1941

Sermon Outlines; 1941

J. Edward Nash, Sr.
Jan. 5 '41
Ps. 27:1
Matt. 5:16

THE LORD IS MY LIGHT AND MY SAL-
VATION, LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE
BEFORE MEN, THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR
GOOD WORKS, AND GLORIFY YOUR FATH-
ER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN.

As we enter the year 1941 we find a world
in darkness, aside from the little flickering
lights that she has made for herself. These
lights cast a shadow upon the things of God, and
make the things of the world more poular and ap-
pear more important.

During the year 1940, as in all past years,
we have endeavored to do some good, and no doubt
have succeeded. But so many shadows have been
cast over the good that we have done no one has
seen it. It is a common thing for us to blame
others for casting shadows upon our good work.
But the fact is, that too often we cast a shad-
ow upon our own good work, and instead of men
seeing the good work that we are doing they only
see us.

Often we spend much time thought and en-
ergy trying to make our light shine. But we are
exhorted to get out of the way and let our Light
shine.

As we start out upon the activities of
this new year we may select the Light that has
been tested and tried, a light that will serve
us at all times and in all places. This Light
is large enough for the greatest and small enough
for the least, a light will shine always accord-
ing to the need.

If '41 is to be like the years through
which we have passed much of our work will be
where men dwell in darkness, all kinds of dark-
ness, and they can not see your good works un-
til you allow your light to shine. Then they
will see and glorify our Father which is in
heaven.

..........AMEN........
SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY SHALL FOLLOW ME ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE; AND I WILL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOR EVER.

We are just in the twelfth day of the year 1941. But we have already found out that we are not very much, if any stronger and better prepared to run the race set before us than we were last year.

We have learned that in ourselves we are not secure materially or spiritually. We have learned that if we depend upon ourselves for goodness we are bad off. We have seen very clearly that if justice be meted out to us we are doomed to misery and agony.

These conditions of dependence and insecurity make the words of our text very significant and important. With all our known and unknown weaknesses these words inspire and give us courage to start out upon the journey of life, and to accept the tasks and responsibilities that may be assigned us.

We know God is immutable, he does not change; he is the same yesterday to day and for ever. We know what he does for us today and tomorrow he will do always, so long as there is need. He has been so good to us in the past that it gives us assurance and faith to believe that goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our life.

Our transgressions against God and against our fellowman are so great that we are constantly in need of God's mercy.

..........AMEN..........
NOW THE WORD OF THE LORD CAME UNTO JONAH THE SON OF AMITTAI, SAYING, ARISE, GO TO NINEVEH, THAT GREAT CITY, AND CRY AGAINST IT; FOR THEIR WICKEDNESS IS COME UP BEFORE ME. BUT JONAH ROSE UP TO FLEE UNTO TARSHISH FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD, AND WENT DOWN TO JOPPA; AND HE FOUND A SHIP GOING TO TARSHISH: SO HE PAID THE FARE THEREOF, AND WENT DOWN INTO IT, TO GO WITH THEM UNTO TARSHISH FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD.

Jonah is one of the minor prophets. But he is not a minor prophet because his messages are in any sense minor. He is a minor prophet rather because of the brevity of his messages.

None of the prophets, minor or major had a more thrilling experience than did Jonah. And we have reasons for believing that our text does not tell us about the first time that the word of the Lord had come or called unto Jonah. No doubt he had been coached in the prophetic office by Amittai, his father.

God knew that Jonah was well qualified for the mission upon which he sent him according to the words of our text. God knew also that Jonah would rebel and try to escape the responsibility that he had placed upon him.

Jonah had had many dealings with God before, and no doubt he knew that God was longsuffering, merciful, and forebearing. He did not like God's method in dealing with wicked people. So not withstanding, he knew and understood the word of the Lord, he thought he would get out of the whole picture by going into a great commercial center; and lose himself in the activities of the place. He wished to away from the presence of the Lord. And he decided that Tarshish would be a good place to which he might go; and possibly engage in business.

But God had given his word to Jonah and he was going to see to it that his word should not return to him void, even though it had to be baptized in the sea. God will allow us to pass through all kinds of trying experiences, but he will see to it that ultimately his will is done in us.

Amid the tumult and bustle of this old world, may hear the word of the Lord; understand it and obey it. 

........ AMEN ........
Ps. 86: 11

TEACH ME THY WAY O LORD; I WILL
WALK IN THY TRUTH: UNITE MY
HEART TO FEAR THY NAME.

The psalmist, seemingly, has been doing
what all who appreciate the seriousness of
life ought to do. He has been examining him-
self, and has discovered some things that are
not satisfactory. He discovers that he has not
been doing things in God's WAY. He discovered
that he had quite lost sight of God's WAY.

The psalmist discovered that he had not
been concerned, as he should have been, about
God's TRUTH.

And worst of all he discovered that his
heart was not right; that it was not united,
that it was divided; part of it was upon God
and his affairs, and part of it was upon the
Devil and the things of the Devil.

There comes a time in the life of every
one of us, as there came a time in the life
of the psalmist, when we grow tired of pur-
suing a course in which there are so many blind
alleys; in which there are so many places where
have to detour.

We all have in mind definitely our goal,
and our objectives. We know where we wish to
go, and the things we wish to do. But inten-
tionally or unintentionally we have been pur-
suing ways that are uncertain and insecure.

Upon these ways that we have been pursu-
ing we have found crowds, great crowds that
have been jovial, congenial and happy. And we
have found the activities in these ways that
we have been pursuing attractive and pleasant.
So attractive and pleasant have they been that
we have not taken time to ask where these ways
lead; whether towards the goal that has been
set before us, and that we have accepted, or
towards the goal that we are supposed to have
rejected.

Whatever our condition, let us like the
psalmist, make the Lord our TEACHER. Let him
show us his WAY, make known to us his TRUTH,
and UNITE our HEARTS to fear his name.

..........AMEN..........
HE BROUGHT ME FORTH ALSO INTO A LARGE PLACE; HE DELIVERED ME, BECAUSE HE DELIGHTED IN ME.

In this old world where sin, everywhere, is so much in evidence, and so active, we who wish to do the will of God find ourselves handicapped, circumscribed. And we long to have the ban lifted, the shackles loosed and the chains broken that we may be free to do the will of God.

The world has a very small place for God in her program. Where God and his cause are concerned the TIME given is very short, the THOUGHT is very brief and shallow. And the GROUP that give any time and thought at all is very small, and non too zealous and enthusiastic.

So to have a report like this that we find here in our text is indeed inspiring and encouraging.

For, those of us who are earnest and sincere in the work of the Lord long for a larger place in christian FELLOWSHIP. For we have long since learned that in order to get the greatest joy out of any blessing we must share it with others.

There are so many things that make the sphere in which we operate in christian FELLOWSHIP very small. Some of these things with which we have to contend are RACE, COLOR, SOCIAL STANDING, INTELLECTUAL ATTAINMENTS, FINANCIAL STANDING, and DENOMINATIONAL DIFFERENCES.

Most of us live in a small narrow sphere in INTELLIGENCE. There are so many things that we would like to know, and feel that we ought to know about our fellowman, about our God, and about his program for this old world.

We long to be SERVING in a larger way in the work of the Lord, to be doing a greater number of things that need to be done.

We wish to have a larger opportunity to speak according to the dictates of the Holy Spirit without fearing that we shall offend because we have spoken too LONG, too DIRECT and too POSITIVELY.

May we realize that we can never the larger place in the work of the Lord and be free to serve him so long as we have his disfavor. If we would be free let us seek by our life and activity to have the Lord delight in us.

.............AMEN.............
SIRS, WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

This question implies that the inquirer is conscious of immanent DANGER, INJURY, RUIN. This question also implies that the inquirer believes SALVATION-SECURITY is possible.

There are so many ways in which one may be lost that it is not always easy to know when we are lost. For one may be perfectly safe and secure in many important ways, and at the same time be lost in many ways, so that our lost condition outweighs our condition of security.

We may be safe and secure so far as ignorance is concerned, and be lost so far as piety and morality are concerned.

We may be from the degradation of material poverty and the sting of physical hunger and still be starving for the bread and water of life. One may have no racial prejudice, but be the victim of injustice in matters industrial and economic.

Oftentimes we incarcerate ourselves in order to keep others imprisoned. And we need as did the Philippi jailor, an earthquake to shake us out of our false security and to wake us up to a sense of our real situation.

We have already said, that there are many ways in which we may be lost and need to be made safe and secure. And these conditions are important, significant or unimportant, inconsequential according to our training. That which we have been trained to believe is of supreme importance will always have first place in our thought and endeavor.

Interracial endeavor should include every phase of life where races are concerned. We should be able not only to worship together on Sunday, but we should be able to work together on Monday in our FACTORIES, STORES, SHOPS, BANKS, SCHOOLS and OFFICES.

May we find out what the needs of the world are that we may know what we must do in order to be saved.

..........AMEN..........
Feb. 16 '41

J. Edward Nash

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PROVE ALL THINGS; HOLD FAST THAT WHICH IS GOOD

Most every thing, real and genuine, with which we have to do has its counterfeit. And often where there is no great issue at stake the counterfeit is allowed to serve in the place of the real, proving and testing are waived.

But when great issues demand our attention and consideration we must know real facts and act intelligent. We must be illuminating in what we have to say and constructive and helpful in what we do.

Never in the history of the world has man needed to observe this injunction of St. Paul, "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" as he does to day. For today there are so many ways in which to do things, we may reach our desired destination by walking, by the use of the horse, train, by auto, ship, or by the airplane. And there are many roads that we may use. But with the aid of some one who knows we select the best means of conveyance and the best road, then with pleasure we pursue our course and reach our destination.

In dress and diet the same rule holds good. One says eat no meat, drink no wine, another eat and drink whatever you wish. Our scripture lesson tells us to prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

In our intellectual life various kinds of education clamor for recognition. So many are the calls and offers until the average person is puzzled, he does not know just which way to go, nor just what is the best thing to do. Often many young persons are through or almost through school before they know just what trade or profession to take up.

In our political life, in which we all are particularly interested just now, we confronted with the same problem, to prove all; and to hold fast that which is good.

