

**Over 300 short talks by the late Brother W. B. Freeman.**



**Evangelist W. B. Freeman is shown taping a lesson for "Searching the Scriptures" in his study. This program is presented over W.S.H.V. FM radio each Sunday morning from 7:05 to 7:20. It is sponsored by the South Hill Church of Christ and has been on since June of 1978, with Mr. Freeman as speaker since September of 1980. The format of this brief message is, first: a good spiritual song, then introduction, reading of the 23rd Psalm, a short prayer, and about a nine-minute message from the Bible. It is all designed to give all a spiritual up-lift to start the day. Mr. Freeman expresses his appreciation to all who listen to the program.**

## **In the Beginning: God**

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ  
409 W. High Street - South Hill, Va.

Genesis 1:1 states, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." This is probably the most important verse in the Bible. To reject this verse undermines our belief in the true God. In Psalms 53:1 we read "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God." All atheists, infidels, agnostics, and evolutionists are classed by the God of heaven as fools. Yes, these are many times ever so wise in education and have much formal knowledge in science, but at the same time reject God and His creation. I believe there is an all-wise, all-powerful God who created just as is stated in Genesis 1:1.

As we go on through Genesis in the first chapter, we are told just what God created each day. Thus we are not left in doubt, and throughout the entire Bible our faith is strengthened in belief in God and His creation. Gen. 1:31 states: "And God saw every thing that he had made and, behold, it was very good." Yes - everything God created was not only good, but "very good." Ps. 19:1 shows how wonderful His creation is: "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork."

When we look up into the heavens we see the glory of God in the sun, the moon, the stars, and all the heavenly bodies. We also see the perfect rotation of all things, which point to an all-wise Creator. The beautiful world we see about us - trees, mountains, valleys and waters, the changing seasons and so much more - all help us to understand that there *is* a true, living almighty God in heaven.

## South Hill Church of Christ

404 WEST HIGH STREET

W.B. FREEMAN, MINISTER

PHONE 447-4766

SERVICES: SUNDAY 10:00 A.M., 11:00 A.M., 7:30 P.M.  
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RADIO PROGRAM — 8:15-8:30 A.M. — WJWS



### *Just Thinking*

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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South Hill, Va.

As I sit here in my office at 409 W. High Street, I am “just thinking”. The time is the afternoon of January 27, 1983, and it seems a very short time since I was encouraging you to look to 1983 and to desire that all would be well in the new year. Time is indeed very “swiftly passing”. Now the new year is almost one-twelfth gone. Oh, how time flies and how little we get done compared with what needs to be done!

As I look around the office, I see three calendars and the clock on my desk. These all remind me that time is fleeting and that life is “even as a vapor, that appeareth for a little time and then vanisheth away” — James 4:14. Realizing this, I need to use my time properly; not selfishly, but in service to God and man.

Looking further, I see pictures of horses, scenes in the Smokies, a lake, trees and other mountains. These also remind me of how great our God is and how wonderful to be able to pray to “Our Father which art in heaven”.

Then to my right are my books which have been acquired over many years. These are my friends and I love them. They help me in my work of preaching, teaching and writing. The book I love best is the one on my desk: the Bible, God’s holy word, my guide (your guide) from earth to heaven.

For assistance, call 447-4766.

For “Dial-a-Devotional” call 447-8749.

Radio WJWS, Sundays, 8:15-8:30 a.m.

## "It Is Appointed"

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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In our last study it was pointed out how some famous infidels view death, and that all men will die. In Heb. 9:27 we found that "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." I think all who are not prepared to meet God fear death, as there is a fear of what lies beyond death. People may think there is no heaven or hell or judgment; but deep down all know that there is a God in heaven and that they may face an awful eternity.

In Amos 4:12 it was said to Israel, "Therefore thus will do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel." Man's greatest need today is to prepare to meet his God! This is because Jesus "is coming in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ." — 2 Thess. 1:8. Remember, friend, that God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son to die for you and for me. Jesus obeyed God and gave His life that we might be cleansed from our sins.

Rev. 14:13 tells us of the victory of those who die in the Lord. Please note: "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from all their labors and their works do follow them." We find in 2 Tim. 4:6-8 that, even though Paul was to be beheaded, he did not fear death. He said, "For I am now ready to be offered." He could say this for he was in Christ, thus a new person — living but preparing to die and to meet God his Maker.

For information, call 757-7218.  
Radio WJWS Sundays, 8:15-8:30.

## The Fifth Fundamental

(Conclusion)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Friend, as we conclude these studies of the fundamentals for salvation, it continues to be my purpose to present only the New Testament teaching, as only the truth makes free. As was noted in our first study, the fifth fundamental is baptism. Is baptism essential in God's plan of salvation? Who should be baptized? and What mode of baptism was used in the New Testament? These questions are answered plainly in God's word.

First, Is baptism essential? Jesus, in giving the great commission in Mark 16:15, 16 said: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Here belief and baptism are tied together for the same purpose: that is, salvation. In Acts 2:38 we read: "Repent and be baptized ... for the remission of sins." Then in Acts 22:16 Saul of Tarsus was told: "Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins." We find in John 3:5 that Jesus said to Nicodemus: "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

Who should be baptized? In Mark 16:16 Jesus said: "He that believeth"; In Acts 2:38: Those who need to repent; In Acts 22:16 Saul was baptized to Wash away sins. Next, How is a person baptized? In Mark 1:10, after Jesus was baptized, He came "straitway up out of the water." Rom. 6:4: "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism" into death; Col. 2:12 states "Buried with him in baptism"; Also read Acts 8:35-40. Be sure, friend, and follow only God's word.

For assistance, call 757-7218.  
Radio WSHV Sundays, 7:05-7:20.

# Hold to the Bible

By W. B. Freeman, Minister

South Hill Church of Christ - 409 W. High St.

Greetings, friends, in the name of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Please accept God's Word, the Bible, as being inspired — yes, verbally inspired! It is the one book in which the way of salvation is revealed. Read God's Word to learn what to do to be saved, for personal enjoyment, and to be a truly educated person.

The Bible contains 66 books (39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament) and was written by 40 different writers over a period of 1600 years. These writers had no chance to compare manuscripts — and yet there is not a single contradiction in the entire Bible. While the Bible is not a book of science, yet in dealing with science it is unerringly accurate. It has been translated into over a thousand languages and dialects without losing its beauty and simplicity.

The Bible is the oldest liv-

ing book! It is indeed the book for all peoples of all times. Please note Heb. 4:12, "For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as division of soul and spirit, of both joint and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart" — (N.A.S.

# Redeeming the Time

By W. B. Freeman, Minister

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409 W. High Street — South Hill, Va.

When Paul said in Eph. 5:16 "Redeeming the time, because the days are evil," he was just saying for us to use whatever time we have left in the best way possible.

Certainly, we can't live our time over; so we learn the value of the time we have left, and use it wisely. As we go through life, God wants us to truly live — not for self, but in service to Him and our fellow man.

In Prov. 1:22 Wisdom asks, "How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? And the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?" Ps. 14:1 states "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God." But in Acts 17:28 we learn "For in him we live, and move, and have our being." And, in verse 29, "We are the offspring of God." Again, in Ps. 100:3, "Know ye that the Lord he is God: It is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture." Then in verse 5, "For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations."

So to redeem the time, we are to realize the value of our souls, and so order our lives that we will please God by doing His will — coming to Christ and living in Him.

For assistance, call 447-4766.

Radio WTWS Sundays, 8:15-8:30.

# Discoveries

By W.B. Freeman, Evangelist

P.O. Box 268 — South Hill, Va.

Friends, occasionally I run across articles published by others which I want to share with you. This is one of them, and I hope you find them as I do!

"Ever since man walked on the moon this scribe, who admittedly was confident such a feat would never be accomplished, has noted a widespread tendency to accept without question some rather grandiose claims for the future. Yet if all were to come true it should be noted there remains a fearsome gap between man's technology and his spirituality. Moreover, with all his brilliance, from time to time there are inevitable slips in calculation as well as prophecy. On the credit side, with the exception of proponents of various evolutionary theories who remain adamant in support of their theories in spite of a lack of evidence, scientists seem ready and willing to admit error. Some preachers would do well to 'go thou and do likewise.'

"This great universe holds many mysteries and with each new finding, it seems, new and greater mysteries arise. While we are constantly amazed at the discoveries of science, we would that all these brilliant and dedicated men and women might make the ultimate discovery. It is to be found in the opening lines of the greatest of all books: 'In the beginning (whenever that may have been) God (First Cause, Prime Mover, Omnipotent One, Heavenly Father) created the heavens and the earth.

" 'And with that marvelous discovery, would that all might accept the revelation of the Holy Spirit 'Christ Jesus came into world to save sinners.' " — Dan Harless.

Radio W.S.H.V. Sundays, 7:05-7:20.

For assistance call 757-7218.

# Sermon on the Mount

By W. B. Freeman, Evangelist  
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Please read Matthew 5:38-48 as there we can see Jesus is making drastic changes in the way people lived under the law of Moses and the law He would put in force. From "getting even" then, He said we should be merciful and not retaliate. Instead of an "eye for an eye, and tooth for tooth," to turn the other cheek; giving our cloak also and going the second mile. Today, we need second mile love and service. We are to give and lend to others. However, as Jesus taught His disciples to live, He always set the example — showing us that it is possible to do all these things.

In verses 43-48 we have these beautiful lessons on love. He said "But I say unto you, love your enemies, Bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them that despitefully use you and persecute you." We remember that Paul said in Rom. 12, "Recompense to no man evil for evil" and "Avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath .... Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: For in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head." Doing these things is not easy. If someone smites us, we want to smite back, and hate is a part of the natural man and "getting even" is human nature. Read all of Romans 12. Please read also Rom. 8. So we of today are to put our own desires aside and be "More Like the Master."

When we love God with our whole being, our neighbor as ourselves, then we put God and Christ and others before ourselves. In 1 John 5: we read "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: And his commandments are not grievous." As we remember, Solomon stated in Ecc. 12 "Fear God and keep his commandments: For this is the whole duty of man." Do you, friend, fear God? If so, you are keeping His commandments.

For assistance, call 757-7218.  
Radio W.S.H.V. Sundays, 7:05-7:20.

## Sermon on the Mount (Cont.)

By W. B. Freeman, Evangelist  
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This week we are continuing a study of the "Sermon on the Mount" preached by Christ near the beginning of His ministry. It was preached to His disciples, teaching them how to live and showing the superiority of His law over the laws of Moses (which was to be taken out of the way (Col. 2:14; Eph. 2: 13-17) so that He might establish His own. Why not read Matt. 5, 6, and 7 to get the full picture and enable you to comprehend His teachings? Today we are reviewing chapter 5, verses 3:32 and can only hit the high spots.

Verses 3-12 contain the beatitudes, which show God's children how to live and treat others. V. 6 teaches us to seek righteousness — to "hunger and thirst" after it and be filled. Vs. 10-12 show us that if we follow Christ we will suffer, but that we rejoice in this. Vs. 13-16 teach how important christians are — "the salt of the earth" and "the light of the world" — being an influence for good by doing good and helping others. Jesus set the example in this. Vs. 17-20 show plainly that the law of Moses was not to be tampered with as long as it was in force. It was when Christ died on the cross that it was taken out of the way — "nailed to the cross" so that Christ would establish His own. We are now living under the law of Christ today.

In vs. 27-30 Jesus teaches that if our thoughts are evil we are committing sin. He taught that if a man looks upon a woman to lust after her he has committed adultery in his heart. Also, our souls are more important than our bodies, or any member of our bodies. In vs. 31, 32 Jesus teaches plainly that the only reason for divorce and remarriage is the sin of fornication — and fornication is sin. It was then and it is now. Please read Matt. 19:1-9.

Next: Matthew 5:33-48.  
Radio W.S.H.V. Sundays, 7:05-7:20.  
For assistance, call 757-7218.

# The Fourth Fundamental

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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In salvation, that is, being a Christian, we have learned that the first fundamental is to hear God's word; the second is to believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son; the third is to repent (or else perish); And today we study the fourth fundamental, which is to confess Jesus Christ to be the only begotten Son of God. This is not to be done lightly, but with a readiness to follow Jesus all the way— to obey, and have Him with us from this point on. Please note:

First, Matt. 10:32, 33: "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven." Next, Rom. 10:9, 10: "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto salvation." Then, Rom. 14:11: "For it is written, As I live, said the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." Note also Phil. 2:11: "And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

In Acts 8:37 when the eunuch asked why he couldn't be baptized, Philip said if he believed he could, the eunuch then said "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." Philip then immersed him for the remission of sins. Friend, are you ready to confess Christ to be God's Son and be baptized for the forgiveness of your past sins? Please come to Jesus today.

## Spiritual Freedom

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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On July 4, we celebrate "Independence Day." It is great to be free, to do the things we want to do, and to not worry about war - but to live in peace. All this we can do in this great country of ours. But we must never forget the many sacrifices in lives and so many other ways that were made for our freedom. Freedom comes at a very high cost, and we are the beneficiaries of those sacrifices.

Today, all can have spiritual freedom in Christ. Gal. 3:27 states "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." 2 Cor. 5:17 reads, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

In Rom. 8:6 we find that "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." Then in verse 17, "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."

Our "spiritual freedom" came through Christ, who was ready to sacrifice His life that we might live on. As we see them spit in His face, slap Him with the palm of their hands, beat Him severely and mock Him, we know that Christ underwent all this for us. Then we see them driving the spikes through His hands and feet, and watching Him hang there in agony on the cross, we know it was for our "spiritual freedom." But if we are to have this freedom in Christ, we must obey His glorious gospel.

## "When the Grinders Be Few"

By W.B. Freeman, Evangelist  
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In Ecclesiastes 12:1 we are told to "Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them." Here Solomon is advising that the time to remember God is while we are still young, because the time will come when we can't enjoy life. So many young people ignore God and in their older years regret it!

Note v. 3 of Ecc. 12: "In the days when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out the windows be darkened." "The grinders cease because they are few" is simply saying that as we grow older our natural teeth fail to function properly for one reason or another. Our teeth bother us and we go to the dentist; sometimes they can be filled and last a while longer. Again, they may have to be pulled and so "The grinders be few". Later on we may be able to eat only soft foods. Friend, read all of chapter 12.

In v. 5 we learn that "Man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets." In other words, we will die. In verses 12 and 13 Solomon says "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." Why? "For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." Friend, are you doing your whole duty? THINK

## "Godliness with Contentment"

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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One of the most important lessons we can learn is that of contentment. In 1 Tim. 6:6-10 Paul wrote "But godliness with contentment is greater gain. For we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us therewith be content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition."

In Phil. 4:11-13 Paul said to himself, "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased and how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." The Hebrew writer said in 13:5 "Let your conversation (manner of life) be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." In Luke 3:14 the soldiers asked what they should do. Jesus said to them, "Do violence to no man ... and be content with your wages."

As we study contentment we know it is essential to happiness, good health, peace of mind, and serene living. But it is not contentment alone that is "great gain", but it is godliness with contentment!

## Studying Proverbs

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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We need to study the greatest living book in the world more—the Bible. I suppose almost every home has a Bible in it, but so many homes neglect to read, study, and follow the teachings therein. The book of Proverbs was written by the man Solomon, who was given special wisdom by God. This, plus the fact that all scripture is given by the inspiration of God, makes it all the more important for us.

