  - † A real place where people die lost without Jesus will go.
  - † As surely as Jesus is real-so is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Hell has no regard for \_\_\_\_\_. vv19-22
  - † Lazarus was poor and the only medicine he got was \_\_\_\_\_.
  - † Rich man had clothes and a home
  - † Heaven and Hell is not impressed with what we have or do not have. Bottom Line:
    - Presidents, Kings, Senators, business people, movie stars, famous people, rich, poor- if a person dies without Jesus- they go to Hell. (John 3:17-18; 8:24).
  - † Yes, rich people and poor people will go to Heaven and rich people and poor people will go to Hell.

If you don't believe in Hell, you must not believe in Jesus, because Jesus validated the reality of Hell.

3. Hell is full of \_\_\_\_\_. v 24
- † “agony in this fire”
  - † Jesus speaks of real terms.
  - † Jesus used real names.
  - † A real story and real fire.
  - † Matthew 5:22; 13:41-42; Revelation 20:15
4. Hell is a \_\_\_\_\_ place. v24
- † “to dip the tip of his finger in water”
  - † tormented by thirst
  - † Jesus is the Living water- John 4:13-14, 7:37-38
  - † physical thirst that will never be satisfied.
5. Hell is full of \_\_\_\_\_. vv 25-28
- † This could be the most horrific.
  - † Yes, people in Hell will \_\_\_\_\_.
  - † What will they remember?
    - Few thoughts:
      - haunted by the opportunities of receiving Jesus
      - A song in V.B.S., Sunday School, AWANA
      - times they mock the Word or the Church.
  - † Interesting Concept:
    - Individuals in Hell become witnesses of the Gospel. v 28  
“Don’t Come Here”
6. Hell is \_\_\_\_\_. v 26
- † “A great charm”
  - † Total separation
  - † Separated from: \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - † From God’s \_\_\_\_\_ and all of His goodness
  - † Individuals are ISOLATED!
7. Hell is \_\_\_\_\_
- † No Hope for change
  - † Revelation 20:10; 14-15; 21:8
  - † No indication anywhere in the Word of God that there is an end to Hell
  - † You choose your destination  
Heaven  
or  
Hell
  - † It is my heartfull prayer that you would chose Jesus today-  
Revelation 21:27
  - † II Peter 3:9 “come to repentance”

“Eternity is too long to be wrong”

**“Growing Through Failure”**

**Psalms 103: 1-14**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Establishing Each Day For Spiritual Growth  
Philippians 3: 12-14

Paul's struggle with each day:  
Philippians 1:21, 22-25; Romans 7: 14-20

Pondering.....

We overexaggerate \_\_\_\_\_

We overestimate \_\_\_\_\_

We underestimate \_\_\_\_\_

1. You and I need to \_\_\_\_\_ that we are not \_\_\_\_\_ v.12

- What does it mean? \_\_\_\_\_
- You are not \_\_\_\_\_

2. You and I need to admit that we will \_\_\_\_\_ v.12

- N.I.V. "press on"
- Phillips \_\_\_\_\_
- CEV \_\_\_\_\_

“Everyone who has accomplished great things for God has paid an extraordinary price.”

3. You and I need to let \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ v.13

- What’s done is done – cannot bring it back!
- Paul’s past: Acts 7: 59-81; 22: 19-20
- What have you done that the Lord will not forgive? I John 1:9

4. You and I need to \_\_\_\_\_ vv13 6-14

- “ \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ on
- Exercising does produce growth in the physical as well as the spiritual realm.

Goal of Christian Stewardship is nothing more than using all the resources God has entrusted to your care – your time, your talents, your spiritual gifts, your money, your possessions, all that you are to fulfill God’s plan for your life.

MAY 2012 BE YOUR “BEST YEAR” YET!