So in all the major consideration of life we are busily engaged in testing, examining and proving. But I have been discussing analogically means of conveyance, diet, dress, education, politics. For just now primarily, these things are not our concern. We are primarily interested in the religious life of the world. But as we have been puzzled as we have tried to deal with other phases of life we find ourselves equally puzzled as we take up the subject of religion. For in connection with this the exhortation to prove all things; and to hold fast that which is good comes with as great emphasis and force as it does concerning the other phases of life.
None of us like to get into trouble. But when we do we try to make preparation against the day when we are to appear before the judge. Nor do we depend alone upon ourselves in making this preparation. But we secure some one, a lawyer, who tells us just what to do that we may be ready to appear before the judge.

These lawyers have prepared themselves by study and practice to help us. So we believe in them, we trust them.

Surely we will not be less concerned about our spiritual welfare than we are about our physical good.

The church places at your disposal those who are prepared to help you to make preparation to appear before the great judgement seat of Christ.

Let us remember that we first appear before the judgement seat of our families, then our friends, then before the cold heartless world, and when we have a judgement before all these let us remember that we must still appear before the judgement seat of Christ whose judgement is always upon things negative and positive.

May we use every means that has been placed at our disposal and be prepared.

.........AMEN.........
I Jno. 1:3

THAT WHICH WE HAVE SEEN AND HEARD DECLARE WE UNTO YOU, THAT YE ALSO MAY HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH US: AND TRULY OUR FELLOWSHIP IS WITH THE FATHER, AND WITH HIS SON JESUS CHRIST.

The most thrilling and profitable experience that can come to one is that which he has when he goes sightseeing with Jesus, and listens to the testimony of those whom he has touched.

If we have never taken a journey with Jesus and seen with him the wonderful things which God has wrought through him and heard the testimony of those whom he has blessed, we do not have very much that is worth listening to that we can declare to men.

This is a day, if we would be intelligent, we must be especially observing with eye and ear. For never before were there so many things to observe. This is true for everybody, but is especially true for the church. The church is required to observe all that other agencies observe. Then the church has a special field in which to observe. The church must hear what God is and observe what he is doing.

The church is to attract men by making known to them what God is doing in the world. Men can understand God and what he is doing only in so far as those who have seen and heard declare.

We need to with Jesus to Cana that we may get a true definite idea as to what Jesus' attitude is to social life.

Let Mary Magdalene tell us what God does to lift the moral standard.

Go with Jesus to Nain and see him raise an only son of a widow woman from the dead and learn his attitude towards the suffering and sorrowing.

Go with Jesus to the tombs where a mad man possessed with a legion of devils is cutting himself with stones and hear him as he commands the devils to get out of him and learn what his attitude is towards those who are possessed with evil spirits.

Then let us give our attention to modern time and to current history. Tell of what is taking in your community and in your own home because of the presence of God.

Let us keep our eyes open not alone towards the world, but towards God also.

...............AMEN...............
Feb. 23 '41
Mar. 4 '23  Matt. 9:25

But when the people were put forth, he went in, and took her by the hand, and the maid arose.

There are not very many people in this world who are absolutely inactive. Most every one is busy doing something. Men’s activities are either constructive or destructive.

Whether Jesus can reach you or not in the time of your need depends very largely upon your associates. For one class will help lead you to him, while the other class will help to keep you from him.

Some People Who Keep Jesus Away From Persons Who Are In Need. We observe:

1-That people who have an over amount of outward demonstration keep Jesus away from persons who are in need.

2-That people who are carnally minded keep Jesus away from persons who are in need.

3-That people who have no faith keep Jesus away from persons who are in need.

4-That People who are over wise keep Jesus away from persons who are in need.

5-That people who are selfish keep Jesus away from persons who are in need.

Let us, according to our ability keep ourselves so situated that it will be easy for Jesus to reach us and help us.

...............Amen...............
Thursday, May 4th, 1916, at 8 P. M., at Delaware Avenue Baptist Church.

[EAST SIDE DELAWARE, NEAR UTICA STREET]

ADDRESS—The School an Important Agency in Racial Advancement—
By Prof. J. D. Allen, Head Master Nichols School

SYMPOSIUM
Afro-American Educational Life in Buffalo
The Grammar School, Pupils and Teachers—Miss Edith Tompkins
The High Schools—Their Advantages—Mrs. M. B. Talbert
The Professional Schools—Mr. Joseph Williams
The Lecture Halls, Libraries and Art Galleries—Mrs. J. B. MacKerrow

Tuesday, November 7th, 1916, at 8 P. M., at Lecture Room, Buffalo Society of Natural Science.
(BUFFALO PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDING)

ADDRESS—Industrialism The Foundation for Race Advancement—By Hon. Steven J. Mahoney

THEME FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION
Afro-American Industrial Life in Buffalo
How Obtain An Unlimited Field In Which to Labor—Mr. Alex. Parker
How Make Labor Degnified—Mr. James Phelps
The Capacities in Which Afro-Americans are Serving in Buffalo—Mr. J. R. Mason
How Receive Promotion in Industrial Life—Mr. Rudolph Lane

MUSIC---Instrumental and Vocal at Each Meeting.

JOHN BRENT, President

Committee on Meetings
Rev. Dr. Philip L. Frick
Miss Clara Payne
Rev. J. Edward Nash
Mar. 2 '41 Jno. 14:15, Matt. 22:36-40 Un. Ch.

IF YE LOVE ME KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS. THOU SHALT LOVE THE LORD THY GOD WITH ALL THY HEART AND WITH ALL THY SOUL, AND WITH ALL THY MIND. THIS IS THE FIRST AND GREAT COMMANDMENT, AND THE SECOND IS LIKE UNTO IT, THOU SHALT LOVE THY NEIGHBOR AS THYSELF. ON THESE TWO COMMANDMENTS HANG ALL THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS.

Love is our most sacred and most valuable possession. Like many of our most valuable possessions, we have not purchased them; they have not come to us as the result of any efforts on our part. Love is the gift of God. We say, yes that is true. We are willing to accept that. God has given me the love that I possess, and it is mine. And with my high standard of civilization, with my superior culture and refinement, I shall use my love upon whom I wish and in the way I think best.

God has given us our love. It is our own possession. But the difficulty is, we seem not to have realized that our love has been given us to be used according to the dictates of the giver. But his dictates are not always according to our liking.

To love God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our mind is all right, we like to do that. But to love our neighbor as ourselves is a different proposition, and we do not find it so easy to do. Our neighbor is too close to us; we can see him. God is far away and out of sight. So it is our chief delight to love him supremely.

But for most of us it is not so hard even to love our neighbor if we are allowed to express our love in the way that is agreeable to and pleases us.

We do not like that expression of love that requires us to be smitten on one cheek and then turn the other.

We do not like that expression of love that requires us to sell what we have and give to the poor.

This love that God gives us requires us to love the exponent of Totalitarianism as we would love the exponents of Democracies.

Wars and strikes will all be over if we love as God has commanded us.

Youth will not be tempted to get rich just for the sake of being rich, at any cost if we use our love as God has intended.
In matters material, matters secular we have a system of weights and measures by which we determine the legality and justice of our acts.

All civilized governments appoint those whom they make responsible for the keeping of these weights and measures. It is their duty to see to it that all who do business with the public do it according to these standards. If some one decides to go contrary to these standards the government, through these properly appointed officials, calls his attention to the fact that he has gone astray, that he has broken the law, and must answer for the same.

God has always had men in his government whose duty it is to keep the world informed as to its status as concerns God's law. Prophets, priests and apostles are such men; preachers, evangelists and teachers of the Word are such men.

Isaiah was outstandingly one of these men. He knew well God's standards and rebuked the people when they fail to measure up to them.

There has never been a period in history when these words of the prophet were more applicable than they are today. Turn to any phase of life, any human endeavor that you will and you find all kinds of disorders and irregularities. You find all the vices known to the human race alive and active.

It would not be so bad if these vices, these irregularities were found only in the secular phases of life. But to our shame and sorrow they are found in the church. Indeed were they not in the church they would not be in the world. For the majority of the people look to the church for counsel and leadership.

There are many reasons why people go astray. They wish to assume RESPONSIBILITY. They place UNDUE CONFIDENCE in men. They are OVERCURIOS. They underestimate the VALUE of their OWN. They are OVERACTIVE VERY INDUSTRIOUS.

May we endeavor to follow our GREAT LEADER always and then we shall never go astray.

JESUS IS THE GREAT SHEPHERD OF THE FLOCK.

............AMEN............
LET THE REDEEMED OF THE LORD SAY SO.

The great things of the world are known to and enjoyed by just a few.

People need to know about the great things of the world so that they may have a chance to appropriate, use and profit by them.

The best and surest way to make known to the people the great things of the world is to advertise, publish everywhere the fact of their existence.

Too many who are blessed with knowledge of the great things and the great people of the world are like the dead sea; they are everlast-ingly receiving, taking in, but give out noth-ing. Multitudes of men women and children need to break their silence, and let the world know some thing about the experience they have had, and the blessings that have come to them.

The world is crying to men who claim that they have been redeemed to tell about it. Tell who brought you the light, who helped you into the way of redemption, tell about the liberties that have come to you since you have been redeemed, tell about the things that you have been able to do for your own profit and for your neighbor's profit. Tell by words and deeds and by your general life that you have been redeemed from prejudice, jealousy, injustice, and dishonesty that held you in bondage and kept you from being and doing your best.

The redeemed is never free to do just as he pleases. He is accountable to his redeemer. His responsibilities may be, and should be greater than they were before. But the redeemed comes into greater opportunities and privileges, as when a woman is redeemed from the bondage of domestic toil in the home of others and becomes the mistress of her own home.

When a man is redeemed from the toil and drudgery of others and becomes his own master he becomes more interested in himself, in his training, culture and refinement. And so the man who is redeemed from the bondage of Satan, made free in Christ Jesus he is anxious to grow and to occupy the place of a free man in the kingdom of God.

May we find our chief delight in telling about our Redeemer and our redemption.

...........AMEN...........
Mar. 16 '41

Isa. 53: L.C. 7

So he openeth not his mouth.

It was given to the prophet Isaiah to see and know the kind of life that Jesus would live seven hundred years before he came into the world in human form. He saw him living a life in almost every particular, just the opposite to that he was expected, even by his most intimate friends and relatives, to live.