As Solomon stated in Prov. 1:4, 5: "To give subtlety to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion. A wise man will hear and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels." So it is important that we hear and increase our understanding with wise counsels. A most valuable truth is expressed in verse 7: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction." Verse 8 advises, "My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother." Where does knowledge begin? With the "fear of the Lord." To whom should young people listen? Their father and mother. It is very important that all young people learn to know and fear God and listen for good instruction!

Young people, note Prov. 1:10. "My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not." Verse 15 puts it this way: "My son, walk not thou with them; refrain thy foot from their path." Verse 16: "For their feet turn to evil, and make haste to shed blood." In other words, he is advising: "Have faith in God, study and learn, follow good advice — especially father's and mother's — and avoid the company of sinners." In doing this you will be working in your own best interest.

## Wisdom: Proverbs 2, 3

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Friend, after missing last week, it is good to be back with you this week. The book of Proverbs is such a beautiful and meaningful book, with wise sayings to cover every phase of living. So why not read the entire book often? Learn to enjoy reading and studying God's word by reading both the Old and New Testaments.

In Prov. 2 Solomon is encouraging us to seek wisdom and understanding. We are to "seek her as silver" and "When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant to thy soul; discretion shall preserve thee." "For the Lord giveth wisdom: Out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous." Wisdom will "deliver thee from the way of the evil man; those "Rejoice to do evil." To seek wisdom keeps us from following evil and causes us to love and seek that which is good.

Chapter 3 continues to stress that we not forget the law of wisdom — and that we must remember that true wisdom is from above. Verse 2 points out, "For length of days and long life and peace shall they add to thee." If we follow wisdom, mercy and truth will be a part of us, and we will find favor and good understanding in the sight of the Lord and of man. Verse 5 tells us to "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not on thine own understanding." If we acknowledge God He will direct us; but we are not to be wise in our own eyes.

There are 35 verses in chapter 3, and they are full of wisdom that will help us to live well. They will encourage us to "Fear God and keep his commandments."

## Looking Unto Jesus

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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This article is written for December 24, which is Christmas Eve. It is a time when people are thinking about Christ. It is also a time for families to enjoy getting together and giving gifts. Certainly we should think about Jesus Christ and His great sacrifice for us. We are thankful that Christ was born of a woman — not only of a woman, but of a virgin. Thus, He came down from God and was God with us for over 33 years. This enabled Him to understand our problems.

But Jesus died for our sins according to the Scriptures: He was buried, and we thank God that He arose after three days. Then He ascended back to God. After He arose God gave Him all authority. Matt. 28: 18, 19 states "Jesus came and spake unto them, saying "All power (authority) is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." In Mark 16: 15, 16 we read "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature: He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved."

God gave Jesus all authority, and Heb. 12:2 says, "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith." Heb. 5: 8, 9 states that "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; and being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him." Friend, are you looking to Jesus? Is He the author and finisher of your faith? If not, why not?

## To Whom Shall We Go?

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Friend, as I write these weekly articles I wish I knew just what you need most — especially in spiritual matters. At any rate I hope the things I write about are what is most needful to you. It is our purpose to point all to Jesus Christ and Him crucified — and, yes, resurrected so that you will want to follow Him, as He is indeed the Son of God with power.

In the latter part of John 6 Jesus spoke to His disciples some truths that offended them. Verse 66 states "From that time many of his disciples went back and walked no more with him"; Then in v. 67 we read "then said Jesus unto the twelve, will ye also go away?" The next two verses give Peter's answer — "Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God."

Some important facts are brought out here. For example, some of the disciples followed Jesus only when His teachings pleased them. No doubt as long as His teaching did not interfere with their ways, every thing was alright. To follow Jesus today, one must trust Him and be ready to go with Him all the way. As the hymn goes, "Where He leads me I will follow... I'll go with Him... all the way." With this attitude we will be ready to do His will without question!

Peter in effect says that if we do not follow Jesus, then who can we follow — and to him the answer was NO-One. He is the only one who can teach us the way of life ("Thou hast the words of eternal life.") Jesus gave the only plan of salvation (and, unless Him there is no way.

## My Heart's Desire for You

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Greetings to you, friend, as we close out 1986. Paul said in Rom. 1:1 "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved." To paraphrase this I say to you "Friends, my heart's desire and prayer to God for you is that you might be saved." When you are saved you are rich — and all can be saved by coming to Christ. Note 2 Cor. 8, 9: "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor, that we through his poverty might be rich."

Yes, my heart's desire and prayer to God is that you might be rich. However, to be rich we don't have to have wealth or the fine things of this life. Some of the poorest people in this world's goods are some richest because they are rich toward God. Some of the richest in this world's goods are some of the poorest, for they are not rich toward God. The rich young ruler was very rich in this world's goods; but he refused to follow Christ. Thus he was in real poverty!

It is also our heart's desire and prayer to God that 1987 will be a good year for you and yours. May you look to God and be guided by His Word. Read it, study it, and above all obey its Holy precepts to make sure your eternal destiny. As you go through the new year be a good husband, wife, son, daughter, as well as a good neighbor or friend. If you are not a Christian, why not become one and devote your life to the service of God and your fellowman? Happy New Year, friend!

## "It Is More Blessed"

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Friend, in writing these short weekly articles in *The Enterprise*, it is my purpose to be of help to you in living. David said in Ps. 119:17, "Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I may live and keep thy word." We all want to truly live - and Jesus said "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." This is a fundamental truth that all need to and must learn. Many people think they are living when they have the necessities of life - food, clothing and shelter; but without God none of us can live!

Paul taught in Acts 20:35: "So laboring ye ought to support the weak and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said it is more blessed to give than to receive." In Acts 3:6 Peter said to the lame man, "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee." We must realize this truth and have the attitude of "Such as I have give I unto thee."

Whatever I have I am obligated to give, since "No man liveth unto himself and no man dieth unto himself." I need to be a person who gives out of love and a desire to help others - not because I feel I have to. There is real joy in giving. When I study myself and my situation unselfishly, I may find that I have more to offer than I had thought. Service above self should be our steady goal.

## As We Continue in 1987

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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## "It Is More Blessed To Give"

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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It was Christ who said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." He is the best example to be found of selfless giving, as He gave Himself that we, through Him, might have life and have it more abundantly. In Phil. 2:5-8 we see just how much He did give for us. We find that Christ was in the form of God, but took upon Himself the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men. He then became obedient unto death — even the death of the cross, the cruelest death anyone could die! Christ gave Himself on the cross that we through Him could be saved.

We accept His salvation by coming to Him and obeying His gospel. As Christians, we then serve God and man as we go through life, knowing that some day we will be like Him. In our endeavors to walk worthy of our vocation wherewith we are called, we give instead of taking.

While money and things are important in our giving, yet to give of ourselves is vital. Paul said of certain brethren, "But first gave their own selves to the Lord." When we give ourselves, than all else will fall in line. So many people need our help, and we as Christians follow in the steps of Jesus and gladly give. We are ready, willing and happy to follow what Jesus said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive" — and we find it so true! Friend, are you a Christian? If not, why not?

As we continue to live the remaining three-hundred, fifty-one days of 1987, we want to make good things happen. Yes, we want to truly live — not to merely exist — and help others also to really live, by radiating joy and happiness to all around us. In Rom. 14:7 we read "For none of us liveth unto himself, and no man dieth unto himself." Then in verse 19, "Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another."

Friend, as you continue in 1987 the most important thing for you is to make sure that you are a child of God — that you are following the King of kings and Lord of lords. We say "Make sure," because sometimes people think they are Christians because they have a clear conscience, are good moral persons, or just feel good about themselves — even though they have not obeyed Christ's gospel. In Luke 6:46 Jesus said "and why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" In 2 Thess. 1:7, 8, we read "When the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Please, friend, don't take chances with your soul. Make preparation now, because when you die, that's it — not just about it! In 1987 make sure you love God and keep His commandments, for "this is the whole duty of man." We must love God with our whole beings. When we do this, we will gladly keep His commandments.

For information, call 757-7218.  
Radio WJWS Sundays, 8:15-8:30.

## Studies in Acts

(Continued)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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In Mark 16:17, 18, Jesus gave the apostles power to cast out devils, speak with new tongues, take up serpents, drink deadly things (without being hurt), and to heal the sick. The first instance of healing the sick was the healing of the lame man in Acts 3. This was done to prove that Jesus Christ was indeed the Son of God.

The people were amazed when they saw the lame man leaping, walking and praising God. This instance opened the door for Peter to preach to these Jews who crucified Christ. In verse 15, He said, "And killed the prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead." He pointed out that it was through the name of Christ that this man was made whole.

Then in Acts 3:19, Peter said, "Repent, therefore, and turn again that your sins may be blotted out, that the times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord." (RSV). This is the equivalent of the statement in Acts 2:38, "Repent and be baptized ... in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

As we continue through the book of Acts, we find God's way made clear and easy to understand.

Next week: Acts 4.

## Studies in Acts

(Continued)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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In Acts 3, we have the story of Peter and John going into the temple at the hour of prayer. A lame man was at the gate called Beautiful asking alms. When he saw Peter and John, he asked alms of them, expecting to receive something. That is when Peter said, "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." Peter took him by the hand and lifted him up and he began to walk.

What lesson can we learn? We may not have silver or gold to give, but we can give "Such as I have." What do I have? What can I give? I should be able to give love, sympathy words or deeds of kindness, time to help, and a good example of life. But above all, I should be a Christian and be able to help others know about Christ and to realize the beauty and joy of christian living.

When we are children of God we truly believe that "It is more blessed to give than to receive" and we walk in His steps.

Next week: Studying the Bible, continued.

## Studies in Acts

(Continued)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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In Acts 2 we have a record of the apostles being baptized with the Holy Ghost, Peter's powerful sermon, the repentance and baptism of 3,000 people for the remission of sins (vs. 37-41) and of the Lord adding to the church daily.

This church, or kindgom, was prophesized by Daniel in Daniel 2:44 and in other Scriptures. In Matthew 10, Jesus told His apostles to preach that the kingdom "is at hand." Then, in Matthew 16: 18, He said: "Upon this rock I will build my church" — and in verse 19 we learn that "the kindgom" and "the church" is the same.

In Acts 2:47, the Lord is adding to the church. So Jesus had established His church — on the first Pentacost after His resurrection. In Acts 20:28, Paul told the elders of the church in Ephesus to "Feed the church of God which he hath purchased with his own blood."

Thus we know this was indeed the Lord's doing — and it is marvelous in our eyes (Ps. 118:22-24).

Next week: Studies in Acts, continued.

## Studies in Acts

(Chapter 4)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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In Acts 4 we find the first persecution of the apostles for doing good and preaching Christ. Those in authority among the Jews were grieved that the lame man had been healed and that Christ was preached. So some of the apostles were imprisoned; but still many believed.

The high priest and his kindred, in a show of force, tried to stop Peter and other apostles from preaching Christ and His resurrection. However, the apostles continued boldly and taught "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name given among men, whereby we must be saved." — verse 4. They were dedicated to preach Christ, regardless of what the Jewish authorities did to them.

It is of interest to note that the apostles would have been punished much more severly had it not been for the people. The high priest and others did not want the Gospel preached because it would denounce their religion. Prejudice and hatred reached a high pitch; be, as we notice in the 4th verse of this chapter, about 5,000 men were added to the Lord at this time.

Next week: Acts Chapter 5.

For "Dial-a-Devotional" call 447-8749.

Radio WJWS, "Searching the Scriptures," Sunday, 8:15-8:30 a.m.

## Why Seek the Lost?

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Why seek the lost? Certainly, we seek the lost because we don't want anyone to go to hell. But we seek the lost also because of what a wonderfully beautiful place heaven must be. Jesus said in John 14:2,3: "In my Father's house are many mansions; If it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And, if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself that where I am, there may be also."

In 2 Cor. 5:1, we find "For we know that, if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." Let us turn to Rom. 8:17, 18: "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ ... that we may also be glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us."

As the song goes, "O, won't it be wonderful there?" 1 Cor. 2:9 tells: "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

Friend, why not read Rev. 21 and 22 and get the beautiful picture there of heaven, noting especially 21:40. This should spur and hearten us all to follow God to heaven, the home of the soul.

Next week: How to Seek the Lost  
For "Dial-a-Devotional" call 447-8749.  
Radio WJWS, Sundays, 8:15-8:30 a.m.

## Why Seek the Lost?

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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In Luke 19:10, Jesus said, "For the son of man is come to seek and save that which is lost." In Luke 15 the Pharisees and scribes murmured and accused Jesus of eating, and associating, with sinners. Then Jesus taught us just how important one lost soul is, and the great rejoicing there is when one soul is saved. This sin-sick world needs Jesus and His forgiveness. This is why I seek the lost.

We don't want people to be lost, because of their destiny. In Matt. 8:12, Jesus said, "But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

In the story of Lazarus and the rich man (Luke 16:22,23) we read, "The rich man also died — (All of us will die) — and was buried, and in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torments." Then in verse 24 he said, "I am tormented in this flame."

After this the rich man became concerned about his brothers: "Lest they also come to this place of torment." In verse 31 he was told "If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead." So we must hear and heed the word of God, or there is no hope for us.

We read in Rev. 14:11a, "And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night." Then, in Rev. 20:15, "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Is your name written in the book of life? (To be continued).

## Why Seek the Lost?

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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At first it may seem foolish to ask "Why seek the lost?". However, without it, we may fail to take in the full meaning of just what it means to be lost. To be physically lost is bad; but to be spiritually lost is indeed terrible: It means to be without God, without Christ, and without hope of heaven. Worst of all, if one is lost that person will be in everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels. Please note Matt. 25:41: Jesus is speaking, "Then shall he say also unto them on his left hand, depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels."

Continuing in verse 46a, "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment." While man does not like to think about hell and its horrors, yet Christ Himself showed us in language which cannot be misunderstood how awful hell is.

In Mark 9:43-48, Jesus uses the expression several times: "into the fire that never shall be quenched." He is teaching us here and in other instances that it would be better to cut off a hand, foot, or even to pluck out an eye — if this would keep us from being LOST.

The reason I spend my time "seeking the lost" is because I do not want any to be with the devil and his angels throughout eternity; but rather with God in heaven where all is wonderful. This subject will be continued.

## Acts, Chapter 8: 26-40

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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In verse 26, Philip was told by an angel of the Lord to go toward the south "unto the way that goeth from Jerusalem to Gaza." Philip arose and went. A man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority, had been to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home in his chariot. He was reading from Isaiah 53 of a prophecy concerning Christ, which he did not understand. The eunuch was very religious, having taken a trip of about 1,300 miles to worship God.

The Spirit told Philip to go and join himself to this chariot. Philip ran toward it and was invited to come up and sit with the eunuch. Since he was ready to hear about Christ, Philip started with the scripture under consideration (Isaiah 53) and "preached unto him Jesus."

The two men came to a certain water "and the eunuch said, Here is water. What doth hinder me to be baptized?" Verse 38 tells us that they both went down into the water and Philip baptized the eunuch. When they came up out of the water, the eunuch rejoiced and Philip went his way to continue preaching the gospel. We, too, can rejoice when we obey our Lord.

Next week: "The Greatest Thing in the World."  
For "Dial-a-Devotional" call 447-8749.  
Radio WJWS Sundays, 8:15-8:30 a.m.

## Acts, Chapter 5

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In the last part of Chapter 4, we have another outpouring of love and care of the Christians of the Jerusalem church, which probably numbered more than ten thousand by that time. They again sold their possessions to give to the needy Christians.