Jesus is our great teacher and exemplar in all things. He always had much that he could have said about any question that might have come up for discussion. But Jesus knew that he could not speak effectually to men whose minds were dominated by Satan.

Silence in our lives gives God a chance to speak to us and reveal to us that we should speak, to whom to speak, when and where to speak.

To be silent under God's direction enables us to speak with power when we do speak.

We should study the men and subjects about whom and which we are going to speak, before we speak about them.

Even when all about us are speaking may we like our Lord learn how to keep our mouths shut until God tells us to speak.

Let us think much and pray much and fervently while we are silent so that our silence may be of great profit to us.

...........AMEN...........
I Am The Door

A statement like this (even from the Master) would not be especially interesting to everybody. But it would be especially interesting to those who were on the inside of some enclosure, literal or figurative, who wished to get out or to those who were on the outside of some enclosure, literal or figurative, who wished to get in.

The Character of the enclosure would determine the reasons for wishing to get in or get out. If the enclosure defined one of the abundant liberties, the pursuit of happiness he would like to find the door so he could get out. If on the other hand, there would be found on the inside of an enclosure life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, he...
would like to find the door so he could get in. Jesus served to the Capabilities of people, only He could get them in. He was the door through which people could go out of empty form. Judaism was the reality and fullness of the Kingdom of God. Two especially interesting Considerations to this door. One is found here in our text: the other is found in Rev. 3:20, and says, Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear My voice and open the door, I will come in to him and will sup with him, and he with Me.

As in our eating for physical life. We need different vitamins. If we allow Him to let His into the abundant storehouse, we will get the spiritual vitamins that we need. Some people, all their life have stood around so close to the door, and have even seen it open so often that they have learned much about the good thing on the inside. They have gotten almost as much as some of them on the inside.

Not every one who says to Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven; but every one who does the Father's will be recognized with Him. To know the abundant life, light, peace, and happiness of this great
A dear, satisfied content, desired.
The Holy Spirit is a great teacher, in that he knows what, when, how to teach. Many lives have been ruined because they have lacked these advantages. They have had teachers who told much, but they did not know or they did not care that they applied it.
For anyone who has been made intelligent concerning this door it is reasonable to ask to what does this door open? Then on the inside of the door we shall get everything need feel to make life abundant, to secure to us perfect liberty, peace and happiness. We shall receive the spiritual vitamins that we need.

Not everyone who contects Jesus and has intercourse
AND THE APOSTLES SAID UNTO
THE LORD, INCREASE OUR FAITH.

There are many great subjects that we must
study, and in some degree, master before we are
qualified to take our place in the activities
of the world. And for these subjects we have ma-
ny teachers, who are supposed to be experts, mas-
ters.

Our colleges establish chairs in their in-
stitutions on all these subjects. And then they
endeavor to fill these chairs with the very best
men they can find.

But the most difficult chair to fill is
the chair on FAITH. We have depended upon men,
all kinds of men to fill this chair and teach
us the subject Faith. But they have all left us
in doubt, incredulous, unbelieving.

The history of the world, ancient and mo-
dern, current teaches us that there is only one
who is qualified to fill the chair in the great
university of the world on the subject FAITH,
and that is the Lord Jesus, who teaches as one
having authority.

It may be that in matters secular, materi-
al our greatest need is knowledge, wisdom, un-
derstanding. But in matters spiritual our great-
est need is FAITH, more faith, increased faith.

If a lack of faith handicapped us only in
dealing with our fellowman it would not be so
bad. But we know that a lack of faith handicaps
us in dealing with God. For the WORD tells us,
that without faith it is impossible to please
God.

We can do some things, some great things
with God without an abundance of superior knowl-
dge. But without faith we can not do business
with God at all. When here in the flesh Jesus
was constantly emphasizing this fact.

The man who starts out to do business with
God should keep ever in mind that he has a whole
case full of promissory notes that are due and
payable whenever he has need.

Let us see what a few of these notes say.
I WILL BE WITH YOU ALWAYS. I WILL GIVE YOU REST.
I WILL DO WHAT YOU ASK. I WILL GIVE YOU A CROWN
OF LIFE. I WILL SEND YOU ANOTHER COMFORTER. I
WILL COME AGAIN AND RECEIVE YOU UNTO MYSELF.

.......AMEN.......
Mar. 23 '41


STRIVE TO ENTER IN AT THE STRAIT GATE; FOR MANY, I SAY UNTO YOU, WILL SEEK TO ENTER IN, AND SHALL NOT BE ABLE.

Life has two gates, one is broad the other is narrow. One is easily entered for it stands ajar. No particular qualification is necessary to enter; all classes enter. But it does not open to the splendor, to the great and valuable things of life.

The other gate is closed and locked and bolted, and is kept by a guarding angel who stands with a drawn flaming sword. You must be qualified; you must have the pass word in order to enter.

Much that you take with you as you enter the broad gate must be left behind as you enter the narrow gate.

We must strive to enter the strait and narrow gate not because it is difficult to open and enter the gate. But rather because it is not easy for us to qualify to enter.

In order to enter the strait and narrow gate we must be more DEVOUT, STUDIOUS, INDUSTRIOUS, EARNEST-SINCERE; DILIGENT-CONSTANT; PATIENT; GENEROUS.

When with humility and meekness we have allowed the Holy Spirit to coach us and prepare us, then with faith and confidence we can sing, Open thou the gates of the temple.

...AMEN...
AND ENOCH WALKED WITH GOD: AND HE WAS NOT; FOR GOD TOOK HIM.

The journey of life is over a checkered way. For most of us the road is unknown and strange. And our observation and experience teach us the wisdom of having a guide, a good guide, the best that we can secure.

Our adult friends, teachers, preachers and our parents can help us to secure this guide, and that is the purpose of services like this.

Enoch whose example we shall do well to follow started very early in the history of the human race, for only six persons had lived before he came upon the scene, to follow the right guide through the journey of life. And our text tells us he walked with God, and at the end of his journey God took him. And that I take it the desire of every one of us.

To walk with God requires:

FAITH; DETERMINATION; STUDY, PRAYER, MEDITATION; CONSECRATION, and WORK.

Let us use these virtues and take many pleasant walks with God.

..............AMEN..............
REJOICE GREATLY; O DAUGHTER OF ZION; SHOUT, O DAUGHTER OF JERUSALEM; BEHOLD, THY KING COMETH UNTO THEE; HE IS JUST, AND HAVING SALVATION; LOWLY, AND RIDING UPON AN ASS, AND UPON A COLT THE FOAL OF AN ASS.

Sin, transgression, disobedience never bring the blessings for which man longs: LIFE, LIBERTY, and the PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS.

The man who comes to inaugurate a system that will assure these blessings is immediately decorated and crowned a hero.

The cursed fall in the garden of Eden plunged man into a state of bondage, from which he has tried, unsuccessfully, to liberate himself. The more he has tried the deeper he has gotten into it. This has been especially true from a religious viewpoint.

Man has offered all kinds of sacrifices; he has engaged in elaborate ritualistic worship. Creeds without number have been adopted, and with strict exactness observed, and still man has not been able to liberate himself from the bondage of SIN.

In ancient days, in the middle ages man needed some one who could liberate him from the bondage of sin, and to day he needs some one who can do this. And the prophet in the words of our text introduces to such an one.

As ancient Israel in Jerusalem with festival and song, the coming of the King of Kings may we here in our city, in this church rejoice in the fact that Jesus is ready and anxious to come and be king over every phase of our life.

If he come and find us engaged in secular activities to the exclusion of real spiritual service; may we as did ancient Israel, submit to his correcting hand.

May the MASTER’s visit to our city this palm Sun. be his coronation day in the hearts of us all. May this day be more to us than the crowning day of earthly kings, and the inauguration day for the President of our own country.

................AMEN................
In almost every phase of life this question is being asked by most every body. Not always is the right person asked, and the answer is therefore, some times, misleading.

The aim of our schedules and programs is to secure a more abundant, a larger life. And with this aim in view our life is often one perpetual parodox; for the more we have the more we lack.

It is the custom of man to hold tenacious-to his old systems and methods, hoping and expecting by giving strict attention to these to reach his desired, his coveted objective. To suggest to him a new system, a new method is to wound his feelings and to offend his pride; and he goes away sorrowful.

What puts in line to inherit eternal life is not strict observance of ritual and creeds, but getting in touch with and walking with the Lord Jesus, the source of all life.

No one who has handicaped himself with material things can easily follow the Lord Jesus. But for one to have an abundance, even more than he needs is not in itself a sin. But for one to have an abundance, more than he needs and have men all about him poor, hungry, and suffering is a crime that deprives him of the privilege of following the Lord Jesus.

And remember: riches do not consist alone of silver and gold, of houses and lands. But of whatever you may have of which your neighbor is deprived. You may have INTELLECTUAL possessions and SPIRITUAL riches. It is your duty and mine to share with our neighbors. If you read a good book, share the contents with your neighbor. If you have daily spiritual feasts share with the hungry souls all about you. Go see that you have and give to the poor.

It is far more important to follow the Lord Jesus than to be just intellectual or to have a large bank account, or even going to church regularly and entering formally into the ceremonies.

Let us measure ourselves by the perfect STANDARD that we may know our real status.

...............AMEN...............
LO I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS. I AM NOT ALONE.

We are all accustomed to making and receiving promises. But none are like the one we find here in the words of our text.

Often the pledges we make nor those we receive help very much in the time of test and trial. They are not reassuring, they do not increase faith nor establish confidence.

But here are words that are golden; they are reassuring; upon them we can always rely; for they are the words of the Lord Jesus.

Upon his promises men have gone into desert, destitute places, and could say with assurance, I am not alone.

Upon his promises men, without any human allies, have assumed great responsibilities, taken on obligations that ordinarily they would have shunned.

Most of the time, so far as human companionship is concerned, we are alone.

We try with our imperfect VISION to see the beauty in the landscape, in the sunset. Others go into ecstasy over these. But for me, because I have never taken time to train my vision so as to be able to see the beauty. For me there are just some mountains, some valleys, some trees, some rivers. For me with my untrained vision, at the close of the day there is no particular beauty: the sun has just gone down. But my friend may be in some other particular as handicapped as I have been with the landscape and sunset. So we find ourselves alone in VISION.

We find ourselves alone in our ASPIRATIONS, in our PLANS, in our ENDEAVORS, in our HOPES and EXPECTATIONS, in our VICTORIES and TRIUMPHS.

Let us remember that Jesus is our comrade in all our legitimate activities, He is our comrade in PLANNING, in SUFFERING and in PATIENCE.

May we go forth with the assurance that we are not alone.

.............AMEN.............
MAY 11 '41

Jno. 2:5

HIS MOTHER SAITH UNTO THE SERVANTS, WHATSOEVER HE SAITH UNTO YOU, DO IT.

Possibly there is no word in the English language, or in any other language for that matter, that is so thought provoking as the word MOTHER.

There is no end to the number of subjects that are gathered up in this one word MOTHER. When we think of MOTHER we think of one who is most LOVING-KIND. Woman begins her motherhood very early in life, long before she has reached the period of full maturity or puberty. Often her first children are made of rags, wooden blocks or of china. These give her very early in life the impulse and the opportunity to cultivate the maternal virtues, LOVE, KINDNESS, AFFECTION.

This little mother, even though her pupils are deaf, dumb and blind, she develops with them the maternal virtue, PATIENCE.

MOTHER is LONGSUFFERING-FOREBEARING-MERCIFUL-FORGIVING-A VICTORIOUS SUFFERER.

MOTHER is RESOURCEFUL-INTERCEEDING-UNTIRING. She appeals not alone to man, but to God also for her children. She seeks for them lofty places on earth, and more lofty places in heaven.

When the wine of HOPE and COURAGE is running low you can not do better than to tell a real Godfearing mother, and she will do what she always does, tell Jesus.

When you fail to follow the counsel of this kind of mother you deprive Jesus of the opportunity to do the great things for you that she nor any earthly friend can do.

Let us sit down often and think about MOTHER symbolizes and endeavor to heed her counsel and to emulate her virtues.

May we think of the sacrifices she is constantly making for us and willingly, when there is need deny ourselves and make sacrifices for her.

........AMEN........
The Lord hath said unto me, Thou shalt not go over this Jordan.

Not many men have lived a life so eventful, so full of exciting experiences as did Moses. He started his career in a little ark of bulrushes on the river Nile.

His boyhood was very unusual and eventful. He was reared in splendor, a member of the royal family of Egypt, away from the hardships and oppression of his people. But he never lost sight of them, nor did his love for them ever grow cold. Once when an Egyptian was abusing a member of his race he felt that his act was worthy of death, and slew him.

This act caused him to flee from Egypt and the wrath of Pharaoh, who sought his life. He fled to the land of Median. And while there attending to his duties as the shepherd of his father in law, Jethro, God called him and commissioned him to go and lead his people out of Egyptian bondage. After appealing to Pharaoh many, many times, without success, to let his people go; he was permitted to see God visit plague after plague upon the Egyptians, and to see Pharaoh yield to God's command and let the people go.

And under his leadership they were led out of Egypt across the Red sea into the wilderness. Here the children of Israel sojourned for forty years, until Moses was one hundred twenty years old. Until he was worn out and was no longer able to lead them.

While here in the wilderness, worried and perplexed God relieved him from task, freed him from his burdens and worries. God told Moses that he no longer believed nor had the faith that was necessary for one to have in order to lead so great a people over Jordan into the Promised Land. He told him that he should no longer be worried, tormented and harassed. But he was going to allow him to retire to mount Nebo. Here he fell on sleep and went to his eternal home to rest from all his labors.

May we not with profit consider the Jordans, and the circumstances that make them; that come between us and our great objectives. Our Jordans are: UNBELIEF—a lack of faith in God, not knowing how to use facilities that have been placed at our disposal, over estimating our importance and power—lack of enthusiasm, let us follow our great leader over our Jordans.

Amen.
LET THE WORDS OF MY MOUTH, AND THE MEDITATION OF MY HEART, BE ACCEPTABLE IN THY SIGHT, O LORD, MY STRENGTH, AND MY REDEEMER. FINALLY, BRETHREN, WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE TRUE, WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE HONEST, WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE JUST, WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE LOVELY, WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE OF GOOD REPORT; IF THERE BE ANY VIRTUE, AND IF THERE BE ANY PRAISE, THINK ON THESE THINGS.

We often hear the expression, Talk is cheap. But talk, the right kind of talk is not cheap, to the contrary is very costly. When dealing just with men to say nothing of dealing with God; we have to study GRAMMAR, RHETORIC, and LANGUAGES, many languages, so that we may know how and be able to use the right words to express our thoughts.

But in order for our words to be acceptable to God we must study not only grammar, rhetoric, and languages, but we must look well to our thoughts and meditations. For our words are governed by the character of our thoughts, our meditations. So that those of us who wish to do the will of God may know upon what subjects to think the Holy Spirit through the apostle Paul gives us a vocabulary here in the second part of our text.

We are told to think, to meditate upon things that are TRUE, things that measure up to an absolute, established STANDARD. This absolute standard must be the result of what you have seen, heard and handled. Things that are HONEST are things that are free from deception, fraud, duplicity, and hypocrisy. Things that are JUST are things that accord to every one what is due him, are things that make no room for likes and dislikes, things that make us sad or glad according to our character. Things that are PURE are things that are unadulterated, things that are free from mixture, things in which there is no imitation. Things that are LOVELY are things that are pleasant for a pure mind to contemplate, things that you may share with others to their profit. Things of GOOD REPORT are things that good upright, honest people are talking about, and of which they are endeavoring to make practical use.

Let us remember, if we think upon these things our words will be acceptable to God and we shall obtain VIRTUE from God and PRAISE from men.

........AMEN........
We are constantly meeting people who are suffering from high blood pressure. And once in a while we meet those who are suffering from low blood pressure. These pressures, whether high or low, mar the efficiency of the body. The physician can usually tell us what to do to remedy this abnormal condition.

We are fortunate in that we have those who can tell us what to do to remedy any condition that drags us down below par. But our problem is to get people to obey the instructions they receive. And what is true in our material life is only too true in our spiritual life.

We meet people every day who are disturbed in so many ways, and the do not know what the trouble is. The fact is they are suffering from either high or low spiritual pressure. If their trouble is high spiritual pressure they are cranks, radical extremists. They insist upon every body fitting into their groove, living according to their plan and program. But those who have low spiritual pressure as a rule have no program of their own and are unwilling to endorse any body's else program.

In our text the Master is exhorting us not to faint, and tells us what to do to keep from fainting. There has never been a time when men have had more things to make them faint than they have today.

One of our great difficulties in Christian life is that we not readily understand the purpose of prayer. We are apt to pray with the aim and desire to influence God in our behalf, when we should pray with the aim and desire to keep ourselves fit and prepared to meet God’s conditions, that we may be able to execute his plans.

In physical material life because the heart is out of order. And the remedy is a stimulant. Some times the garment we wear is too tight and compresses the heart. The heart needs freedom. We have often heard person say, I am wearing this world as a loose garment. But we must have a stimulant also. We need hymns, prayers and the Word of God to stimulate us in spiritual life.

Let us keep close to God, that by his life he may stimulate us and keep us from fainting. Let us seek always to be alive and fit for the Master's use.

.............AMEN.............
WHEN YE MAKE MANY PRAYERS I WILL NOT HEAR: YOUR HANDS ARE FULL OF BLOOD.

When our hearts are breaking with sorrow, and we are all weighted down with grief, we feel that there is one resort to which we can turn, always, with the assurance that we will get relief and be comforted. But when this resort fails us we become more than concerned and are anxious to know what the trouble is, and what we have done or are doing to keep this never-failing source from responding to our appeal.

And when we begin to search we find that we have left undone many things that we should have done, and that we have done many things that we should not have done.

Our text reveals the fact that the people concerning whom the prophet is writing were guilty of shedding so much blood until they were described as those whose hands were full of blood.

Often we leave the throne with our prayers unanswered, and we too wonder why.

We have become, in one way or another; accustomed to shedding blood until we do not think about that being a cause for unanswered prayer.

We need to examine ourselves constantly and see what there is in our lives that causes God to turn a deaf ear to our prayers.

Let us remember, that we are responsible not alone for the sins in our individual lives. But for the sins of our city, our state, our nation and our world. And that there is no greater crime than that of taking the life of our fellow man. And let us remember, that we can take the life of our fellow man in so many ways. We may take his life by being passive or by being too active.

If we make it our rule to go along with God we will never make the mistake of being too slow nor too fast. But with our Lord, we shall come always not to destroy but to save.

Let us make our acts answer our prayers.

..........AMEN..........
LK 6:1

1. The Journey of Life With Jesus
2. With Jesus There Need Be
3. It Is The Master’s.
4. We May Dwell Amid All Kinds
5. Supplies Made Men’s All
   About Us.
6. Have Access To Store
   Houses.
7. There Are Springs.
8. May So Act.
9. Let Us These Summer Days
10. Remember, He Leads Us.
12. It Is Ours These Dark
    Days, Feast Upon. And
    In Turn Lead Others.
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EVERYBODY WELCOME! INVITE YOUR FRIENDS! THEY'LL THANK YOU!

LARGE PARKING LOT AT NORTH SIDE OF CHURCH
AND IT CAME TO PASS ON THE SECOND SABBATH AFTER THE FIRST, THAT HE WENT THROUGH THE CORN FIELDS; AND HIS DISCIPLES PLUCKED THE EARS OF CORN, AND DID EAT; RUBBING THEM IN THEIR HANDS.

The journey of life with Jesus is a way of plenty, the way of an abundant supply.

With Jesus there need be no hunger, no thirst. The word tells us, that he will supply all our need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

It is the Master's to supply. But it is equally ours to appropriate and use.

We may dwell in the midst of all kinds of supplies and still be in want all the time.

Supplies, MENTAL, MATERIAL, SPIRITUAL are all about us. But most of us are lean, weak and inefficient.

Let us remember; we have access to store houses of good things that for centuries have been filling up for us.

There are springs that for ever flow from which we may drink, quench our thirst and refresh our souls.

May we so act, always that God's grace shall not be bestowed upon us in vain.