Ananias and Sapphira sold their possessions and pretended to give all; but kept back part — thereby lying to the Holy Ghost. For this they were put to death by the Lord. God knew their deceit, just as He knows us today. Fear came upon the church, and the apostles continued to preach Christ — regardless of consequences. Many miracles were performed by them and, in verse 14, it is stated "And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women."

Again, the Apostles were thrown in the common prison. After this, the angel of the Lord brought them out. They continued preaching the resurrection of Christ. The Jewish leaders commanded them to not teach in this name. Peter responded, "We ought to obey God rather than men," and continued to preach Christ. Verse 42 states, "And daily in the temple, and every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ."

This is the greatest need of the world today.

Next week: Acts 6.

## Acts, Chapter 7

By W. B. Freeman, Minsiter  
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In chapter 6, we learned that seven deacons were appointed to serve the Jerusalem church. Stephen was one of these men and he began to preach after this. His message was that Jesus Christ was indeed the son of God. For this he was arrested and badly mistreated.

In chapter 7, Stephen begins his defense. He starts with the promise that God made to Abraham: That in his seed (Christ) all nations of the earth would be blessed. The line of this "seed" included Isaac, Jacob, and their descendants. He also points out that through envy Joseph was sold into Egypt by his brothers. Eventually, Jacob and his family live in Egypt, remaining there for over 400 years — a good part of that time as slaves.

After this, Stephen continues, Moses was raised up to deliver God's people. Afterwards they disobeyed God and wandered in the wilderness for 40 years before coming to the promised land.

Then Stephen tells the people that they murdered Christ, their hope of salvation. Those hard-hearted Jews became exceedingly angry. They gnashed on Stephen with their teeth, stopped up their ears, and they stoned him to death. Before he died Stephen "kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice Lord, lay not this sin to their charge" (v. 60), then fell asleep. Please read all of chapter 7.

Next week: Acts, Chapter 8.

## Acts, Chapter 6

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After Jesus established His church in Jerusalem in A. D. 33, it grew rapidly. In fact, by the time of the sixth chapter there were probably 10,000 people who had been added to it. It is estimated by some that by 70 A. D. there were over one hundred thousand christians in Jerusalem.

In chapter 6 we find seven men chosen by the Jerusalem church to see that the money that had been collected was distributed properly. These were men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom. This was the Lord's arrangement through the apostles. In this way, the widows could be taken care of and the apostles could continue in prayer and in the ministry of the Word — since saving souls through preaching was their work.

These seven are considered the first deacons. They are named in verse 5. Two of these became preachers: Philip and Stephen. "The word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith" — verse 7.

As you read verses 8-15 you see the hatred of the Jews against Stephen building up among the Jewish authorities. These were determined to destroy him because he preached the resurrected Christ.

Next week: Acts 7.

## Acts, Chapter 8: 1-25

By W. B. Freeman, Minsiter  
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In Acts 8 we find a great persecution against the Lord's church. Saul of Tarsus (later Paul) was one of the chief persecutors. He consented to the death of Stephen, and in verse 3 we see that he "made havoc of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women, committed them to prison." He did all this with good conscience as a devout Jew — thinking at the time that Christ was an imposter.

The Jerusalem church was scattered abroad by persecution, except for the apostles. However, in this situation they became even more zealous: As verse 4 says "Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word."

Phillip went down to the city of Samaria and had fine results in preaching Christ, performing many miracles. Simon the sorcerer heard the gospel and was baptized into Christ. He later sinned by wanting to buy the power to impart the Holy Ghost, but was told to repent and pray to God that he might be forgiven. The preaching of Christ continued to have great results.

Next week: Acts 8: 26-40.

For "Dial-a-Devotional" call 447-8749.

Radio WJWS Sundays, 8:15-8:30 a.m.

## What Is Your Soul Worth?

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Friend, I ask you this question: What is your soul worth to you? Jesus said in Matt. 16:24-26, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" Here we have in the balance one soul on one side and the whole world on the other side — and the soul proves to outweigh, or to be more important, than all the world. Now, keep in mind that this is your soul.

What is your soul worth to God. In John 3:16 we find "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Then in verse 17 we read "For God sent not his Son to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." God did not send one of many sons, but His only begotten Son — for this was the only way the world could be saved: This was the only way I could be saved or you, or any soul could be saved. We find in I John 2:2 that Jesus became the propitiation for our sins and the sins of the whole world.

In Heb. 9:27 we read "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." So two things are certain for each of us — death and judgment. After the judgment it will be heaven or hell. The preparation we make while we are living will determine which place. So, friend, please take Solomon's advice in Ecc. 12:13 — "Fear God and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." We find His commandments only in the Bible. So study, learn, and obey!

## The Soul of Man

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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In our study of the soul, we have learned that one soul is worth more than the whole world. Last week we learned that when God created man He created in His own image and he became a living soul. The big problem was that man soon sinned and became separated from God. In fact, in Gen. 6:5 we read, "and God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

In time the world was so wicked that God decided to destroy it with water; however, He wanted to give men and women a chance to repent. So He had Noah, a righteous man, to build an ark and all who would get into it would be saved. Noah pled with the people of the world to get into the ark and be saved; but only seven other people heeded his gospel call. Thus, only eight people were saved and all others were destroyed by water. No doubt, they thought Noah's preaching was foolishness — You see, so many today think the preaching of Christ's gospel is foolishness. In fact, on one occasion I had a person to ask me, "Why do you waste your time preaching?"

Well, why do I devote my life to preaching Christ's glorious gospel? It is because of the value of souls — your soul and my soul. In Ps. 19:7, "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul." Ps. 23:3, "He restoreth my soul." Ps. 42:2, "My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?" Prov. 11:30 states, "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise." Friend, I want to win your soul to God. I want you to be saved by obedience to Christ and His gospel, which is God's power to save.

For assistance, call 757-7218.

Radio WSHV Sundays, 7:05-7:20.

## As We Grow Older

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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As our birthdays draw near we become more conscious of the fact that we are "growing older." As it happens, this article should be in The Enterprise the day before my birthday. I won't tell my age; I will tell that I am definitely a "senior citizen." While I may look old, yet I do not feel old — and it is good to still be well and active in preaching, teaching, and other good works.

I think all of us become more conscious and thoughtful of life and what it is all about. We realize that life on earth, at best, is very short. Let us note how James puts it in James 4:13, "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." Job 14:1 states "Man that is born of woman is of few days, and full of trouble."

Since our life here is only a few years at most, and eternity is forever, we must prepare while in this life, to meet God afterwards. God said to Israel in Amos 4:12, "Prepare to meet thy God, O Israel." This is man's greatest need today!

In Ps. 90:10 we read "The days of our years are threescore and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away." Then v. 12 tells us, "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." Ps. 111:10 teaches us that "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: A good understanding have all they that do his commandments; his praise endureth forever."

For assistance, call 757-7218.

Radio WJWS Sundays, 7:05-7:20.

## Thoughts About the Soul

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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As I write words (around 200) each week, I want to say something that will help you live in this life and prepare for eternity in heaven. Thus, I want your soul to live here and in the great beyond. In Gen. 2:7 we read "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." In Gen. 1:27 it is said "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him: male and female created he them."

The soul is the part of man that lives on and on. It is the soul which will be in heaven enjoying its wondrous beauty and joy — or in hell being in pain and torment forever and ever. This is one reason Peter said in 1 Pet. 1:22 "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently." Then in verse 23, "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever."

To go to heaven, the soul must be purified. But how? In obeying the truth, which is the word of God that liveth and abideth for ever.

To be continued.

## Sowing to the Spirit (Concluded)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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In sowing to the Spirit we are preparing for life everlasting, with God, Christ, and all the redeemed of the ages. This will be in that wonderful and beautiful place described in God's Book, especially in Rev. 21 and 22. This, and to avoid eternal fire, should be enough incentive for anyone to sow to the Spirit.

Moreover, sowing to the Spirit brings a far better life on this earth. Yes, a happier and richer life is ours when we read, meditate upon, and follow the Word of God. Pleasing Him, we have love, joy, peace, and serenity. We shun evil (Gal. 5:19) and cleave to good. We put on the whole armor of God and fight the good fight of faith; Thus we are ready to every good work (Eph. 6:10-17; Col. 3:1-4, 12-15).

When we sow to the Spirit, we are a blessing to all: families, neighbors, community and, indeed, the world! Following in the footsteps of Jesus, we go about "doing good." A life filled with goodness is evidence that we are living now and that our influence will live on after we die (Rev. 14:13).

Next week: How to Study the Bible.

## Nuggets of Gold

### A Good Conscience

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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A good conscience is a priceless thing. Poor indeed is the man without a good conscience. George Washington said, "Young man, strive ever to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire called conscience." Indeed, for if that little spark ever goes out man begins to live as brute and on the animal plane.

A good conscience comes by doing what we believe should be done, abstaining from those things contrary to our accepted standard of right. Our conscience should always bother us if, for any reason, we do what we know is wrong. This could be done by following the crowd, having fun or pleasing others. We must follow the right, regardless of what others may say or do.

However, our consciences must be trained properly. In Acts 23:1 Paul said, "I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day." Part of this time he spent persecuting the church. But when he learned the truth he followed his good conscience and obeyed God. Always have a good conscience; but make sure it is educated to do God's will.

## Some Infidels' View of Death

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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There are some things which can be avoided, some appointments that we don't have to keep. But in Heb. 9:27 we read that "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." So we will all die — the rich, the poor, educated and uneducated, wise and foolish, believers in God and infidels or agnostic. Then, after death, all will be judged by the Christ who gave His own life for all. Here are some examples of how some infidels viewed death when they knew it was near.

1. Voltaire, the French atheist who strove to destroy Christianity, said to his doctor, "I am abandoned by God and man! I will give you half of what I am worth if you will give me six months' life. Then shall I go to hell; and you will go with me. O Christ; O Jesus Christ!"

2. Thomas Paine, an American atheist, said, "I would give worlds if I had them, that the 'Age of Reason' had never been published. O Lord, help me! O God, What have I done to suffer so much? But there is no God! But if there should be, what shall become of me hereafter?"

3. Finally, Thomas Hobbs, the English skeptic, said, "If I had the whole world, I would give it to live one day. I shall be glad to find a hole to creep out of the world at. About to take a leap in the dark!"

These are famous men who spent their lives trying to destroy God in the minds of mankind.

In Lawrenceburg, Tenn., there lies the remains of a man who had inscribed on his tombstone before he died words to the effect that "Here lies a man who did not believe in God." Nevertheless, all men, when death comes, realize that they need God. All will bow to a confess Christ to the glory of God. Friend, have you confessed Him to be God's Son? Have you repented and been baptized into Christ? Please do so while you have time and opportunity.

## "Man Never So Spake"

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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In John 10:4 Jesus said "And when he putteth forth his own sheep he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him; for they know his voice." We have heard the expression "the ring of truth." Well, Jesus' words always had the ring of truth. Those who heard Him were astonished, "for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes." Those sent to arrest Jesus returned empty-handed, explaining "Never man spake like this man" — John 7:46.

We are engulfed today in a sea of words of those seeming to speak with authority — new teachings, etc. But piercing through all this is one sure voice. What is its nature? It is the voice of life: "The words that I speak, they are spirit and they are life" — John 6:63. It is the voice of permanence. "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" — Luke 21:23. It is the voice of judgment. "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him; The word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" — John 12:48.

Truly, never man spake like this Man! Well we listen with an open mind? Our attitude must be "Speak, Lord, and I will hear. Command, and I will obey." This is the attitude that studies and follows His teachings.

## Psalms I

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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In the first Psalm we learn what not to do and what to do. Verse 1 teaches that we are not to walk in the counsel of the ungodly, stand in the way of sinners, nor sit in the seat of the scornful. This clearly points up the care we must give to choosing our associates. The reason for this is the fact that people are led in the wrong way when they are with the ungodly.

In verse 2 we learn to channel our affections so that we "delight in the law of the Lord" and meditate on it both day and night. In Ps. 119:97 we read, "O how love I thy law: It is my meditation all the day." Why should we do this? Because the law of the Lord is "perfect, converting the soul." — Ps. 19:7.

Verse 3 assures us that God will protect and care for all who are His — that those who follow God will prosper and bring forth good fruit. Then, verses 4 to 6 tell us that God knows the way of the righteous; but that the ungodly shall not stand, and will perish in that great day.

The lessons of Psalm 1 is that it does pay to read, study and follow God's word. Also, to follow the ungodly is folly and leads to destruction.

Next week: Psalms 19.

## Psalm One, No. 3

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ  
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David, in Psalm 1 verse 1, advised that we are not to walk in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stand in the way of sinners, nor sit in the seat of the scornful. Then in verse 2 he said, "But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night." We all meditate on something — and it is important that we learn what things we are to meditate upon that will be conducive to a better and happier life. Here, David said we should delight in and meditate upon God's law.

In Joshua 1:8 Josua said to the children of Israel, "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do all things that are written herein." So the purpose of meditation is to learn and observe God's holy commands. Please note also Ps. 119:97, where the Psalmist says "O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day." Then in Ps. 19:14 David prays, "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in this sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer."

Why is it so important to meditate upon and delight in the law of the Lord? Note Ps. 19:7, "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple." David goes on to comment that the fear of the Lord is clean, His judgments are true and righteous altogether. They are to be desired more than fine gold and are sweeter than honey, and by them we are warned; but in the keeping of them there is great reward.

The sum total of purpose in delighting in the law of the Lord and meditating on it is that we may do His will — and be saved. Friend, are you thinking about and doing the will of God?

## Psalm One, Conclusion

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ  
409 W. High Street - South Hill, Va.

It is our hope that the study of Psalm I will encourage each who reads these articles to study God's word more. It is rewarding and enriching, and if followed will enable you to be saved. There are good rewards for those who delight in the law of the Lord, and who meditate on it day and night.

In verse 3 we learn that this person is "like a tree planted by the rivers of water" and his leaf will not wither. Further, in his life he will prosper. But this does not mean that he will become rich, necessarily, but that the good things of life will be his. As David put it in Ps. 23, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life." There is a very different fate for the ungodly — those who turn away from God and refuse to follow Him. Such are under the control of Satan. They are like "the chaff which the wind driveth away." I remember when I was growing up on the farm in Lawrence County, Tenn., watching the wheat being threshed. As this was done the wheat went into the proper containers, and the chaf was blown in all directions. It was useless.

Verse 5 warns that the day of judgment is coming and that the ungodly will not pass the test; but the verdict will be "Depart from me." Neither will sinners stand in the congregation of the righteous. Today, the righteous are those who obey today's law of grace — who hear, believe, and obey the gospel of Christ, which is God's power to save — Rom. 1:16. The Lord knows His people, as He keeps a record in which the names of the saved are written: the book of life. "But the way of the ungodly shall perish."

Friend, are you saved or lost? To find out is a matter of finding out in the New Testament. Have you obeyed Christ by being baptized into Him?

## PSALM 8

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ  
409 W. High Street - South Hill, Va.

It is good to study God's holy word — and, as we study, may each of us be determined to follow it diligently. The book of Psalms is a good book to study. The chapters range in length from 2 verses (in Ps. 117) to 176 (in Ps. 119), and are all very beautiful and meaningful to us today. Let us notice the 8th Psalm.

Verse 1: "O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! Who hast set thy glory above the heavens." Truly, how excellent is the name of the Lord our God! The song "How Great Thou Art" expresses the greatness of God and how wonderful is His name. God is good, just, merciful and kind. In Psalm 136 all 26 verses end with "for his mercy endureth forever." In Ps. 100, verse 3, we read "Know ye that the Lord he is God: It is he that made us and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture." Then in verse 5, "For the Lord he is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations."