Let us these beautiful summer days go with Jesus through the corn fields of supply, and pluck and eat.

Remember, he leads us through green pastures, and beside the still waters.

Let us get an abundant supply, a surplus. For all about us there are those are lean and have just a scant supply. Indeed there are many who are passing through a spiritual famine.

It is ours during these days of test and trial to follow the Lord Jesus and feast upon the good things that he has provided for us. And then in turn lead others in the same way in which he has led us.

................AMEN................
June 22 '41 Acts 16:25,3:1

NOW PETER AND JOHN WENT UP TOGETHER INTO THE TEMPLE AT THE HOUR OF PRAYER: BEING THE NINTH HOUR, AT MIDNIGHT PAUL AND SILAS PRAYED AND SANG PRAISES UNTO GOD; AND THE PRISONERS HEARD THEM.

THE VALUE OF A PRAY MATE

An agreeable, congenial MATE, COWORKER, a PARTNER in all worthwhile activities is always helpful and to be desired.

You like to have associated with you in your endeavors those who, in the main, think as you think and see things as you see them.

And the more serious and important the work to be done the greater the value of the MATE, COWORKER. It goes without saying, that there is no work we have to do more serious and important than the work of praying.

When we work and pray in pairs we make an impression on the doubting, unbelieving that it is not so easy to make alone.

The Lord Jesus has promised to honor us with his presence when we work and pray in pairs.

If we have not already done so, let us select our pray mate and ask the Holy Spirit to help us concentrate upon the great subjects in which God is interested. And see how our prayers will be answered. Prisons will be opened and the sick will be healed.

......AMEN......
AND THEY WERE ALL AMAZED; AND THEY GLORIFIED GOD, AND WERE FILLED WITH FEAR, SAYING; WE HAVE SEEN STRANGE THINGS TODAY.

In every phase of life we are all looking for those who can do the unusual, the unique things. But the great mistake we make is that we do not look in the right direction. We attach undue importance to ourselves and our fellow-man. We dwell, because it is easy to do so, in the realm of the natural. We do not look as we ought to the supernatural for the unusual the unique things. We are too readily satisfied with the work of our magicians and wise men to do thrilling things for us.

We all need to have things happen that will amaze us, make us wonder. We need to have things happen that will shake us out of our self-complacency, make us to realize how unsafe and insecure our natural positions are.

We need to have some thing that will make us realize that we have not done our best when we have been satisfied to exalt ourselves and to glorify our fellow men.

We have not done what we should do until we have feared God and glorified him for the marvelous things that he has done and is doing.

All about us who are suffering and helpless and need of help. Let us get busy and put the palsied men in touch with Jesus, and be amazed and thrilled by his marvelous work.

........... AMEN ...........
AND THE ANGEL OF THE LORD SPAKE UNTO PHILIP, SAYING, ARISE, AND GO TOWARD THE SOUTH UNTO THE WAY THAT GOETH DOWN FROM JERUSALEM UNTO GAZA WHICH IS DESERT.

It is wonderful what a difference in the sight of God, one real worthwhile man that you are going to meet and contact in your journey or at the end of your journey makes. He makes you willing to pass through desert places, to be lonely at times, to endure hardships, if in the journey or at the end of the journey you are going to meet someone who becomes an inspiration to you, and gives you an opportunity to do something worthwhile, outstanding and will give you a worthy place in history.

God has a journey toward Gaza for every one of us that is not all pleasant and delightful. But will lead us to opportunities, privileges and fame. Will you take it, or will you remain in your overcrowded Jerusalem and do little or nothing?

To take the desert way that God points out means often to ignore race, nationality and unfavorable circumstances.

We must not become careless, but thoroughly prepared to render service as we journey.

May each of us these beautiful summer days listen to our angel and go where we can do the most good.

............AMEN............
THERE IS THEREFORE NOW NO CONDEMNATION TO THEM WHICH ARE IN CHRIST JESUS, WHO WALK NOT AFTER THE FLESH, BUT AFTER THE SPIRIT.

LEARNING ANEW TO WALK

The question of WALKING is not very appealing these days. For most everybody is trying to reach his destination in some other way.

But the term WALKING means not only locomotion or going from place to place. It means the some total of your activities, your manners, your demeanor, your deportment.

You may know how to walk first rate in the flesh, indeed you may be a champion.

But to walk in the Spirit requires new SKILLS, and new ideas of ENDURANCE.

You are walking with new PEOPLE and in new PATHS. And you have new MOTIVES and new OBJECTIVES.

May we place ourselves immediately under the Holy Spirit and let him teach us how to walk in the new way.

"""\*AMEN.\*"""
AND THE KING SHALL ANSWER AND SAY UNTO THEM, VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU, INASMUCH AS YE HAVE DONE IT UNTO ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE MY BRETHREN, YE HAVE DONE IT UNTO ME.

DOING BETTER THAN YOU PLANNED

It is a blessed thing, that so often what we have gets into the hands of the right person who makes of it far more than we had ever dreamed of. Not only what we have or what we may do, but even if we ourselves are fortunate enough to get into the hands of someone who understands and has patience to work with us and give us a chance, we may become more than we had ever hoped to be.

In every phase of life, the dividends we receive depend upon where we invest, and to whom we entrust our investments.

In order to do better than we have planned we must be thoroughly qualified and have high aspirations.

Surely we shall never do better than we plan if we are selfish.

When we supply the needs of another we always have a chance of doing better than we planned. For there is always a possibility of his being able to help someone else, and your good deed may be multiplied indefinitely.

May all the minor material things that we are able to do remind us of the opportunity that always comes to us to get in touch with the Lord Jesus who can take what little we have and multiply it a thousand times.

......AMEN......
Bro. V. J. Allen's Funeral Services 7-16-'41
Rom. 8:18

FOR I RECKON THAT THE SUFFERINGS OF THE PRESENT TIME ARE NOT WORTHY TO BE COMPARED WITH THE GLORY THAT SHALL BE REVEALED IN US.

Life is made up of many many experiences; some of them are pleasing and delightful, others are unpleasant and painful. To pass through some of these experiences we need no exhortation, no encouragement. But there are others through which we would never get without exhortation, encouragement and example.

We must believe in the one from whom we receive exhortation, and encouragement, and whose example we are willing to follow.

The real genuine captain of a ship inspires his crew to fearlessness and adventure. The tried and true general of an army begets courage, bravery and valor in his soldiers.

So to sail the stormy tempestuous sea of life we need above everything else, we must have faith and confidence in our captain. And in order to fight the battles of life courageously we must believe in our general.

Just how well our Brother prepared and qualified for the voyage and battle of life, we all know. Very early in life he began to take voyages with the Master of his, the old ship of Zion. Very early in life he learned that we must be made perfect through suffering. He went into the battles of life under the leadership of Christ Jesus our Lord, the captain of his salvation. And last Mon. afternoon his ship pulled into the haven of rest. And with the apostle Paul he was able to sing, I have fought a good fight, I have kept the faith; and there is a crown laid up for me. Thanks be to God who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

..............AMEN..............
The saints of the Lord are, indeed, a peculiar people. We occupy a peculiar position in the world, and we have a peculiar task to perform.

We are a peculiar people, in that we are the ECCLESIA, the called out, the separated. We are the ECCLESIA not according to the election of men, but according to the will of God. He has chosen us to be his legislators, his judges, and his executives. Like our national Legislators, we as Kingdom Legislators enjoy immunities that no other persons enjoy. But these immunities carry with them certain great responsibilities and obligations. As national Legislators feel, that in the main, their legislation should be in accord with the President’s messages or sentiments, even so we as Kingdom Legislators feel that all our legislation must be in accord with our great HEAD’S messages and commands. He wishes us to feel our constant dependence upon him. Hence these three important sayings of the MASTER that form our text.

Jesus was ever anxious for to know the character of his body and for us in symbol and reality to share his body. He means for us to know that if we would be his coworkers we must have his body. For without his body, his kind of body we will not be able to do the work that he has assigned us. It must be a STRONG Rugged body. It must be a body capable of FATIGUE. It must be a body that can TREAD THE WINE PRESS ALONE, that can stand to have a SPEAR PIERCE IT, that can have a CROWN OF THORNS PLACED UPON IT HEAD, This is the kind of body that Jesus is offering us, telling to eat of it.

Jesus would disabuse us of the idea, that being very active and busy as church members was necessarily doing something to carry out God’s purpose, to work out his program. He would have us to realize that he is our BLUE PRINT, he is our PATTERN, and without the BLUE PRINT, the PATTERN we can do nothing that will be acceptable to God.

Then Jesus would encourage us by reminding us that he would be with us alway to lead, inspire and direct.

May we ever get the significance of the symbols. ....AMEN....

In every phase of life your own people have much to do in determining your defeat, your failure, or your success. They can do much to brake or make you. However, thank God, they are not the last word. Their power is not absolute. They may with the aid of others go the limit, even unto killing. But they can not frustrate God's plans. Cain tried it, and killed his brother. Booth tried it and killed Lincoln. The state tried it and hanged John Brown. The world tried it and crucified the Lord Jesus.

We know men are not always right even though they may seem to have the law on their side. Our Brother down in Texas a few days ago seemed to be by the benefit of a due process law, when he was shot down in cold blood. And it seemed that the state was going to use a due process of law when dealing with his murderer, but freed him in two minutes.

The disciples of the Lord Jesus constitute an army more powerful than the roman legions.

It is far better to cast your lot with David than with the hosts of the Philistines, even though they are under a man as famous as Goliath.

It is a common thing for the enemy who has done his best to kill you to think you are dead when you are just beginning to live a larger and greater life than ever.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus too many of us fail to get close enough to those who are in trouble to be an inspiration to them. Indeed our attitude towards the needy is often depressing. Our nearness to the needy always inspires, encourages and gives him confidence in himself.

May we always be found standing round our brethren who have been stoned and left for dead. Let us help them back into the city of privilege and opportunity.

...........AMEN...........
Ps. 18:19

HE BROUGHT ME FORTH ALSO INTO A LARGE PLACE; HE DELIVERED ME FROM ADVERSITY, BECAUSE HE DELIGHTED IN ME.

Sin is an advantage to no one. Sin circumscribes, handicaps.

All real Progress is retarded by sin.

Where sin prevails, TRUTH, JUSTICE, and HONESTY don't get a chance.

Sin is the mother of IGNORANCE, IMMORALITY, and VICE.

God has shown through the ages his great interest in man, made in his own image. He has accordingly made a large place for all who love him.

I think we all realize that we could occupy a much larger place than we do in KNOWLEDGE, the FAMILY, the COMMUNITY, BUSINESS, CIVIC MATTERS, SOCIAL LIFE, CHURCH LIFE.

To many of us God has been gracious and kind to bring us out of the narrowness of sin and has given us a chance to occupy a large place in his Kingdom.

Let us ask ourselves the question, Are we taking advantage of the opportunities and doing our whole duty?

Let us remember, that God delights in us and wishes us properly to value his grace bestowed upon us.

..........AMEN..........
IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD; AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD.

When here in the flesh, Jesus was always pleased to speak of himself in terms that were readily understood by his disciples, his pupils. He called himself the BREAD of life, the WATER of life, the LIGHT, the WAY, the TRUTH, the LIFE, the RESURRECTION.

The ancient prophets, when writing about Jesus wrote so that the people could readily comprehend his character and his greatness. They described him as the ROSE of Sharon, the LILY of the valley, the BRIGHT and MORNING STAR, the LION of JUDAH, the PRINCE of PEACE, the GREAT COUNSELLOR, and the GREAT SHEPHERD, who would lead his people into green pastures and beside the still waters.

When the apostles of New Testament times wrote about him they used significant, comprehensive terms as is indicated in the words of our text.

There may be some who will not readily comprehend the other terms that are used to describe the Lord Jesus. But I think all will understand this term that John uses, THE WORD. We are all familiar with the term, for we are using it all the time. We know that it is an instrumentality that we use to make known our THOUGHTS, our OPINIONS, our IDEAS, our DETERMINATIONS, our WILL, and our DECISIONS.

The WORD accommodates itself to our needs. We may SEE the Word, HANDLE the WORD and HEAR the WORD.

We hear much about the PASSWORD, and the KEYWORD, Jesus is both of them to us. He is the password to the secret place of the most high, into the Holy of Holies. He is our keyword. For in him are gathered up all the great subjects and questions that we need to consider. When we hear the WORD Jesus there come immediately into our minds the terms LOVE, KINDNESS, MERCY, FORGIVENESS, HUMILITY, COURAGE, VALOR, VICTORY, TRIUMPH.

This Book tells us that Jesus comprehends in himself all of the fulness of the Godhead. May we make proper use of the WORD on all occasions.
The yoke represents burden bearing, obligation, service.

Never was there a time when there was a greater call to youth than to day. Calls come from everywhere, from evil sources and good sources.

The Master has not ceased to extend his call, to take his yoke upon you and to learn of him.

But adults, those who are mature are under obligation to find yokes for youth and help them put them on. Nothing is a greater safeguard to youth than to have yoke to bear.

I think there is no question as to how youth is affected by this rapid moving age in which we are living. Most all, if not all, of the activities of youth today are characterized by swiftness and rapidity.

Our text implies that the follies of youth greatly effect life in after years.

Matrimonial, financial, and other yokes should be laid upon youth so that they may be ready for the obligations that will surely come to them in after life.

Let us remember that this instruction comes from the Word of God and we can ill afford to neglect it.

Let us see to it that our youth have a chance to prepare for the duties that will come to them in after years.
LET US RUN WITH PATIENCE THE RACE SET BEFORE US.

In the church, running the set before us means doing our part to carry out the church program.

From time immemorial, the church has employed a person, and they have given him a variety of titles, and have asked him to assume a variety of responsibilities. He is to be a PREACHER, a PASTOR, an EXECUTIVE, a COUNSELOR, an ADVISOR. But above all he must be a PROPHET. Not very many people think very much or very seriously of this office. Most people wish the man whom they call to be their leader to be above everything else a PREACHER and an EXECUTIVE. And these two words have almost as many meanings as there are members in the church. But I think all agree, that he must have some definite, concrete ideas that shall constitute, in a very large way, the program of the church. And upon this basis we make this statement, If we are to judge by the deportment of most members of the church we must conclude, that the great majority of them do not consider seriously the words of our text. Most of the seem spiritually rheumatic or have some trouble that seriously interferes with their running.

In the first place, most of them are not even walking, to say nothing of running the race set before them. Most of them like to make their own race, and to know that the first part of this verse from which we take our text is observed, that is that have a great crowd of witnesses to see them running their own race.

The race our text is talking about is over a narrow, strait way. It admits of no turning to the left or right. And therefore must be run with patience.

This race is often an unpopular, lonely race. Sometimes you will find only here and there a traveler, and he none too enthusiastic and courageous.

For many this race takes too much time. You have to run Sun., and every day in the week. This race requires you to dispose of everything that would interfere with your running.

Let us be encouraged as we run remembering that every one who holds out to the end will receive a prize from the Master himself.

...........AMEN........
AND THEY CAME UNTO HIM BRINGING ONE SICK OF THE PALSY, WHICH WAS BORNE OF FOUR. WHEN JESUS SAW THEIR FAITH, HE SAID UNTO THE SICK OF THE PALSY, SON THY SINS BE FORGIVEN THEE.

Our text reveals a rather unusual situation: four men are agreed, and without any question take up the same burden and go to Jesus with it.

Their burden was a very precious one: it was a man. And Jesus, as you and I should be, was more interested in men than anything else.

But this man was not very attractive. He was in an abnormal state. Not very many people were interested in him, only to shun him. But these four men and Jesus were. Indeed he was just the kind of man that Jesus liked to meet. For this kind of man gave him the opportunity to say what he would rather say than to say anything else, They sins be forgiven thee.

What we need in the church today are more quartets like these four men, who did not do any singing, and not much talking, but a lot of lifting and walking.

Jesus forgives sins when these kinds of men show their faith.

This class of men come into existence because they have the right kind of MOTIVES and right OBJECTIVE.

This class of men cooperate with Jesus because they have faith in him and believe he can, and will do for them what they wish done.

This class of men work not to get into the limelight themselves, but that those who are in need may get in touch with Jesus.

Let us remember, that there are a lot of palsied people all about us. Let us form quartets and get them to Jesus.

............AMEN............
THEN CAME THE OFFICERS TO THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND PHARISEES; AND THEY SAID UNTO THEM, WHY HAVE YE NOT BROUGHT HIM? THE OFFICERS ANSWERED, NEVER MAN SPAKE LIKE THIS MAN.

Knowing how to speak is a very fine accomplishment.

Men pay large sums of money, and study under different teachers for years that they may know how to speak properly.

They study PHILOSOPHY, LOGIC, ELOCUTION, GRAMMAR and RHETORIC that they may master the art of speech.

Jesus never studied any of these subjects, but he was master of all of them. And here is the record, Never man spake like this man. Jesus is the source of all these subjects. If you wish to learn how to speak effectually do as Mary of old; sit at his feet; or like the Samaritan woman; or let Niodemus tell you the wonderful things he learned the night he went and talked with Jesus.

To speak effectually and appealingly as Jesus did we must have the right subject about which to speak. And the right personality, possessing the essential qualities: LOVE, HONESTY, CHARITY, GENEROSITY, JUSTICE, Earnestness and SINCERITY.

Whether friends or foes, we must have understanding people to whom to speak if we would speak effectually.

The proper occasion is essential to effectual speaking.

One must know and believe what he is speaking in order to be effectual.

Then with all these essentials, he must know, according to accepted standards how to speak. Let us learn from Jesus how to speak.

..........AMEN..........
WELCOME SERVICES AUG. 18 '41
TECHNICAL HIGH SCHL.
FOR THE SCHRINERS

PRAYER

As always, gracious God, we are keenly conscious of thy great bounty bestowed upon us.

Forgive us for our waywardness, transgressions, our disobedience, and ingratitude; and accept our thanks for all thy favors.

We thank thee for these men and women, who have come to our city. We thank thee for the real democratic spirit of our GREAT Mayor and School Board and Superintendent of Schools that have made it possible for us to meet here in this fine building tonight. We thank for all the officers and members of this GREAT organization. We thank thee for the noble mother who endured the pain to bring into existence this GREAT young man that leads this great host of workers.

Grant that we all may make use of the SHOW, the GLAMOR, and the SPECTACULAR. But under thy leadership may a larger number of us be more interested and active in the more weighty and serious things of life.

Grant that we may receive inspiration from the great movement represented here tonight that shall make us do more to build our EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, our ECONOMICAL AND INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS.

May we seek a higher MORAL standard.

May the mysteries represented here tonight remind us of the greater mysteries of the kingdom of God.

Grant that we may always recognize JUSTICE, HOLINESS, and RIGHTEOUSNESS as the great essentials of life.

Let, we beseech thee thy divine blessing be upon the Chief Officer and all the Officers and every delegate attending this convention.

Let no accident nor sickness come to any of them while they sojourn with us. And we will give thee praise and glory and honor for ever through Jesus Christ our Lord.

...........AMEN...........
FROM THAT TIME MANY OF HIS DISCIPLES WENT BACK, AND WALKED NO MORE WITH HIM.

This is one of the saddest records in history, that THEY WENT BACK after having sat at the feet of a great TEACHER.

Such an act is sad because it shows the weakness of the pupil, student, disciple. So many get on fairly well as long as they have their teachers upon whom to depend, to help them solve their problems. But when the time comes when they must depend upon their own strength they go down.

Such an act is sad because it greatly disappoints the teacher. When a teacher has great plans for a pupil, and when the test comes he goes back it is always disappointing.

Such an act is sad because a great opportunity has been neglected. There are many things that men may neglect without greatly marring their fortune. But no one can neglect the instruction of the great TEACHER and get on as well in life.

Such an act is sad because many have been deprived of the blessings and benefits that might have come to them.

May we learn well the lessons that Jesus teaches us. And may we make them a part of our very being. Let us take time to understand the meaning and significance of his teaching.

.................AMEN.............
Every word of God is important, and should be observed carefully. But in certain passages, as in our text there are certain words more significant than others.

The words in our text that are particularly significant are TO DAY, HEAR, and VOICE.