Verses 3 and 4 of Psalm 8 reads "When I consider the heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him?" Yes, God made the sun, moon, and stars. Looking up to the heavens, we are amazed and awed at His wonderful power in creation — Indeed, the "heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth his handiwork"

## Psalm 8

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ

409 W. High St. South Hill, Va.

This is a psalm that should be read often. It teaches us how great the name of God is and that He did indeed create the heavens and the earth, and that man was the high point of His creation.

This psalm begins and ends with the statement "O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!" There is a beautiful song based on this psalm. Many more songs have been written showing us how great our God is — the best known of which, I suppose, is "How Great Thou Art." Two other favorites are "My God and I" and "Our God He Is Alive."

Yes, our God is alive — looking over us and yearning for all to be His faithful children. It is truly in our best interest to believe in, and follow, our Maker.

God made the moon and the stars. He is mindful of man, who was made "a little lower than the angels," and "crowned him with glory and honor." God made man to have dominion over "the works of thy hands," and put all things under his feet. Man is over all forms of animal and sea life, as well as the fowls of the air. How excellent is His name in all the earth!

## Psalm 19

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ

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The nineteenth Psalm teaches us so much that I suggest you read it all. Verse 1 states "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork." Then, as we read on through verse 6, the Psalmist points out the beauty and glory of God in nature. When we look about us and see the beauty and the precision in this world, we accept the fact that God did indeed "create the heavens and the earth," as we read in Gen. 1:1.

May we always accept the Biblical account of creation, because of the statements in the Bible, the glory and the power of God, and the sight of His handiwork.

As we go through verses 7-14, we learn that "The law of the Lord is perfect" ... "the statutes of the Lord are right" ... "the commandment of the Lord is pure" ... "the fear of the Lord is clean" and "the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether." We also learn that they are "more to be desired than gold" ... "sweeter also than honey in the honeycomb" and that "in the keeping of them there is great reward."

Finally, notice David's prayer in verse 14: How important it is that we speak the right words and that we meditate properly — because God is our strength and redeemer.

Next week: Psalms 23

## Psalm 8, Concluded

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ

409 W. High Street - South Hill, Va.

Psalm 8:1 states, "O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! Who hast set thy glory above the heavens." Verse 9 repeats the same thought. This chapter is one of the many in the Psalms — and in the Bible — which strengthens our faith in God and His word. It helps us to see by faith that there was indeed an all-wise, all-merciful and all-powerful Creator. Truly, through faith we understand that "The worlds were framed by the word of God." So, "The things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." — Heb. 11:3.

In Psalm 53:1 we read "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God." Isn't it amazing how many people in the world God classes among those who are fools? Yes, even saying that God is a liar and did not make man. How foolish it is to think that man, the crowning point of God's creation, thinks of himself as evolving from some lower form of life! One of the saddest things about this theory (yes, tragic) is that most of those who influence our youth accept the idea of evolution.

Man was made in the image of God and a little lower than the angels. Let us note Ps. 8:5-8, "For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: all sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field, the fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the sea." Then, in verse 9, "O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!" Let us always believe in God and keep His commandments.

## Psalm 23

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ

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There is much hope and comfort to a Christian in God's holy book, the Bible. I suppose the 23rd Psalm is one of the most widely read, quoted, and loved chapters in the Bible.

David here meditates, "The Lord is my shepherd" and He will take care of me. "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters." He takes me where the tender grass calms my soul with serenity. "He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness." Following Him, I will learn to do the right. Yes, even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil. The reason is that "Thou are with me" — and so I am comforted.

He is saying further: I will rejoice in the presence of mine enemies without fear, and my cup runs over. When the Lord is guiding, leading, directing, the blessings from God are more than we can receive.

In verse 6 he is stating that, since the Lord is my shepherd, good things will be mine here, then I will be with Him forever. The Christian has the best in this life, then will be with God and the redeemed forever.

Next week: Psalms 24-26

## Psalm 119

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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You have been encouraged by me to read and study God's holy word. This should be done daily to understand what God wants you to do as well as for personal enrichment and enjoyment. Especially should you who are young learn to love and appreciate the greatest Book ever! It will lead young people in the ways that will bring good character and real success in life.

The 119th Psalm is a good chapter to study. It contains 176 verses and emphasises throughout the importance of loving and following God's bidding. In one way or another, following God is brought out in almost every verse. Let us note a few: Verse 1, "Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord". Next, verse 9, "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word". But is this not the way for us all to cleanse our way and please the Lord?

We find in the book of Ecc. that Solomon tried many things to find happiness, and found only one thing that worked. In Ecc. 12:13, 14 he stated: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be bad." Yes, we are to put first things first - which is doing God's will.

## Psalm 119:33-40

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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In these verses the writer is expressing a desire to know God's will, with the view of doing what God wants him to do. Remember, Jesus said in Matt. 5:6 "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." In Ps. 119:172 we find "For all thy commandments are righteousness." It is wonderful to hunger and thirst after God's will, knowing we will be filled!

In verse 33 the psalmist desires to know God's will that he may keep it all of his life. Then in v. 34 he affirms that he will "observe it with my whole heart." His service to God won't be half-hearted or lukewarm; but he will serve with his whole being. After this, he learns God's commandments and delights in them. We, too, are to have joy in the privilege of going the way of God's word. He is saying also that he wants to hear God's testimonies so that he won't follow evil. He prays that vanity will be far from him - and the way to do this is to "be made alive in God's way."

In verse 38 he is "devoted to thy fear." This is good, since wisdom is in fearing God and doing His will. He says in v. 39 "Thy judgments are good." We must truly feel that "God is good" - in all His ways. Verse 40: "I have longed after thy precepts." When we long for God's word, we will study it and obey it.

## Psalm 119 Selections

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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In verse 66 the Psalmist says, "Teach me good judgment and knowledge: for I have believed thy commandments." Yes, all of us need good judgments and knowledge, and to believe God's commandments. A deep faith and a diligent study of His word will bring this to us. In verse 67 he says, "Before I was afflicted I went astray: But now I have kept thy word." It took an affliction of some kind to get him to realize his need of and dependence on God.

Verse 69: "The proud have forged a lie against me: but I will keep thy precepts with my whole heart." Lies told against him did not weaken his faith or determination to serve God; but rather caused him to have a greater love and zeal for Him. In verse 71 he brings up his affliction again, saying "It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes." He is possibly saying, "I benefitted from my affliction, as it gave me a chance to meditate and study God's word. I am closer to God now and appreciate Him more." When we have sickness, trials and temptations, we can learn to appreciate God more and thereby be strengthened.

Finally, verse 72: "The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver." Psalm 19:10 (in speaking of the commandments of God): "More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold." Friend, do you desire to be rich? Then get your Bible, study God's commandments, and obey them. To be rich toward God is what counts!

## Studies in Psalm 119 (Continued)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ  
409 W. High Street - South Hill, Va.

We continue to exhort each of you to study God's book, the Bible, as a part of your daily life. Yes, study it to learn what to do to go to heaven - and to get the most out of life. Speaking of God's commandments in Ps. 19:10, David said "More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb." V. 11, "Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward."

Now to Ps. 119 - and we note first v. 17: "Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I may live, and keep thy word." In other words, the Psalmist is saying to first "Give good things to me, Lord." The Lord has promised to bless and help those who follow Him - Matt. 6:33. Jesus promised "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." He was speaking here of necessities of life.

Next, he says, "that I may live". All of us want to truly live, not just exist. Jesus said in Matt. 4:4, "It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." So, without studying and following God's word, we cannot truly live. In the last part of v. 17 the writer is saying "If you give me the good things of life, I will live and, this being true, I will keep thy word." Since God so wonderfully blesses us, we should truly live by "keeping" His word: hearing, believing, and obeying Christ's gospel.

## Psalm 119:25-32

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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409 W. High Street - South Hill, Va.

As we continue the study of Psalm 119, we see the beauty and the lessons taught in every verse. So let us note verses 25-32: "Quicken me according to thy word." This is the same as "Make me alive according to thy will." Verse 26, "Teach me thy statutes" - or, help me to know thy ways that I may follow thee. Verse 27 says, teach me to understand. This is the attitude of seeking divine instruction. Verse 28 reads, "Strengthen thou me according to thy word." We might say to Him, Lord, help me to truly be strong in thee by following thy word.

In verse 29, we find "Remove from me the way of falsehood" - and that is a prayer for God to help me put evil out of my life - any evil. For we cannot follow evil and good at the same time, just as "No man can serve two masters." We find in verse 30, "I have chosen the way of truth." To choose the way of truth is to choose spiritual freedom in Him (John 8:32) - As "Thy word is truth" is found in John 17:17. In verse 31 of the Psalmist's prayer we find "I have stuck unto thy testimonies" - This is saying that I know by this I am staying safe and right and will please thee!

Verse 32: "I will run the way of thy commandments." Here he is promising to obey the commandments of the Lord. Is not this what we all need to do? Shouldn't we always be willing and anxious to obey God's commands? This is the only way to reach heaven.

## Psalm 119:97-104

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Please read carefully these verses, and then I will have a few comments to make. "Oh how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep precepts.

I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word. I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast taught me. How sweet are thy words unto my taste! Yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth. Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way."

As we read these verses we see his great love for God and his strong desire to do His will. Note, "O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day." In Ps. 1:2 note: "But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night." Friend, do you love the word of God? Do you study it daily with the desire of letting it guide and direct your steps? Is the word of God sweet to your taste and sweeter than honey to your mouth?

Now, note the last verse: "Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore, I hate every false way." Yes, we hate the ways that lead people to eternal damnation; but we love the people in them and want them to obey Christ and be saved. Friend, have you obeyed the gospel of Christ?

## Psalm 119 Selections

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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409 W. High Street - South Hill, Va.

With today's selections from the 119th Psalm we are concluding, for the present, this chapter. However, it may be studied more later. We note first verse 105: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Note also verse 130: "The entrance of thy word giveth light; it giveth understanding, if we will let it" Verse 127 states, "Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold."

We all need to have the attitude expressed in v. 128: "Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; therefore I hate every false way." Then, verse 129a: "Thy testimonies are wonderful." And v. 131, "I opened my mouth and panted: for I longed for thy commandments." Now note v. 160: "Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth forever." In v. 164 we find, "Seven times a day do I praise thee, because of thy righteous judgments." Verse 165: "Great peace have they which love thy law and nothing shall offend them." Finally, v. 172: "My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness."

We know that if we hunger and thirst after God's word, we will be filled. Let us note Rev. 22:14: "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they might have a right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Friend, are you obeying the commandments of God? Don't you think you should?

## Psalm 119

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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409 W. High St. South Hill, Va.

Psalm 117 is the shortest of the Psalms, with only two verses — and Psalm 119 is the longest, with 176 verses. I suggest that you read all of this Psalm. It will take only a short time, and as you read it you will see the importance given to God's holy word. We see the joy and rewards of following it, and the dangers of failing to be on the Lord's side.

The writer points out in the 176 verses (about 180 times) the value of God's way. It is expressed as God's word, law, precepts, statutes, judgment, ordinances and testimonies. The plea of the writer is for God to hold him up and protect him with His will. He expresses this in various ways. The psalmist truly felt that he could not live "by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." — Matt. 4:4. Today, we cannot live without God's word!

Please note verse 17: "Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I may live and keep thy word." In verse 97 we read "O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day." Verse 103 says "How sweet are thy words unto my taste! Yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth." Then, in verse 105 we read "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." O how beautiful is God's word. Read it, study it, follow it.

## Psalm 119 Selections

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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One could write indefinitely on Psalm 119, since every verse has a good lesson on it. However, we will study only some selected verses. Let us note verse 53 - "Horror hath taken hold upon me because of the wicked that forsake thy law." When we think of all the people in the world who know not God, who follow their own ways rather than the Lord, a feeling of horror and sadness takes hold of us! Jesus taught that few would be saved, because only a few would follow the "straight and narrow way." Psalm 9:17 says, "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God."

Verses 59, 60 reads: "I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies. I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments." The Psalmist is saying here that when he thought about how he was living, he realized that he needed to be closer to God; so he turned to God's word. Then, he said, "I delayed not to keep thy commandments." Too many times people put off turning to God, obeying Him, and go into eternity unprepared to meet Him.

Finally, verses 62 and 63: "At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments. I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts." God is good, and we should give thanks unto Him because of His love and mercy. We should seek out people who love and fear God - and keep His commandments.

To be continued.

For information or assistance, call 447-4766.  
Radio WJWS Sundays, 8:15-8:30.



By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ  
409 W. High St. South Hill, Va.

## Psalm 100

This is being written on Thanksgiving night — and we all have so much for which to be thankful. As one old hymn goes: "Count your many blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done." God has so wonderfully and bountifully blessed the world — especially in the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ, who is "King of kings and Lord of lords."

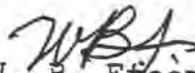
This psalm teaches us that we are to be happy and to "serve the Lord with gladness: Come before his presence with singing." We are to also see that "the Lord he is God: It is he that made us and not we ourselves." I am so thankful that God did make me and you — aren't you? He loves and cares for us.

Thus we are to enter His gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise, and to bless His name. Verse 5 says "For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting, and his truth endureth to all generations." Jesus said, in John 8:32 "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Again, in John 17:17b, "Thy word is truth." To be made free from sin, we must know and follow God's truth.

## STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT WITH THE SOUTH HILL CHURCH

BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 1978

1. \$200.00 per week, with my paying my own bills: phone, electric, oil, water, and sewage-- with the church withholding \$50.00 per week for payment of these bills, thus paying me \$150.00 per week. This \$50.00 per week was considered as escrow and was listed as such on financial reports.
2. After about two years I requested that the church cut my salary by \$100.00 per month-- which was done.
3. About four years ago the church, by consent of the men, started paying me \$15.00 per week on travel expense.
4. At the end of each three- month period, if my bills averaged less than \$50.00 per week, the church would pay me the difference-- If more, I would pay the church the difference.
5. At present I am receiving from the South Hill church as follows:  
  
Each four- week month, \$400.00 ( 3 weeks, \$125.00 per week; 1 week, \$25.00)  
  
Each five- week month, \$550.00 (3 weeks, \$125.00 per week; 1 week, \$25.00; 1 week, \$150.00)  
  
\$15.00 per week travel  
\$139.44 per month, hospital insurance.

 Sincerely,  
W. B. Freeman, Minister

## Psalm 139

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ  
409 W. High St. South Hill, Va.

We are wonderfully enriched and blessed when we feast upon God's Holy Word. When we read and study this psalm we are humbled and made to know that God knows our thoughts and our ways. Yes, He knows our ways, regardless of where we are, and it makes no difference whether it is day or night.

David expressed it well in verse 6: "Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it." Then in verse 7 he said, "Whither shall I go from thy spirit?" In verses 8-12, he points out that regardless of where he goes, he cannot hide from God. We all need to learn this lesson. God knows all.

In verse 14 David says "I am fearfully and wonderfully made" — and in verse 17, "How precious are thy thoughts unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them. In verses 23 and 24 he asks God to search him and to know his heart. Then he says as he closes, "and lead me in the way everlasting." Why not read and meditate on Psalm 139?