The words TO DAY have a special significance because so many people give so little attention to them. They are persons who live too much in YESTERDAYS or the TOMORROWS. We know these two words are important and should receive due consideration. For from one we get a knowledge of BACKGROUNDS and FOUNDATIONS. And from the other we learn about PERSPECTIVES and OBJECTIVES. But in the words TO DAY we get both.

To day is our period of opportunity, our period of adventure and endeavor. And our usefulness in the world depends very largely upon the use we make, ourselves, to day.

Too many of us are overinfluenced for good or bad by our BACKGROUNDS. You may have had a very worthwhile background, a background that heard, listened to and obeyed the VOICE of instruction. And observed the rules and laws that made for PHYSICAL, MENTAL, MORAL, and RELIGIOUS growth and efficiency. And you of to day be a physical, mental, moral, and a religious wreck.

You may have had a background was alert in business and active in all civil and social matters. And you yourself be a vagabond, and a social outcast.

But the opposite is true also you may have had a background void of all of these noble qualities that we have been considering. And you of to day may possess in a large way all of them. So you can readily see the significance and importance of the words of our text.

We have in the church to day too many HAVE BEENS, too many GOING to BE, and too many WOULD HAVE BEENS. We are very much in need of a greater number of those who are willing and anxious to use the present tense of the verb to be and will say, that by the grace of God I AM what I AM.

We need to be alive, alert and active to day because to day is not what yesterday was nor what tomorrow is going to be.

You say, But God is the same to day and for ever. Yes he is, but you are not, those before you were not, nor will those who come after you be.

To illustrate, we know what women were in
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You say, But God is the same to day and for ever. Yes he is, but you are not, those before you were not, nor will those who come after you be.

To illustrate, we know what women were in the past, we know what they are in the present, but just what they will be in the future no one knows. It is possible that they will be distinguished from men only by intimate association. They all, as many do now, wear the same clothes that men wear, and dress their hair just as men do, and they may stay up all night and smoke and drink just as men do.

So it is the duty and privilege of each of us to hear the right VOICE; for there are so many to which we are asked to listen, that we may know the right VOICE only by the aid of the Holy Spirit. Let us hear and follow his leadership.

............AMEN............
Gracious God and Father, we confess our defects and our imperfections. We are conscious of our waywardness, and our disobedience. We pray thee to forgive all our sins, and pardon our iniquities.

Remit us to share thy attributes of Love, kindness, and Mercy. Grant that we may recognize thy generosity, and beside our selfishness and sloth in doing our part to execute the plans to carry out the programs of the Church.

We rejoice with our Bro. Brown, the unselfish shepherd of His flock, upon this the 18th Anniversary of his rectorship here. May the relationships between them become stronger and stronger, dearer and closer in the coming years.

May the Members of the Parish continue to recognize their responsibilities here, and be liberal always in their contributions.

Fear not, we seek the God and answer our prayer. For we ask it all in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.
Jno. 6:53

THEN SAID JESUS UNTO THEM, VERILY, VERILY, I SAY UNTO YOU, EXCEPT YE EAT THE FLESH OF THE SON OF MAN, AND DRINK HIS BLOOD, YE HAVE NO LIFE IN YOU.

In physical life we depend upon what we eat and drink for our strength and vigor. So we have to be careful as to what we eat and drink.

Jesus makes it very clear, that our spiritual life depends upon our partaking of his flesh and his blood. When we partake of his flesh and his blood we partake in a very special way of his life.

According to some standards we may have an abundance of life. But it is not this kind of life about which Jesus is talking.

The life about which Jesus is talking is an everlasting life. You are not afraid to use it. For you know it can not be exhorsted, it will not run out.

You know this life about which Jesus is talking can not be taken away or marred by human agencies.

There are certain things that we can do only when we have this life about which Jesus is talking. We can be misunderstood and still be courageous. We can be friendly to the unfriendly. We can work for the redemption of the unworthy.

This life about which the Master is talking makes us hopeful in the time of despair.

To eat the flesh of Jesus and to drink his blood is to renew our life and to prepare us to render more acceptable service to God and our fellowman.

Let us all partake of this abundant life that we may have a more abundant life.

........AMEN........
COME UNTO ME; ALL YE THAT LABOUR AND ARE HEAVY LADEN, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST.

If this reat about which the Master is talking had reference to the body, people would be falling over one another, in response to this invitation. But the Master is not talking, primarily, if at all, about the body. He is talking about the soul.

Not many people work the soul very much. They treat the soul as the mother treats the infant, most of the time; they let it sleep.

But there are and always have been some men, women, and children whose souls work and work hard.

There are souls that sit at the feet of different teachers, and they listen to different doctrines, they learn about different principles. They do not know what and whom to believe. They are confused, they are weary, tired and heavy laden. To such Jesus speaks the words of our text.

Many had heard this kind of invitation before. But this one has something in it that the others have not had. It has a different ring. It is being given by one who seems to be earnest and sincere. He speaks as one having authority and not as the scribes and Pharisees.

This invitation comes from who seems to be omniscient, he knows everything; he seems to be omnipotent, he has all power. No place at any time misses observation and care. He is omnipresent.

We never have to wonder, because of our lack of merit or worth, if he really means to include us in his invitation.

This invitation is from the Master, who immutable. He is the same yesterday, today and for ever. This invitation is not alone at certain times of the year, certain days in the year. But it comes every day, and every hour in the year.

The Master has a great host of witnesses who bear testimony as to what he does for those who accept his invitation: Saul of Tarsus, Mary Magdalene, the woman who touched the hem of his garment, and the Samaritan woman at the well.

We need to liberate our souls, remove the shackles and let our souls work.

.............AMEN.............
The tendency of the human race through the centuries has been to make much of the light, the frivolous, of laughter.

We have cultivated a taste smiles and laughter rather than for weeping and tears.

But there come times in the life of all men, especially serious minded men, when nothing will express the feeling so effectually as weeping and tears. In deed there come times in the life of all of us when nothing will ease our pain and satisfy us but weeping and tears.

There come times when philosophic argument, quoting historic facts, and reciting the most fascinating poetry all fall on deaf ears. Nothing will help but weeping and tears.

Children are very apt in learning the value of weeping and tears.

More uncongenial companions and reconciled with earnest sincere weeping and tears than with cynical smiles and scornful laughter.

Of course we are just as foolish to weep and shed tears about every thing as we are to smile and laugh about every thing. There are times when we should smile and laugh.

I know the old saying, If you weep you weep alone, but if you laugh the world laughs with you. And most of us are so constituted that we like to be with the crowd. And it dont make so much difference what kind of crowd it is.

The right kind of weeping is indicitive of the right kind of meekness and humility. For the world is full of boasting and igotism which is doing so much harm today. It keeps God from doing for us what he is anxious to do.

Night weeping brings morning joy.

Let us make Jesus our example and endeavor to live as he lived.

......AMEN......
However adversely criticized, however strongly opposed, Jesus never swerved from the way his Father mapped out for him.

He might have seen many other ways whereby he might become popular, and attractive. But chose to accept the hard way, God's way. For he knew this way would draw when other ways would fail. He knew this way would endure when other ways would cease when the spasm they produced was over.

Jesus and his way will always work. But he has chosen to make the working of his way depend upon us who are his colaborers.

If Jesus is to be lifted up and draw men unto him, we must always keep in mind the fact that he is to be the master workman, and we must get our blueprint from him.

It is no easy matter to carry out the injunction of our text. There is such a thing as lifting up Jesus so that men will not see him, but us: will not be drawn unto him, but unto us.

There are so many things that may induce people to come into the church. They may like the building and its nearness to their home. They may like the preacher and his manner. They may like the choir and the kind of music they sing. They may like the members of the church, their social and financial standing.

Many go to church regularly, but never see nor hear Jesus.

To carry out the injunction of our text may cause you to be unpopular and to be placed in positions that are inconspicuous and out of the way.

And let us remember that this lifting up is not applicable to Jesus alone, but to those of us who compose his visible body.

Jesus should be so lifted up that the people will leave the church saying, I saw one hanging on the tree in agony and in blood, who fixed his languid eyes on me as near the cross I stood.

Let us endeavor to be less earthly. May we so possess the spirit of Jesus that we shall live above the things of earth. And set our affection on things above.

................AMEN................
The church never had more competition than she has today. And this, particularly true with our racial branch of the church.

Notice, our text does not ask what are ye more than others? For it may be, that question would not be as difficult to answer. But it is an entirely proposition to answer the question of our text.

There was a time in America, not long ago, when almost all of our racial group could be found in the Protestant branch of the Christian church. And most all of them could be found in just two denominations. They were either Methodists or Baptists. This was true to such an extent that Booker T. Washington used to say, That if you found a colored man who was not a Methodist or Baptist some one had been tampering with him.

But today our racial group is found in most every branch of the Protestant church, and the Catholic church. Not only so, many of our group have espoused many religions outside of the Christian church.

Then too, like other racial groups, many of our group make their fraternalism their religion, and are satisfied to express their religion through their fraternities.

So, our question What do ye more than others becomes more and more puzzling. We must find out, as definitely as we can what all these other religions and fraternities are doing. And then become more intelligent as to what the Christian church is doing.

In order for us to compete with and excel these other agencies in their service to humanity we must major in some important service which they are not rendering. And I think we will not have to go into the skies in order to do that.

Through the centuries, the Christian church in America has been almost the only source to which we have looked to create and furnish Morale, Courage, Valor, Honesty, and Justice and Goodness. It is the only organization that has persistently demanded a high standard of morality. It has preached that virtue is to possessed and practiced rather than any form of vice. The church has always advocated the need of a sound body, a sound mind and a soul linked up with God. She insists upon every member being a missionary and winning others to her fold. And she has missions, revivals and special meetings for the same purpose.

The church establishes and maintains auxiliaries as the Y.M.C.A, the Y.W.C.A., Orphanages, Asylums, Colleges and Societies.
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The church establishes and maintains auxiliaries as the Y, M, C, A, the Y, W, C, A, Orphanages, Asylums, Colleges and Seminaries. These institutions give all their time to the betterment of the human race. The church employs a great host men to teach and preach and indoctrinate her followers and to win others.

Her power and efficiency are not dependent upon external glamor, but upon her internal fervor.