## "JONAH"

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Jonah is one of the most interesting characters in the Bible. He wrote the book of Jonah, which has some excellent lessons in it for us today. In Jonah 1:1, 2 we read, "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." This was a positive divine command to Jonah, but what did he do? In verse 3 read "But Jonah arose to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord, and went down to Joppa." There he boarded a ship, thinking he was fleeing from God.

As we all know, no one can flee from God. Ps. 139 teaches us this lesson, and while we may think we are getting away from God—regardless of where we go, God knows! As Ps. 139:3, 4 puts it, "Thou compassed my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether." Then we read in vs. 6 and 7, "Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it. Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence?" Then he adds that if he flees to heaven, or hell (the grave), or the sea, God is there. He cannot be hidden by darkness, as darkness and light are the same with God.

The lessons we get in Psalm 139 and throughout the Bible is that God, who made us all, knows where we go, what we do, what we think. The best for us is to live so that our lives will be approved of Him to be continued.

## Jonah's Great Revival

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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409 W. High Street - South Hill, Va.

We remember how Jonah did not want, at first, to obey God and preach to the wicked people of Nineveh — and tried hard to hide from God. He later, after being thrown overboard from a ship, was swallowed by a "great fish" which the Lord had prepared and was in the belly of the fish three days and nights, was then vomited up on dry land.

In Jonah 3:1, 2 we read "And the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the second time, saying, Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee." Verse 3: "So Jonah arose and went unto Nineveh according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days journey." As we continue in chapter 3 we find Jonah preaching to that wicked city that if they did not repent in forty days Nineveh would be overthrown — or they would be destroyed. In particular Jonah was "the preaching that I bid thee." Only preaching the word of the Lord could save the people of Nineveh, just as today preachers must "preach the word." — the gospel of Christ.

As Jonah went through that great city preaching the word of the Lord, his preaching was listened to and heeded — and possibly the greatest revival on record took place. In chapter 3, verse 6 we find: "For word came unto the king of Nineveh and he arose; from his throne and he laid his robe from him, and sat in sackcloth and ashes." The whole city then repented. This great and wicked city turned from their evil ways, from the king and his nobles on down. Friend, today, if you are no a Christian — you should repent and obey the Lord's gospel and be saved.

## Jonah Pouts (Conclusion)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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As we have noted, Jonah, after doing his best to avoid obedience to God, finally heeded His command and preached God's word to the great and wicked city of Nineveh. It evidently took three days for him to go through Nineveh, warning the people to "repent or perish". You know, God has given us the same choice to "repent or perish" and far too many people are perishing. It seems that Jonah would have rejoiced at the whole city turning from their evil ways; but what was Jonah's reaction?

Jonah 4:1 says "But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry." It seems that he personally hoped they would continue in their wickedness and that God would destroy Nineveh. So he went out of the city and sat on the east side, built a booth and sat under to see what would happen. The Lord prepared a gourd to be a shadow over his head and Jonah was exceeding glad of the gourd. But God then sent a worm when morning came, and it withered the gourd. When the sun came up and beat on Jonah's head he fainted and wished to die, feeling it was better to die than to live. Jonah was feeling sorry for himself and pouting!

In v. 9 "God said to Jonah, Doest thou well to be angry for the gourd? Jonah said I do well to be angry, even unto death." In v. 10 God told Jonah "Thou hast had pity on the gourd, for which you did not labor, and did not make it grow which perished." Then in v. 11 God said "And should I not spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand (120,000) that cannot discern their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle."

## Finding Life's Center

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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"He is before all things, and in him all things consist" — Col. 1:17. It has been said that "A man who bows down to nothing can never bear the burden of himself." This is another way of saying that a person who does not give himself to some great center of life cannot bear the burden of life. A self-centered person is doomed to failure.

Until a man finds something to which he can bow in humility, he never finds the real meaning of life. He must have a center which demands his profound allegiance. Life must be related to something worthwhile. We must have the right center in life — in truth, man yearns for something higher than himself. Too many people organize their lives around some false center without looking for a focus beyond themselves — This is not real living.

For successful living, Christ must be the center of our lives! He said, in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth and the life: No man cometh unto the Father but by me." This truth is what prompts us to come to Him and make him the center of our lives — indeed, the Ruler of our lives. The only way we can do this is by hearing, believing and obeying Christ's glorious gospel. Have you made Him the center of your life? Solomon said in Ecc. 12:13, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."

## The Hoary Head

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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It has been rightly said, "No moral and spiritual truth has been discovered since John laid down the pen of inspiration on the lonely Isle of Patmos." If people would follow the teachings of the Bible, there would be no more divorces, no broken homes, disobedient children. Children would be happy if they followed God's way. Crime would be blotted out and this world would be a happy place to live.

People would not dread the hoary head - that is, growing old. In Prov. 16:31, Solomon said, "The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it shall be found in the way of righteousness." In Prov. 20:29, we find "The glory of young men is their strength; and the beauty of old men is the hoary head." If we walk with God, then we need not fear this passing of time, for we have this promise in Isa. 46:3,4: "Hearken unto me, O house of Jacob, and all the remnant of the house of Israel ... which are carried from the womb: and even to your old age, I am he: even to hoar hairs will I carry you ... I will carry and deliver." Again, in Lev. 19:32 we find "Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honor the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the Lord."

So we, who are senior citizens, need not fear old age if we are following God. We can use what we have learned throughout life to live ever better and to help others to "Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." — Ecc. 12-13.

## The Hoary Head - Conclusion

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Prov. 16:31: "The hoary head is a crown of glory if it be found in the way of righteousness." Here, Solomon is saying that, if we are following the Lord, there is no need to fear growing old. Yet many people do worry about growing old; but worry is useless and it is counter-productive. It makes people nervous, causes in some high blood pressure, and takes away strength from being productive as we grow older.

In 2 Cor. 4:16,17 Paul said, "For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." Thus God's children, as they grow older, are renewed day by day. The physical body is growing weaker, but the spiritual or inward man is growing stronger. The spiritual is all-important! Rom. 8:6 says, "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."

Senior citizen, friend, are you in the way of righteousness? We find in Ps. 119:172, "For all thy commandments are righteousness." To hunger and thirst; after righteousness is to desire above all to obey God. So as you advance in years, be sure that you are on the Lord's side by hearing, believing, repenting of all sin, confessing Christ to be God's Son and then be baptized for forgiveness of your sins. Make your soul as sure as you can.

## GOD IS

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Hebrews 11:6 says, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: or he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." An undaunted and unshakeable faith in God, who is our Maker, and what He says in His holy Word, the Bible, is true — that is not just about it, but "That's It." Heb. 11:1 states "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

The evidence that "God Is" abounds in His Word, and this cannot be successfully refuted by all the enemies of the Bible. The Bible plainly teaches us that God is (Rom. 1:18-32; Ps. 19:1-5; 14:1) and that man can know He has certain attributes (John 17:3; 3:16; Deut. 29:29). But this does not mean that man can know or understand all attributes of our great God. We do know that the Bible plainly teaches what man needs to know about God and His plan for man, as well as what he must do to please God.

In Heb. 6:18 it is stated, "It was impossible for God to lie." So what God says of Himself and His will for man is true; and what God says about Himself is given in language man can understand. God always says what He means and stands behind His word. His language is never defective. Thus it is well for us mortals, who are nothing but a bag of "dust and ashes," to listen to God and heed what He says.

## Studying the Bible

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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It is vital that we approach the study of the Bible, the world's greatest book, without prejudice. It should be approached with an open mind. No other book is more educational, has more beauty, or can give a greater enjoyment to our lives. So we study the Bible to learn to truly live here and go to heaven when we die.

Paul told Timothy to "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing ('handling aright,' R. V.) the word of truth" — 2 Tim. 2:15. This should be the basic reason for all of us in studying the Bible. To do this requires a full appreciation for the marvelous book on the part of all: fathers, mothers, young marrieds, teenagers, pre-teens, all.

It has been said about the Bible that "It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, a river of pleasure. It is given you in life, will be quoted at the judgment, and remembered forever ... will reward the obedient and condemn all who trifle with its precepts." Read it, believe it, and follow it.

Next week: Studying the Bible, continued.

For "Dial-a-Devotional" call 447-8749.

Radio WJWS, "Searching the Scriptures," Sundays at 8:15 to 8:30 a.m.

## Studying the Bible

(Continued)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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To study and appreciate God's Word we must have the attitude of the Thessalonians as expressed in 1 Thess. 2:13, "For this cause we thank God without ceasing because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe."

In 2 Tim. 3:16, we learn that "All scripture is given by the inspiration of God." — and in 2 Pet. 1:21, "Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

Since we know that God is speaking to us, we read and study with reverence and godly fear. We study His Word to learn and heed the truth. When we do this, we will never twist or pervert it to fit in with our lives or teaching. We will never take scripture out of context or setting to prove a point ... and we pray to God to help us in understanding and in making any changes needed in our lives.

We simply say, "Speak, Lord, and I will hear; Command, Lord, and I will obey."

Next week: Studying the Bible, continued.

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Radio WJWS, "Searching the Scriptures," Sundays at 8:15 to 8:30 a.m.

## Studying the Bible

(Continued)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ

409 W. High St. South Hill, Va.

As we continue in this new year of 1982, let us read and study God's Word diligently. We do this to be enriched in living, to learn how to be saved, and to teach our friends, neighbors and families to appreciate and follow God.

If we are to understand the Bible, then we must "rightly divide" or "handle aright" these truths ... 2 Tim. 2:15. Hence, we recognize that there are two major divisions in the Bible: The Old Testament and the New Testament. We also realize that we of today are under the New Testament — that we are to follow Christ's law, not the law of Moses (Rom. 7:1-4; Eph. 2:13-16; Col. 2:11-14). Many other Scriptures point this out clearly.

We are to study both the Old and the New Testaments. Studying the earlier Law helps us to understand His present Law. It also clarifies God's goodness and His severity in dealing with His people and all of mankind.

Truly the Old Testament was "written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come" — 1 Cor. 10:11. Thus we study, keeping an open mind to understand God's will for us. Then we obey.

Next week: Studying the Bible, continued.

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## Studying the Bible

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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The two major divisions, as has been pointed out, are the Old Testament and the New Testament. The New Testament is to direct our lives today.

The Old Testament reveals two dispensations or ages: the patriarchal, which lasted for 2500 years; then the Mosaic, in effect for 1500 years. During the first period God spoke to the people through the fathers. During the Mosaic era God spoke to the Jews (or Israel) through the law which He gave through Moses. This law was binding until Christ died on the cross and took it out of the way to establish His law.

In the 39 books of the Old Testament there are 5 books of law (Gen. through Deut.), 12 books of history (Joshua through Esther), 5 books of poetry (Job through Songs of Solomon), and 17 books of prophecy (Isaiah through Malachi). All of these, as well as the New Testament, were written by inspiration of God (2 Tim. 3:16, 17) and (2 Pet. 1:21). Thus you can depend on it, and by faith accept it without the tiniest doubt!

Next week: Divisions of the New Testament.

## Divisions of New Testament

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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While it is important that we study the Old Testament books, it is the New Testament which is to direct our lives today. In it we find Christ and His Church, the way of salvation, and the hope of heaven.

The first four books of the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) reveal Christ: His birth, boyhood, baptism, temptation, and personal ministry. He proved that He was God's Son by His miracles, His wonderful teaching, prayer, obedience to God, cruel death on the cross, resurrection and ascension. God gave Him all power both in heaven and on earth — Matt. 28:18.

Using this power, He gave the plan of salvation and commissioned the apostles to go into all the world and "preach the gospel to every creature" — Matt. 28: 18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-49. This "gospel of Christ" is the power of God unto salvation — Rom. 1:16.

Jesus, while on the earth, "went about doing good" — Acts 10:38. His life is a beautiful inspiration to all who want to follow in His steps by coming to God through Him. He obeyed God, and so must we — Heb. 5:8-9.

## The Resurrection - Part I

(Matthew 26 and 27)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ

In pondering on the resurrection of Christ we consider His agony in the garden, His betrayal with a kiss for 30 pieces of silver by Judas before the trial.

We can see the mockery in the arrest, trial, and conviction of the sinless Son of God who was compelled to carry His own cross. Though Jesus did not have to do this, think of what would have happened to us if He had not died!

Our Saviour was scourged, taunted, spat upon, and reviled. Beyond humiliation, the torture of spikes in His hands was almost unbearable

— See Him cry out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" in Mark 15:34. Then "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" in Luke 23:34.

After commending His spirit to the Father, Christ died, the just for the unjust, was buried — then, thank God, He arose on the third day according to the Scriptures (Matt. 28:1-6; Mk. 16:9; Luke 24:6; Cor. 15:1-8).

Yes, God did indeed "so" love you and me! This means if we obey Christ we can be saved. See Hebrew 5:8,9.

## Resurrection - Part II

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ

Last week's study covered pre-trial circumstances, the trial and sentencing, the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ the son of God. In pondering on these vital matters, let us consider the alternative course for humanity.

What if Christ had not been raised? For one thing, we would not have songs such as "Joy To The World," "Fairest Lord Jesus," "The Love Of God," "I Love To Tell The Story" and innumerable others that inspire many toward God.

There would not be the multitude of good works among men such as schools, orphanages, hospitals ... There would be a sad lack of missions. Also, there would be no "golden rule" — Matt. 7:12.

We would have no New Testament with its path of

Christianity with attendant blessings. Neither would we have the one perfect and beautiful life on earth as exemplified by Jesus Himself recorded in the New Testament. Think of the good He did in His short life!

Without Christ's resurrection, we would have no way, no church into which all are invited by its Founder to come and follow His example for eternal salvation — John 14:1-5.

**Dial-a-Devotion**  
**447-8749**  
**24 Hours Daily**

## The First Fundamental

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ  
409 W. High Street - South Hill, Va.

Man's greatest need is salvation, and we all need to realize this. The Philipian jailor asked the question "What must I do to be saved?" As we think about being saved, what is the first thing for us to do? It is to hear the word of God. In Rom. 10:17 we read, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." In v. 14 the question is asked: "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?" So hearing God's word — the gospel of Christ — is the first fundamental.

This is the reason that Jesus said "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." For without hearing the gospel of Christ, there can be no faith, and without faith we cannot please God. And to be saved one must hear God's word. As we study the New Testament, we see that in every instance of conversion the word of God was preached first! In Acts 2, when Peter preached, it is stated "Now when they heard this." In Acts 8 Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ unto them. Also, Philip opened his mouth and began at the same scripture and preached unto him Jesus, and the Ethiopian eunuch was converted. In Acts 10 Peter preached Christ to Cornelius and his household.

Hearing God's word in the first century was the first fundamental, and is so today. We preachers must study, know, and faithfully proclaim God's message if souls are to be saved. In Gal. 1 we find that the curse of God rests on any one who preaches anything other than the gospel of Christ. Friend, read and study God's word for yourself to be sure that we preachers are preaching the word of God.

For assistance, call 757-7218.

Radio WSHV Sundays, 7:05-7:20.

## Just Thinking

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Greetings, friend: I trust you are as well as possible and that all things are going well with you and yours. As I meet those of you who read this article, and you tell me that you look forward to reading it weekly, it gives me a sense of gratification — and makes me feel that I am accomplishing something. This also humbles me as I realize anew a great responsibility to all. So thank you, friends, for reading these articles.

As we go through life, we realize more than ever the need of all for help — and that we should be ready, willing and thankful to those who help us. In Acts 8:30-40 we find the Ethiopian eunuch reading the Scripture, not understanding what he read. When Philip joined him and asked "Understandest thou what thou readest?" (v. 30), the eunuch answered "How can I except some man should guide me?". Then he desired Philip to come up and sit with him, which Philip did, and helped him to understand. The eunuch listened and obeyed the gospel by being immersed into Christ — verses 32-40.

Three things were involved here: 1. The eunuch realized he needed help in understanding God's word. 2. Philip, God's preacher, wanted to help. 3. The eunuch was ready to receive that help. These three things must be involved in giving and receiving assistance in any area of successful living.

Who needs help as we go through this life? All, from the cradle to the grave! Babies and children, young singles and young home-builders, the middle-aged, and old people need help from one another. We all should have the attitude of "Such as I have give I unto thee." As we help one another it should be willingly, gladly, and from the heart.

## The Mind of Christ

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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If we care for our souls' welfare, we must have the mind of Christ. As Paul put it in Rom. 8:9, "Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." When we have the Spirit of Christ, we have the attitude, the disposition, the compassion, the love and other attributes of Christ. As was mentioned last week, Jesus Christ came to earth to do God's will and He became obedient unto death, even the "death of the cross." This is how He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him.

Jesus taught us in Matt. 7:21 that "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Again, in Matt. 7:24-27 Jesus is talking about two builders — One builds on a solid foundation and the other builds on sand. He explained that those who heard and did His sayings were building on a solid and firm foundation, and their spiritual house stood. However, all who heard Him and refused to do these things had built their spiritual house on sand, where it fell — and great was the fall of it. Yes, we are saved by the grace of God; but we must accept by hearing and heeding God's will.

To have the mind of Christ, we are to humble ourselves and ask "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?". Yes, we can find the answer; but only in the word of God — the Bible. We must have faith, repent of our sins, confess Christ and be baptized into Him. After this we must be faithful unto death — Only then can we have the crown of life.

## Follow The Book

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ

The Bible is God's inspired word. Without the Bible the world's history is incomplete and without it nothing would be known of a Savior. It is the book of a Man, the Man of men, the Peerless Son of God. It presents Him to us as "The way, the truth, and the life" — John 14:6. In the old testament He is predicted, but in the new testament He appears as our living, loving Lord. Without the Bible men would not know how to come to Him or how to live acceptably. Faith comes by hearing God's Word — Rom. 10:17. We are "brought forth by the word of truth" and have redemption through the blood of Christ.

The Bible — not the ideas of men — should be the sole standards for all in religion. Error proceeds from man, but never from God — for His Word is infallible. "If

they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them — Isa. 8:20.

The Bible is unique in purpose and content, and will lead all who live by it to a nobler plane on earth and to eternal life in heaven. It enriches all who will read it, believe it, and obey its teachings.

## God's Way for Man's Heart

(Part I)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ

Troubles of the world, state, community, and the home arise because man's heart is not right with God. It is good to think on some basic truths. What is the Bible heart, and what is God's way for it?

The heart thinks — Proverbs 23:7; "Out of it are the issues of life" — Proverbs 4:23; "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" — Matthew 12:34; can be pure — Matthew 5:8; can commit adultery — Matthew 5:28; and, the heart loves — Mark 12:29. In choosing David to be king God looked on his heart — Sam. 16:9. God is more concerned about our hearts than anything about us!

Of the 660 commandments in the law, the greatest is to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength — Mark 12:28-30.

To love God is to serve God. People often bow to many gods; but our God is a jealous God and will not take second place — Ex. 5:10. People make such things as money, pleasure, land, houses, cars and creations of their own hands their gods. Thus the true God is crowded out. Our greatest need is to let God, through His Word, rule our hearts!

## Making God's Way Our Way

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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409 W. High Street South Hill, Va.

During the next few weeks we will be encouraging all to make "God's Way" your way. Too many times we try to make our way God's way. But this is neither pleasing nor acceptable to Him, as the voice of the people is not the voice of God. Paul said to the elders of the church at Ephesus in Acts 20:32, "And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified."

The goal of every person should be this "inheritance among all them which are sanctified." In heaven "God will wipe away all tears from their eyes"; and there shall be "No more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" — Rev. 21:4. In Rev. 22:5 we find "And there shall be no night there ... for the Lord giveth them light; and they shall reign for ever and ever". The joy of christian living, plus the hope of heaven should make each one of us want to make "God's way our way".

Some of the subjects to be covered are: "God's Way or the Nation", "God's Way for the Home", "God's Way or Man's Heart", and "God's Way for Morality". Suggestion: Why not clip this series of articles out of your paper, so that you can better keep up with them?

## God's Way for Man's Heart

(Part II)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ

Greetings, Friends: Be sure that your heart is right with God. Remember, your heart thinks, can hate, loves and can control your mind. God so loved us and wants us to love Him. In John 14:15 Jesus said "If ye love me, keep my commandments" and, in verse 23, "If a man love me he will keep my words." Jesus learned obedience through suffering and became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him — Heb. 5:8,9.

In John 5:2,3 we read "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep his commandments; for this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."

Thus to love God supremely is to have the attitude of "Speak, Lord, and I will hear; Command, Lord, and I will obey." With this in mind we search the scriptures daily to learn His will for us.

Today, our hearts are tested: to leave the land of sin, to be children of God, to bring our very thoughts into obedience to Christ — 2 Cor. 10:5; to live a life of love, joy, peace and happiness here and to have heaven as the home of the soul.

## Lord God — Omnipotent

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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"O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds Thy hands have made; I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder — Thy power throughout the universe displayed — Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee; How great Thou art, how great Thou art!" Thus the hymn that has thrilled millions and chilled our souls with a rapture of delight as we extol the greatness of God. David wrote "O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! ... When I consider the heavens, the works of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained: What is man, that thou art mindful of him?" — Ps. 8:1, 3, 4.

The unbeliever who commented to his christian neighbor that nothing was eternal was admonished to "Look up!" Where does space begin? Where does it end? God Himself is "from everlasting to everlasting" — Ps. 90:2. Heaven is His throne and the earth His footstool — Isa. 66:1. Reminding us of His sovereign position, He says "Where is the house that ye build unto me? And where is the place of my rest? For all these things hath mine hands made, and all these things have been, saith the Lord" — Isa. 66:1, 2. In praise Habbakuk queries "Art thou not from everlasting, O Lord my God?" — Hab. 1:12.

In Rev. 14:7 we are told to "Fear God and give glory to him." In Ps. 111:9 it is written "Holy and reverend is his name." This is the only time in the Bible the term "Reverend" is used. This is why I, as a minister of the gospel, do not use that title.

# Being Thankful

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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409 W. High Street - South Hill, Va.

Col. 3:17 states "Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." Thursday of this week is the day that has been designated by our forefathers as "Thanksgiving Day." On this day we should be thankful—and most of us have so many reasons for thanksgiving. However, our thanks should be expressed throughout the entire year for God's many wonderful blessings.

One of the greatest blessings we have is so many times overlooked and neglected. This is the privilege (and it is a privilege) of owning, reading, and studying the Bible. Having a Bible means nothing unless we follow it. The Bible does not only claim to be the word of God—It is the word of God! It is the book by which we will be judged in that great day. Let us make no mistake about it: There will be a judgment. Heb. 9:27 tells us "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." We know not when this day will come; so it behooves us to be prepared to give an account of the deeds done in the body, whether they be good or bad.

So, friend, be thankful that you have a Bible. I trust that you have a good Bible, with good print, good concordance and references. But remember that your Bible will do you no good unless you study it with an open mind, wanting to find out what you must do to be saved. If you need help, don't hesitate to ask someone to help you. I will be happy to help you study and understand what to do to become a Christian and to live as a Christian. It is the best life—and remember that God, and Christ will be with you, and will enhance and enrich your life whatever comes your way. The quality of life will be superior!

## Ephesians 4:32

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ  
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All the books of the Bible, Old and New Testaments, are very good and helpful — yes, necessary to read and to study. We find some of them teach us how to become Christians and to live the Christian life. To learn how to live as a Christian, the book of Ephesians is one of the very best. Let us note Eph. 4:32.

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." In all areas of living we need to be kind "one to another." Husbands and wives, we have a good home, must learn to be kind to each other. This kindness is to be in both word and deed, remembering that "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger." Parents, be kind to your children, live right before them, and give the proper love and discipline. Young people and children, don't be afraid to say to your mother and father, "I love you and will be worthy of your love and consideration." Kindness will help to cheer and to make all happier.

We must develop and maintain the quality of tenderheartedness. This means we hold to the right kind of emotions or feelings, being sensitive and responsive to the feelings of others. We are to feel a sympathy which will be helpful to others, rather than being sorry for those around us. Finally, we are to forgive one another — even as Christ forgives those who obey His gospel.

# Finding Life's Center

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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"He is before all things, and in him all things consist" — Col. 1:17. It has been said that "A man who bows down to nothing can never bear the burden of himself." This is another way of saying that a person who does not give himself to some great center of life cannot bear the burden of life. A self-centered person is doomed to failure.

Until a man finds something to which he can bow in humility, he never finds the real meaning of life. He must have a center which demands his profound allegiance. Life must be related to something worthwhile. We must have the right center in life — in truth, man yearns for something higher than himself. Too many people organize their lives around some false center without looking for a focus beyond themselves — This is not real living.

For successful living, Christ must be the center of our lives! He said, in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth and the life: No man cometh unto the Father but by me." This truth is what prompts us to come to Him and make Him the center of our lives — indeed, the Ruler of our lives. The only way we can do this is by hearing, believing and obeying Christ's glorious gospel. Have you made Him the center of your life? Solomon said in Ecc. 12:13 "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter; Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."

## Scriptures About Christ

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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The greatest story ever told is that Christ came, bled, died and was raised, then ascended back to God. Let us notice some scriptures about Him.

Isa. 7:14: "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." Isa. 9:6: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of peace."

Matt. 1:21-23: "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet saying, behold a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."

John 1:1-4: "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God ... All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men." John 1:29: "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world."

## Suggestions for Bible Study

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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It is essential for our own wellbeing and for the salvation of our souls, as we continue in 1984, that we read and study God's holy word. Being concerned for our eternal destiny, we will feel as did the psalmist in Ps. 119:97, "O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day." In verse 103 he says "How sweet are thy words to my taste! Yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth." In verse 105, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Ps. 19:10, "More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold." In Ps. 1:2, David wrote: "But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law doth he meditate day and night."

Thus, to study God's word effectively, we must love God's word and desire to study it. Realizing that God is speaking to us, we open our hearts and minds to hear what He has to say. We are anxious to learn and do, as we know that what God wants us to do is for our own benefit — both here and hereafter. As Jesus put it in John 8:32, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Man today is bound by the shackles of sin until he accepts Christ. This can be done only by study, learning and doing "The will of my Father which is in heaven." — Matt. 7:21.

## Further Suggestions for Bible Study

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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The Bible is the only book that meets the needs of man under all conditions of life. The Bible is the supreme library of divine truth, and is a masterpiece of literature — as well as God's message to mankind.

In studying the Bible, it is preeminently necessary that we study it without prejudice. Thus, the student must approach the study of the Bible in that attitude of mind which says, "If it speaks to me I will obey." We study the Bible for personal enrichment as well as to learn a guidebook to heaven. This being true, the Bible should be studied daily. Nothing can replace daily reading of the Scriptures.

As you study the Bible, always endeavor to divide it rightly. 2 Tim. 2:15 states "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." This was written to a preacher, but is essential for each person if he, or she, is to properly understand it.

The two major divisions are the Old Testament and the New Testament. We are to study both, but to keep in mind that we are not under the law of Moses. Gal. 3:24, "The law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ." Verse 25 says that after faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. Today we follow Christ's law.

For assistance call 447-4766.

For "Dial-a-Devotional" call 447-8749.

Radio WJWS, Sundays, 8:15-8:30 a.m.

## The Greatest Day

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Friend, as was pointed out last week, Sunday, the first day of the week, is the Lord's day and is indeed the greatest day of any week. Jesus said in John 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." The Lord's day is a special day to which all Christians look forward for worship and service to God. This is the day we come together to sing, pray, study, and teach God's word, edifying one another and communing in memory of the death of Jesus Christ.

Great things happened on the first day of the week. In Matt. 28 we learn that Jesus arose from the grave of death. This was essential for God's scheme of redemption. It is by faith we believe that Jesus did come forth from that tomb. After He arose He was upon the earth about 40 days, appearing to His disciples and others several times — and everytime this was recorded was on the first day of the week. After this period, we find in Mark 16 that Jesus ascended back to God on the first day of the week.

Two other great things occurred on the first day of the week after the ascension. On the first Pentacost after Christ ascended back to God, He established His church. This fulfilled the promise He had made (in Matt. 16:18), since He bought it with His own blood. See Acts 20:28. The last great event we mention is that the first gospel sermon was preached, the terms of salvation given (Acts 2:38), and then the Lord added to His church about 3,000. From then on the Lord added to His church daily such as should be saved — Acts 2:47.

## Prophecies About Jesus The Christ

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Isa. 53:3 tells us "He is despised and rejected of men; A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief. He was despised and we esteemed him not." V. 4: "Surely he hath borne our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted."

Verse 5: "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him: and with his stripes we are healed."

Verse 7: "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before his shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth."

"Verse 8: "... For the transgressions of my people was he stricken." (Why not read Isa. 53? W.B.F.) In Ps. 118:22 we read, "The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner." V. 23: "This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes." V. 24: "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." Gen. 12:3 "In thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed."

Isa. 61:1, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; because the Lord hath annointed me to preach good tidings to the meek ... to proclaim liberty to the captives;" v. 2: "To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord ... to comfort all that mourn." v. 3: "... to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for heaviness ... that he might be glorified."

Heb. 10:9, "Then said he, Lo, I came to do thy will O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second."

## How One Gets Into Christ

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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In James 3:1 we read, "My brethren, be not many masters (teachers), knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation." In Gal. 1:8, 9 we learn that the curse of heaven rests on anyone who teaches or preaches "another gospel". So it is so important that we speak as the Bible speaks, and only as the Bible speaks, on any subject. Just what does the Bible teach on how we get "into Christ"? Let us note.

In John 3:5 Jesus said, "Except a man be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Acts 2:38 tells to "Repent and be baptized. ... for the remission of sins." Acts 22:16, It was said to Saul of Tarsus, "And now why tarriest thou? Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

There is no question, when we let the Bible speak, as we must. May we listen to the Holy Spirit as He speaks through Paul in Rom. 6:3, 4 - "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore, we are buried with him by baptism into death ... even so we should walk in newness of life." Then we read in Gal. 3:27, "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ." This is what the Bible says and I must accept it - Why not? Certainly, I am to hear, believe, repent, confess Christ, or it would not be His baptism - Bible baptism.

## God's Care for the Lonely

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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At times we may feel that God doesn't care; but deep down we know that God cares for all and wants all to come to Him in loving obedience. Jesus said: "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest ... and ye shall find rest for your souls." So the way God takes care of His children is by giving them rest and peace.

Sometimes we need to get a fresh view of God. Elijah was feeling sorry for himself once, and said: "Only I am left." However, he found the reason for his attitude was that he did not understand. God told him to forget about self, and go get busy in service to others. We, today, can rest assured that Jesus wants to be our Friend in times of loneliness.

Look at what Jesus did. He became like us to befriend us. He came and experienced our problems, including being tempted in all points like as we. So today we have a High Priest who can sympathize with us in our weaknesses — Thus we who are children of God are encouraged in Heb. 4:16: "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

But remember, friend, that only God's children can call Him Father. Jesus is pleading "Come unto me," and He promises rest. Jesus "became the author of eternal salvation to all them that obey him." — Heb. 5:9.