May all of us become better and better acquainted with the greatness of the church and do all in our power to make her more efficient in her work.

..............AMEN.............
SON OF MAN I HAVE MADE THEE A WATCHMAN UNTO THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL: THEREFORE HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD AT MY MOUTH, AND GIVE THEM WARNING FROM ME.

Israel, in the world, whether ancient Israel of Judaism or modern Israel of Christianity has always been a critical, precarious condition. Her position has been one that has invited attack from the world. This old world has never been a friend to grace to help us on to God.

Like the sheep of a pasture, Israel or the church has always been in need of watchmen to keep the wolves and other destroying beasts away.

So the church that has a good Pastor, as you have, can say with earnestness and sincerity, I journey through green pastures and beside the still waters, and I fear no evil.

No church is ever so safe without a Pastor as she is with one. For the real good Pastor is not first the conception of man, but of God. Long before man felt the need of a Pastor God saw his need and appointed him for them to be a WATCHMAN, a SHEPHERD, a TEACHER and a PREACHER.

This watchman whom we are talking about knows God. He knows about his LOVE, his KINDNESS, and TENDER MERCY. He knows also about God being a JEALOUS GOD. He knows that VENGEANCE belongs to God, and he knows that God has WRATH, TERRIBLE WRATH that he uses upon the wicked, those who rebel against him and his law.

So this man whom God appoints has to be exceedingly careful; for he gets his message and authority from God to watch over and warn the people.

In this modern day when every thing is in flux and changing, we might be definite and specific as to what and whom this man whom God has appointed shall watch. But we hardly need to do that; for all Israel knows too well the things and people that need to be and should be watched.

But it may not be so easy for modern Israel, the church to determine into what pastures the Pastor shall lead them. The sheep seldom know where the shepherd should lead them. Often they wish to go where it is not best for them to go. And often they do not wish to go where they should go. The shepherd must find the pastures, and then by counsel, advice and exhortation lead the flock into them.

And what we have said concerning the shepherd character of the man whom God has appointed we say with equal emphasis concerning his teaching character.
Like the sheep of a pasture, Israel or the church has always been in need of watchmen to keep the wolves and other destroying beasts away.

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And what we have said concerning the shepherd character of the man whom God has appointed we say with equal emphasis concerning his teaching character.

As a Preacher he has no alternative; for God has definitely determined that for him.

So upon the understanding that we have tried to set forth, and the conditions defined in the words of our text, we declare our Brother, Dr. Oliver St. Paul Thompson your Pastor and you his FLOCK. And by virtue of the authority vested in me as the preacher of the installation sermon, I command him to LEAD and you to FOLLOW.

.............AMEN.............
WHEREFORE, HE SAITH, AWAKE THOU THAT SLEEPETH, AND ARISE FROM THE DEAD AND CHRIST SHALL GIVE THEE LIGHT.

Never before have so many people, all classes of people, the RICH and the POOR, the EDUCATED and the UNEDUCATED, the CHURCHMAN and the NONCHURCHMAN, been in darkness, gross darkness as they are today.

Turn in any direction that you will and everybody seems puzzled, in the dark. And this seems to be a day when the world has the greatest illumination that it has ever had.

Under such circumstances doesn't it seem that everybody would be seeking to know what the trouble is. Is it because we are not making proper use of the LIGHT we have. And if so why aren't we.

And this brings us to our text, which tells us, that so far as Christ is concerned, we are asleep, dead. And we are destined to remain in the terrible chaotic condition in which we are until we awake and arise from the dead.

This is not the first time the world, from God's viewpoint, has been without form and void. And so far as we know it has always so until God has spoken, and his voice has been heard and heeded.

There are many things that contribute to man's and the world's destructive slumber, death: WEALTH, UNSANCTIFIED INTELLECTUALITY, SOCIAL LIFE, CARNAL AMBITION and the AMUSEMENT CRAZE. But all of these are good when properly used.

Let us be on our guard lest any of these become to us an opiate and put us to sleep so that we shall not be able to hear God's voice.

......AMEN.......
FOR AS IN ADAM ALL DIE, EVEN SO IN CHRIST SHALL ALL BE MADE ALIVE.

In Adam and Christ we have two distinct types, two symbols. Adam is a type of those who go along the line of least resistance, who follow carnal trends, who yield to temptations.

Christ is a type of those who blazen the way, who make new trends, who suffer, who overcome temptations. Adam symbolizes TRA$$E$$SSION, DISLOYALTY, DISOBEDIENCE, DEATH.

Christ symbolizes SUBMISSION, LOYALTY, OBEDIENCE, LIFE.

Our existence, our sojourn here are summed up in just two words, LIFE and DEATH. Most of us are very busy with the first word, LIFE. But we do not give much attention to the other word, DEATH. But the kind of life our text is talking about and the kind of life we are talking about comes as the result of death.

Adam died and all the human race died with him. Christ lives and all the human race may live with him.

When Adam came into the world he found everything GOOD. Even the serpent walked uprightly as a man and was the companion of Adam and Eve. When Adam came into the world he found no pricking thorns and thistles. He was greeted by no hissing stinging adders. When he came into the world he found no noxious poisonous weeds, but beautiful fragrant flowers. He found no vicious beasts. The lion, the tager and the bear were his intimate associates. He needed no violin, flute, organ or primadonnas. The birds on every bush and in every tree made music for him, night and day. He found no strife illwill and hate.

But when Christ came into the world he found everything BAD. Even man who had been made in his own image was bad, the vilest of men. He had no beautiful garden in which to live, Indeed he had no where to lay his head. His was to be a life of suffering and sacrifice.

Those who insist on following Adam must reap a harvest of thorns and tares; must be driven from the garden of peace and beauty into the wilderness of gloom and ugliness where the serpents of STRIFE, ILLWILL, and HATE hiss and bite and sting.

If we would have the life that Christ has made possible for us to have, we must work with him, suffer with him and ultimately be glorified with him.

................AMEN................
From our viewpoint man is worth considering and we should be mindful of him if he have certain secondary qualifications. For one he must have attractive facial angles, must be good looking. From another viewpoint he must have an elaborate wardrobe, and dress well. For another he must have money, and a plenty of it. Another wishes him to be a good social mixer, he must know how to play the most modern games, another demands that he be a good sport, and be familiar with all the up to date athletic activities. There are those who say he must understand business, must be intelligent concerning banking, and the stock market. Then there are many who say he must know signs, pass words and grips. And there are many more secondary things that are required of him if he would receive recognition and consideration, which are calculated to keep a busy most of his life.

But there are a few, thank God, who require other things, primary things, if one would qualify to receive recognition and consideration. This few require a man to have GOOD CHARACTER, a HIGH MORAL STANDARD. They require him to be religious, in the christian way. He must give proper recognition to the church, support it, and if led to do so he be a member of it.

Then there is still a smaller number who require a man to take advantage of our modern opportunities, and to be EDUCATED, to be RESOURCEFUL and be able to take the INITIATIVE.

We must not find fault who demand these qualifications. But our great concern should be, What does God require of man that he may qualify for his recognition and mindfulness.

In a word, we require a man to be cultured, refined and polished in order to get our recognition and consideration.

God is mindful of man and visits him for just the opposite reasons, he sees great possibilities in him. He can use him. .......AMEN.......
BUT WHILE HE THOUGHT ON THESE THINGS, BEHOLD, THE ANGEL OF THE LORD APPEARED UNTO HIM IN A DREAM, SAYING, JOSEPH, THOU SON OF DAVID, FEAR NOT TO TAKE UNTO THEE MARY THY WIFE.

This is the season when all christendom is thinking about the anniversary of Christ's birth. And year after year as we think upon his birth some new lesson comes to us. Some times we think about the heavenly host that sang upon the Judean plains, some times about the shepherds as they watched their flocks by night, some times about the wise men that came from the east, some times about the crowded inn in Bethlehem, and most always we think about Mary the mother of Jesus. But as a rule we do not think very much about Joseph who fathered Jesus all through his earthly life. We do not think much about the delicate circumstances before Jesus was born that raised a question in Joseph's mind as to whether he should retain Mary as his wife or put her away. Our text tells us about this.

The world is still full of fears and doubts. Christmas comes to dispell our doubts and to chase away our fears. Christmas effects not alone our religious life, but every phase of life.

There have always gathered around every phase of life many fears and doubts that are not chased away not dispelled by scientific statements or philosophical arguments of men. We are in constant need of a message from God.

Think of what might have happened if Joseph had have been influenced by the gossip of the community. But the record tells us that Joseph was a just man. So he waited for a message from God. And he got it. And from that time on he was satisfied and contented. And when the time came he went back to his carpenter's bench in Nazareth, and when the child Jesus, the son of Mary and the Holy Ghost was old enough he went to the carpenter's bench with Joseph.

During this Christmas season may we receive a message from God that will free us from doubts and fears. ..........Amen.........
Ignorance is a terrible thing in any phase of life. And it is a most terrible thing in religious life.

Ignorance keeps us from knowing ourselves, and our needs.

Ignorance keeps us from knowing our benefactors, our saviors. Ignorance keeps us from knowing the power, the ability, and the desire and willingness of our benefactors and saviors to help and save us.

Ignorance on the part of the people in ancient days, out and in the church was one of the greatest difficulties against which the apostles had to labor. And indeed there is no substantial change in the world today.

The great mass of the people, even those in the church do not take time to make themselves intelligent concerning the great realities, the great essentials of life. They do not take time to acquaint themselves with great issues in which their lives are tied up, and upon which their prosperity and salvation depend.

And, as we have said, this is true in connection with their religious life. And it is this with which our text has to do.

It is a common thing to hear persons say, I did not know who he or she was, and what they can do. If I had known I should have sustained a very different attitude towards him.

That is just what the world was saying about Christ in the days of the early apostles. And that is just what the world is saying about him today.

For the mass of people it is perfectly all right, indeed desirable, to join in with the crowd in the formal reception to Jesus. But to take him as the great God whose laws and rules we are to recognize and obey is an entirely different proposition.

Let us from now on be intelligent, and what we are doing and why we are doing it.

Let us become better acquainted with our great GUEST.

Let us know he is the one to follow always.

For he is very God.

................AMEN................