For assistance call 447-4766

## It Is More Blessed

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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In Acts 20:35 it is stated that Jesus said "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Then in Acts 10:38 Peter said of Jesus "Who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him." In Acts 3:6, just before he healed the lame man, Peter said to him, "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee." It is important for us to want to give, rather than always to be on the receiving end. Whatever we have that is good, that we can give.

When we have compassion on people, we want to give them something that will help them to be better and happier. As we see so many sick, distressed and unfortunate people in the world, our hearts go out to them and we want to alleviate their problems - whatever they are. This we can do by realizing it is "more blessed to give than to receive." To give of ourselves is of more value than silver and gold.

At the end of each article we offer assistance and you might wonder what we mean by this. Really, it is an offering to help in any spiritual way we can. This includes home Bible studies, answering Bible questions, helping to find a scripture you can't locate, etc. If you want to know what to do to become a Christian or to live the christian life, we will be glad to help. If you have someone in the hospital or Hundley Annex who you want visited, just call. The number is 447-4766. For radio tune in to W.J.W.S. Sundays, 8:15-9:30.

## Acts 17:11

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Acts 17:11 tells us "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." When Paul was preaching in Thessalonica, the Jews who believed not drove him out of the city. Paul then went to Berea, where he found an ideal people to whom to preach — They wanted to hear the word of God, but were determined to accept only the truth from God's word.

They realized the danger of following what someone was teaching unless it was according to the scriptures. They no doubt knew that Jesus had said (Matt. 15:9) "But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." In verse 14 He had said "They be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch." Jesus had also said in John 8:32, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." In John 17:17 we find "Thy word is truth." So we must study for ourselves to make sure we are following the truth of God, if we are to be made free from sin!

The Bereans were anxious to receive the word of God, since they were hungering and thirsting after righteousness. That is the attitude that all need today — always. We are to be ready to make any changes in our lives if we follow God. It is a joy to study and to follow God's truth, once we get started. A life of service to God and man is by far the most rewarding life of all! God so loved us; so we ought to love Him and one another.

## *The Holy Bible Is Inspired: Thank God*

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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There are so many blessings for which we can thank God: the physical blessings, plus Christ, His church, the plan of salvation He gave to all, and all the spiritual blessings that are in Christ. These include heaven with all its beauty, splendor, glory and the everlasting fellowship of God, His son — all the redeemed of all the ages.

However, if God's book, the Bible, were not inspired, we could be sure of none of this. Further, God would be a liar and the father of lies instead of Satan. But we know that "all scripture is given by the inspiration of God" and that "Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Spirit." Thus we know that the Bible came from God and not man — enabling us to read and study, believe and follow with confidence. So we can know our teaching, work and worship is not in vain.

I can preach the Word without a trace of doubt that God is in heaven, that in the beginning He created the heavens and the earth, and that the peak of His creation was that of man. I am free to teach that Adam and Eve sinned and that through the Old and New Testaments all things happened just as God said.

Yes, we thank God for His manifold blessings, including His inspired Word.

## *A Great Day*

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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There have been, are, and will be, many great days - and one of the greatest ever is the first day of the week! It is also called Sunday and the Lord's day. In Rev. 1:10 John wrote "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day". It is a great day because of the events that took place on the first day of the week in history, as well as it is to be observed today.

Jesus arose from the dead on the first day of the week. This was indeed a great event in history. He ascended back to God on the first day of the week, and is now at our Father's right hand to make intercession for us. On the first day of the week Jesus sent the Holy Spirit, and the first gospel sermon was preached. The terms of forgiveness were given by Peter in Acts 2:38, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins". Three thousand people were baptized and the church of the Lord was begun.

Also, the first day of the week, the Lord's day, is a special day of worship. This is the day we come together to sing, pray, teach and preach God's word, give as we have been prospered, and partake of the supper of the Lord. In Acts 20:7 we read "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them". Since every week has a first day, we partake of the communion every Lord's day.

## *Elijah's Loneliness*

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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We have been thinking about loneliness and how it strikes many people. One way to avoid or get over being lonely is to become involved. Paul taught us, in Rom. 12:21, "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." In other words, get so busy helping others that you will forget to be concerned about self. This not only helps to overcome loneliness, but also brings immense inner rewards and joy into our own lives.

Elijah became so lonely that he said in 1 Kings 19:4, "It is enough; Now, O Lord, take away my life." That's about as low in spirit as one can get. You see, Elijah thought he was alone. In 1 Kings 19:10, he wrote, "And I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away." Elijah felt alone, unloved and unappreciated. He thought nobody was with him, not even God. But Elijah did not understand, and had spent too much time feeling sorry for himself.

God told Elijah to get busy — to get involved: "Go anoint Hazael ... Jehu ... Elisha." God was assuring him that he had a future, something to live for. God told him to go back to work — "I need you." God also assured Elijah that he was not alone. In verse 18 God said "Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed to Baal."

Today, we are not by ourselves. God and Christ care — So do other human beings.

"God's Care for the Lonely."

## *God's Way for Man's Heart*

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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It is important that we learn what God's way for the heart is, and to adjust our lives accordingly. In 1 Sam. 16:7 we note: "For Jehovah seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance but Jehovah looketh on the heart." In Prov. 23:7, "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." And in Matt. 12:34, "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" — So we learn to think as God would have us think by learning and following His will.

There were more than 660 (probably) commandments that made up the Old Law. In Mark 12:28-31 Jesus picked out one commandment and said This is the greatest: Here it is: "The first of all the commandments is, O Israel; the Lord thy God is one Lord: and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: This is the first commandment and the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

In 1 John 5:3 we find that "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." In 1 John 4:19, "We love him, because he first loved us." The proof of our love is in keeping his commandments.

## Adding Love

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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In 2 Peter 1:5-7, we find that after adding to our faith virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, and brotherly kindness, we are to add love. Love is indeed the greatest thing in the world — 1 Cor. 13:13, "And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love." The first three verses of 1 Cor. 13 show that regardless of what we do or the sacrifices we make, we are less than nothing without love. Notice: This includes speaking with tongues, all understanding, all faith, giving all to the poor, and even giving our bodies to be burned!

In verses 4 through 7, we see that love suffers long, is kind, does not envy, is not arrogant, not puffed up, behaves properly, is not selfish, controls the temper and thoughts, rejoices in truth rather than iniquity — also bears, believes, hopes and endures all things.

Love will never fail. Love causes us to do the right things and keeps us from doing evil. Without love, life will be miserable. With love, life will be good for us and for those whose lives we touch.

Next: Love, continued.

## Adding Love, Continued

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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We continue to emphasize that love is the greatest thing in the world and without love our life is a failure. First, we love God with all our being — then we love our neighbor as ourselves. True Christianity is love in action and true love is Christianity in action.

In Col. 2:2 we read, "That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love." In 1 Pet. 1:22, "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth, through the spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently." Then, in Rom. 12:9, "Let love be without dissimulation (hypocrisy). Abhor that which is evil: Cleave to that which is good."

However, Jesus gave us the acid test of love, saying "Ye have heard that it hath been said, thou shalt love thy neighbor and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that persecute you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you." — Matt. 5:43, 44. If we do not pass this test, then we cannot follow Jesus! What about you, friend?

## Add Love (No. 2)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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As we have learned, love is the greatest thing in the world and without love we are nothing. Jesus said in Mark 12:30-31, "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: This is the first commandment. And the second ... Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thy self." In 1 John 5:2-3, we read "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."

John 14: 15 tells us "If ye love me, keep my commandments," and in verse 23 "If a man love me, he will keep my words." Again, in 1 John 3: 18, "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth."

1 John 4:8 says, "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." Verse 11 adds "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another." This love is wonderful and should direct our lives each day.

Next: Love, continued.

## How Great Thou Art

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Bible Reading: Genesis 1:1-31  
Golden Text: Deuteronomy  
33:27A

and mercy of God. Let us all study about God and keep within us a desire to follow our eternal Maker.

It is vital that we always believe and accept God's account of creation: "In the beginning God created" — Gen. 1:1 — and His creation was "very good" — Gen. 1:31.

Our purpose in this weekly article is to exalt God, Christ (our blessed Lord and Saviour), and His holy book (the Bible — His complete revelation to man through His Holy Spirit) which is our only guide from earth to heaven.

Jehovah God, who created heaven and earth and all things therein, is eternal — and we must believe that He is (Heb. 11:6). We are to seek to know, love and follow His will for us. This is made known to us only through the Bible. From the first verse to the last we can see the unfolding of the nature, power, wisdom, patience, goodness

Thus we can realize "How Great Thou Art" and appreciate all God has done for us — in both the physical and spiritual realms. We study His book to learn how to live and prepare for the mansion that Jesus is preparing for us. This means learning and doing His will. See Matthew 7:21-23; Hebrews 5:8-9. Study the Bible daily with an open mind, that His truth will make you free — John 8:32; and 17:17.

For assistance, call 447-4766. For "Dial-A-Devotional" call 447-8749.

## How to Avoid Falling

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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After adding to faith virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and love, we are told by Peter in 2 Peter 1:8-11, "For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure; for if ye do these things ye shall never fall. For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

In James 4:7,8,10 we read, "Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw nigh unto God, and he will draw nigh to you ... Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."

This shows us clearly that a Christian keeps from falling by being obedient to God's will in his everyday life.

Next: "The Danger of Falling."

## The Danger of Falling

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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South Hill, Va.

After becoming a Christian, we must live daily for the Lord lest we fall from the grace of God and be eternally lost. We have learned that "if ye do these things (add the seven Christian graces) ye shall never fall" — 2 Pet. 1:10. In 1 Cor. 10:12 we read "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" and again in Gal. 5:4, "Christ is become of no effect unto whosoever of you are justified by the law; Ye are fallen from grace."

God's people of old fell because they refused to obey God. While the children of God were wandering in the wilderness, twenty-three thousand fell in one day for the sin of fornication — and we are warned in 1 Cor. 10:8, "Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed and fell in one day three and twenty thousand." We need to remind ourselves that in our day sin is still sin and God will not tolerate fornication or other sins.

The only way to keep from falling is to study God's Word and live a dedicated Christian life.

## Loving Our Enemies

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Jesus' teachings go contrary to human nature many times. He taught us in Matthew 5:43,44: "Ye have heard that it hath been said, thou shalt love thy neighbor and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you and persecute you" — and then, in verse 46, "For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? Do not even the publicans the same?" Here love is a command and if we do not love, help and pray for our enemies, we are ignoring the teachings of Jesus.

We are also taught in Romans 12 to not recompense "evil for evil" nor to "avenge ourselves"; for vengeance belongs to God, and He will mete it out. We are to, if our enemy hungers, feed him and, if he thirst, give him drink. Beyond this, we leave up to God.

Paul says in verse 21: "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." By filling our lives with good we have no time or place for evil. This is not always easy to do, but if we are to please God we will do it with joy!

## Appreciation of Christ Jesus

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Friend, if I can help you to appreciate Christ and all that He did for each of us, and what He means to the world, I will have moved you to want to follow Him and His way: So today, and for the next few weeks, I will be quoting some scriptures that will help us all to see the beauty of Christ and His way.

Please note: Isa. 7:14, "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign: Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

Matt. 1:20-23, "For that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: For he shall save his people from their sins. Now, all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet saying, behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is *God with us*."

Isa. 9:6, "For Moses truly said unto the fathers, a prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you."

# FREEDOM

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ  
409 W. High Street - South Hill, Va.

Freedom is a necessity of happiness and a good life. We are to all appreciate the freedom we have in this great country of ours. Our freedom came not by our own merit, but to no little extent by labors and sacrifices of others. We want to guard and insure this freedom for generations to come.

There is another freedom that all can have - and that is freedom from sin. Yes! The greatest sacrifice which was ever made enables us to be rid of the guilt of sin. God "so loved" us that He gave His "only begotten" Son to die the cruel death of the cross, as this was the only sacrifice acceptable for the sins of the world - Yes, the sins of the whole world! We thank God that Jesus was willing to leave His heavenly mansion and to come to this world filled with sin to live among us as a man. Thus, He understands our problems, as He was tempted in all points like as we - yet without sin.

To enable us to be free, Jesus was humiliated and mocked; they spat in His face; He was beaten, and then spikes were driven into His hands and feet. He was on the cross in agony for hours before dying. All this was that we might be free from sin. What a gift! All we must do to receive it is to come to Him.

Next: How Spiritual Freedom Comes.  
For assistance, call 447-4766.  
Radio WJWS Sundays, 8:15-8:30.

## How Spiritual Freedom Comes

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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409 W. High Street - South Hill, Va.

Friends, it is important that we appreciate our freedom - both physical and spiritual. We realize that these come through great sacrifices, sweat, pain and heartaches of others. To enable us to have spiritual freedom, there was One who was willing to die the cruel death of the cross - all for us! He did that "that we might have life and have it more abundantly."

In 2 Cor. 5:17, we read "Therefore if any man be in Christ he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." Thus, when we are "in Christ" we are living a new life, with a new hope - new aims and aspirations. We have a new Master who is King of kings and Lord of lords. Yes, He is indeed the Son of God who is at the right hand of God to make intercession for us. When we follow Christ we are spiritually minded. Rom. 8:6 states, "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."

Those who are "spiritually minded" are those who are "children of God" and "joint heirs with Christ." God in heaven is our Father and Jesus Christ is our Commander-in-Chief. So we realize that we are not our own, but are bought with a price. This, my friend, is spiritual freedom! - being in Christ, safe and free.

## Preach The Word

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ

Paul, the great apostle, imprisoned because he preached the Word, said to Timothy in 2 Tim. 4:1-4, "I charge thee therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom, Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; Reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they will turn away their ears from the truth and shall turn unto fables."

The Word of God furnishes the man of God thoroughly "unto all good works" — 2 Tim. 3:16, 17. All of God's preachers are charged to preach the Word. This covers love, God's scheme of redemption, the New Testament church, the home (including marriage, divorce and remarriage), morals, heaven and hell — all subjects.

To fail to do this will bring God's wrath (Gal. 1:8) and cause souls to be lost.

## God Is Not Mocked

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Paul warned in Gal. 6:7-8 "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the spirit shall of the spirit reap life everlasting." Let us not deceive ourselves by thinking we can mock God. To avoid this, we must remember that as we sow so shall we reap.

God's law of sowing and reaping is firm in the plant kingdom, in animal life and in the spiritual kingdom. If we sow to the flesh, corruption is the result. If we sow to the spirit, life everlasting is ours. So we have to decide which it will be — following the flesh or the spirit.

Gal. 5: 17 says "The flesh lusteth against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh." Then in verses 18 and 19, seventeen works of the flesh are mentioned. Any or all of these will keep one from "inheriting the kingdom of God." Among these are adultery, fornication, murders, drunkenness and uncleanness. If we commit any of these sins we are sowing to the flesh and trying to mock God. But "God is not mocked."

## Obedience to God Is Essential

(Conclusion)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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In 1 Sam. 15:22, it was said to King Saul, "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams." This was said to Saul after he had failed to "utterly destroy the Amalekites" as God had commanded him. He had done what he wanted, rather than what God had commanded! For this, he was told in verse 23: "Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, He hath also rejected thee from being king." Adam and Eve disobeyed God in eating of the forbidden fruit in Gen. 3, and were driven from their beautiful home in Eden.

Cain, in Gen. 4, rejected the word of the Lord by offering a sacrifice that pleased him rather than what God had commanded. He became a murderer and a liar. In Lev. 10 Nadab and Abihu, son of Aaron, offered strange fire which God commanded not. A fire went out from the Lord and devoured them. Over 600,000 children of Israel died in the 40 years they wandered in the wilderness because of disobedience to God.

In 1 Cor. 10:11 we are told to not follow the example of those who disobey God. Please note: "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples; and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." May each of us learn God's will and obey Him!

For assistance, call 447-4766.  
Radio WJWS Sundays, 8:15-8:30.

## Living Unselfishly

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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As we continue in 1986, we want to live unselfish lives. Yes, there are a lot of evil, selfish people who are interested in living only for self, regardless of how it may affect others. But there are many good people who are interested in helping others. When one obeys Christ - becomes a Christian, he then lives not for self. He wants to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, his Master.

In 1 Pet. 3:8 we read, "Finally be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous." Compassion is "sympathetic consciousness of others' distress, with a desire to alleviate it." We do not merely pity or feel sorry for those who need help, we can give; but we do something about it. Jesus taught us in Matt. 25:41-43 that without feeding the hungry, helping strangers, clothing the naked, helping the sick and visiting those in prison, we will go into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

Yes, it is good to feel for and help people. As we do this we must have the right attitude. It must never be done in haughtiness and highmindedness. There are so many all around us who need our love and care. These include people in hospitals, nursing homes, retirement homes, shut-ins, the blind and the lonely. May God help us to be truly unselfish in our living.

## More Attributes of God

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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It is essential that we do our best to know and to understand our Great God, the Creator of heaven and earth with all things therein. The better we are able to know Him, the more drawn and determined we will be to obey His will.

God is omnipresent — He is not limited to space. He is everywhere. The Psalmist in Ps. 139:7-12 concluded that, regardless of where he might try to hide, God was there. Hagar said, "Thou God seest me." Since God is everywhere, there is indeed no place we can hide from Him! God knows our thoughts, words, and all of our actions. This pays us to remember as we live from day to day. Yes, "Thou seest me."

Further, God is immutable — He does not change. We must remember that it is not possible for God to lie — Heb. 5:18. So the Bible teaches God's plan for man — what we must do to be saved — and we must see to it that we do His will for us, otherwise we will be LOST. We know His word will stand, regardless of what men may say. The consequence of not obeying God is a devil's hell, to which is eternal. In that great day Jesus will say to those who have not done God's will, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels" — Mtt. 25:41. Please read Mtt. 25:31-46.

It is a rejection of God to say that He will not do what He has promised in His will! God will not make an exception of me, you, or anyone. Remember, friend, Jesus became the author of "eternal salvation" to all who obey Him.

## God Is Creator and Ruler

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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I am sure that those reading these articles are believers in the true God. We want to make your faith stronger, and help each to desire to obey and follow our Creator and Ruler.

God as Creator is the self-existent eternal One. He was neither caused by something other than Himself to come into being, nor did He cause Himself to come into existence. He exists necessarily. However, God through His word, created everything other than Himself. By the power of His word and through His word, he created everything in the physical universe. This includes the sun, the moon, the stars, animals, human beings — In fact, all that is other than Himself. The theory of evolution is false. The doctrine of creation as taught in the Bible is true.

God is ruler of the universe. All authority inherently resides in God as Creator. He has given all authority in heaven and earth to Jesus Christ, His Son, with the exception of Himself. God rules the world through His Son; the Holy Spirit through His word. That word, the gospel of Christ, the law of Christ, is addressed to all men and thus all men are amenable to it. Thus all men who obey the word will be saved, and all who do not will be lost.

Men reject this great truth when they invent plans which are not taught in the New Testament, or when they establish churches not authorized by Christ. Men must not invent ways of living or plans of worship not authorized in the Bible. God is indeed Ruler!

## Have a Good Year

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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409 W. High Street - South Hill, Va.

Friend, I hope you are off to a good start in 1989 and that good things will be yours all year. As has been mentioned before, to have a good life we must have right priorities — being certain to put first things first. When we put God and Christ first, everything else will work out. When God is first, we love people as we should and live unselfishly.

No doubt, you have a good Bible in your home — maybe several — and that is good. But how much do you read and study it? Have you ever read the Bible through? If you will read consistently, it is not hard to do. There are at least two ways this can be done in a year's time. One way is to read three chapters a day for six days, then on the seventh day to read five chapters; or use the same Bible and divide three hundred sixty-five into the number of pages in the Bible and read that number of pages each day. You will probably find yourself getting interested in certain books or event and reading more each day. As you read, you may find that you enjoy to the point of being uplifted and appreciate God and the wonderful world in which we live more and more.

If you are not a christian, 1989 is the year to become one and to live for the Lord all the days of your life. This is the only way you can truly live. Jesus, you know, said "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." — Matt. 4:4. To become a christian you must hear the word of God, believe, repent, confess Christ and be baptized. If you do not understand, just call me and I will be glad to assist. Now is the best time. Have a good year.!

## Names That Apply to Jesus

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Jesus Christ is to be highly exalted and appreciated. When we study His life on earth — the prophecies about Him in the Old Testament, His great sacrifice for forgiveness of our sins, and His now having all authority in heaven and on earth — it is our nature to desire to follow and please Him. I feel that the following quotation from a poster in my office may help you to appreciate Christ more:

"And thou shalt call his name Jesus, Prince of peace, Mighty God, Wonderful Counselor, Holy One, Lamb of God, Prince of life, Lord God Almighty, Lion of the tribe of Judah, Root of David, Word of Life, Author and Finisher of our faith, Advocate, The Way, Dayspring, Lord of all, Son of God, Shepherd and Bishop of our souls, Messiah, The Truth, Saviour, Chief Cornerstone, King of kings, Righteous Judge, Light of the world, Head of the Church, Morning Star, Sun of Righteousness, Lord Jesus Christ, Chief Shepherd, Resurrection and Life, Horn of Salvation, Governor, Alpha and Omega."

It is my fervent hope that all may appreciate Christ heed His teachings, obeying His gospel — which is God's power to save (Mark 16:15-16).

For "Dial-a-Devotional" call 447-8749.  
Radio WJWS, "Searching the Scriptures," Sunday  
8:15-8:30 a.m.

## Further Thoughts on Living

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ  
409 W. High Street South Hill, Va.

We learned last week that just having food, shelter, and clothing is not living — since Jesus Himself taught that man was not to live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from God. Thus, to truly live we go to our Guide and follow His instructions. When we do this we can say with David (Ps. 23:6) "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Paul put it this way in Rom. 8:28: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God." Husbands and wives, for instance, must listen to and follow God through His word, if they are to truly live. The Bible teaches a woman how to be a good wife. It also teaches the husband how to be a good husband.

Many books have been written on the home and how problems can be solved. However, the Bible is the best book of all on human relations. It teaches us how to have successful homes — and how every member of a family fits in for this success. You see, if we have good happy homes, our town, area, and the whole nation benefits. God wants us to truly live and teaches us how to live — not to simply exist. Our attitude should be "that I may live and keep thy word."

For assistance call 447-4766.

For "Dial-a-Devotional" call 447-8749.

Radio WJWS, Sundays, 8:15-8:30 a.m.

## How Great Thou Art

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Bible Reading: Genesis 1:1-31  
Golden Text: Deuteronomy  
33:27A

Our purpose in this weekly article is to exalt God, Christ (our blessed Lord and Saviour), and His holy book (the Bible — His complete revelation to man through His Holy Spirit) which is our only guide from earth to heaven.

Jehovah God, who created heaven and earth and all things therein, is eternal — and we must believe that He is (Heb. 11:6). We are to seek to know, love and follow His will for us. This is made known to us only through the Bible. From the first verse to the last we can see the unfolding of the nature, power, wisdom, patience, goodness

and mercy of God. Let us all study about God and keep within us a desire to follow our eternal Maker.

It is vital that we always believe and accept God's account of creation: "In the beginning God created" — Gen. 1:1 — and His creation was "very good" — Gen. 1:31.

Thus we can realize "How Great Thou Art" and appreciate all God has done for us — in both the physical and spiritual realms. We study His book to learn how to live and prepare for the mansion that Jesus is preparing for us. This means learning and doing His will. See Matthew 7:21-23; Hebrews 5:8-9. Study the Bible daily with an open mind, that His truth will make you free — John 8:32; and 17:17.

For assistance, call 447-4766. For "Dial-A-Devotional" call 447-8749.

# December 25, 1988

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Next Sunday is a day that many people will be celebrating as Christ's birthday. However, as all good students of the Bible know, nobody knows just when He was born— and I doubt seriously that Christ wanted us to set aside a special day to honor Him, or He would have let us know it. We are told in Psalm 118:22-24 "The stone which the builders refused is become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is a day that the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

The Scriptures are speaking of a period of time that would be marvelous or wonderful. This was to be the time when Christ would have a great scheme of redemption for all mankind. This includes all that Jesus did for us: His sacrifice on the cross, His resurrection, building His church, giving His plan of salvation, and our privilege of worshipping God "in spirit and in truth." Note that this is no scheme of man—but is "the Lord's doing" and "We will rejoice and be glad in it."

This year, December 25 is the Lord's day. It is not my day, your day, or any man's day; but the Lord's day— A day of worship, which comes 52 times each year. Since every week has a first day (or Lord's day)— none is to be elevated above another. It is a marvelous day because we can come together to sing praises to Jehovah, to pray, to teach God's word, give, and commune together. In Acts 20:7 we read "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them." We worship God on every Lord's day, including the taking of the Lord's supper because we have their example plus other teachings in the New Testament.

# "Happy New Year"

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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409 W. High Street - South Hill, Va.

In a few more days we will be leaving behind us the year 1988 and entering the year 1989. I believe most of us look forward to the new year because we think it will be better— and we trust it will. However, we trust that 1988 has been a good year for each of you and that the way you have lived will help you to have a better year in 1989. As we go through each year, we learn to take whatever comes our way better. This is essential, for life is composed of both good and bad.

In 1988, tragedies have occurred; we have lost friends to death— some prepared to go and some unprepared. We must remember that we are living in the last days, which covers the christian dispensation. Paul said in 2 Tim. 3:1 "This know also in the last days perilous times shall come." Then in the next few verses he lists a number of things that will happen: Men will be lovers of slaves, covetous, boasters, proud, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, lovers of pleasure more than lover of God, plus others. We can readily see much of this happening in our day, as well as many natural disasters here and throughout the world.

You may say, "In the midst of all the troubles in the world, how can we look forward to a good and happy 1989?". The answer is in looking to God and letting Christ control our lives. When we are ready to do His will without reservation and trust Him fully, then we will have a good year, regardless of what happens. Read and study God's word, realizing the peace that comes by living for Him. Friend, are you a faithful christian? Would you like to study God's word? Just call me and I will assist.

## Wisdom and Temptation

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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In verses 1-5 of Proverbs 7 we are encouraged to listen to Wisdom. For example, "Keep my commandments and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye. Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart. Say unto wisdom, thou art my sister; and call understanding thy kinswoman: that they may keep thee from a strange woman, from the stranger which flattereth with her words." What Wisdom is saying to men — especially young men — is to learn to avoid and resist the temptations of women.

Verses 6-23 tell of watching a young man being tempted and lured by a lewd woman to come in and visit her. She has everything ready for them to make love all night. Her husband is away and this will be an ideal time for them to have a "love feast." In verse 18 she says, "Come, let us take our fill of love until morning; let us solace ourselves with love." Then, in verse 21, "With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him." This young man goes after her as an ox to the slaughter. He enjoys the pleasures of sin "for a season," with many regrets later.

In verses 25-27 we read "Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths ... her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death." James said "Resist the devil and he will flee from you." Paul, in 1 Cor. 6:18, said "Flee fornication." Jesus said, in Matt. 5:28, "Whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." We must all flee from temptation and sin. Regardless of what people may be doing or saying, fornication is sin!

## Jesus Suffered For You and Me

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Jesus paid the price in taunting, humiliation, and "became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross"; all for our sins. We will have forgiveness of our sins if we will only come to Him in loving obedience. Let us note a few scriptures from Isa. 53: "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief... Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: Yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities — the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed... He was numbered with the transgressors; and he bared the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors."

In Luke 22:42, Jesus prayed "Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless, not my will, but thine, be done." Then verse 44 tells, "And being in agony he prayed the more earnestly, and his sweat was as it were beat drops of blood falling down to the ground." On the cross (Luke 23:34) Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Jesus cried out in His agony in Matt. 27:46 "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" — and finally in John 19:30 He said, "It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost." (Died).

## By Faith We Understand

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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It is my firm conviction that the greatest faith in God and His way: A faith that accepts God's word as being inspired of God, and that believes that God meant what He said in His Bible. Many people don't have faith enough to believe that God is supreme and over all, nor that He created the heavens and the earth with all things therein. Some have faith for a time, then lose it and go into eternity without hope.

I remember a speech to a graduating class many years ago in which the speaker said "Always have faith in yourselves, in your fellow-man, and above all always have faith in God." It was essential then and, if anything, is more essential now. Our young people need this faith more than ever, probably - an unshakable faith in the only One who can sustain and help us.

Since we live in a time of seemingly worse than usual troubles and problems, we need a growing faith in our Maker to enable us to cope with the troubles and problems that inevitably come our way. When we have God as our helper we need not fear. We must remember that "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." As we learn His will by studying His word, we are happy when we obey it and our faith will grow exceedingly.

To be continued.

For assistance, call 447-4766.

Radio WJWS Sundays, 8:15-8:30.

## By Faith We Understand No. 4

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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By faith we understand just how great God is, and that the "worlds were framed by the word of God." In the first and last verses of Ps. 8 we read "O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!" Truly, the "heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork." We also know that the eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good - Prov. 15:3. As Hager said, "Thou God seest me."

In Ps. 100:3 we read, "Know ye that the Lord he is God: It is he that made us and not we ourselves." In chapter 139, verse 14, the Psalmist states, "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: Marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well." Verse 6 says, "Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.

It is by faith that we understand the great love of God. He so loved us that He sacrificed Christ on the cross, that we might have the hope of heaven. God is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" - 2 Pet. 3:9. In Luke 13:3,5 we find it is either repent or perish. In Heb. 5:8,9 we learn that Jesus learned obedience by suffering and became the author of eternal salvation unto "all them that obey him."

## By Faith We Understand No. 3

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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It is a joy for me to write this article in *The Enterprise* each week. It is my purpose in writing to teach God's truth just as it is; thus we do our best to speak as the Bible speaks - and only as the Bible speaks. This is the only way one can teach by faith. I must always remember that Rom. 10:17 states "So then faith comes of hearing and hearing by the word of God." In verse 16 Paul says, "But they have not all obeyed the gospel." So by faith we know that God's plan for salvation; includes obedience to the gospel.

It is by faith that we understand what Jesus taught in sending forth His apostles in Mark 16:15, 16. Here, He said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved: But he that believeth not shall be damned." Note that little three-letter word "and", that it is a conjunction, joining belief and baptism to the same end or purpose - being saved.

Why does not everyone accept all that Jesus says on the subject of salvation? Paul said in Rom. 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation." Friend, my plea to you is to "Search the scriptures to make certain you are following God's way, as this is they only way to be saved.

## By Faith We Understand No. 5

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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When we accept the fact that "God Is," and that He is the great "I AM," and that the Bible is indeed His word, then we accept without reservation all the Bible teaches. Thus, we believe that Jesus Christ is (and always was) the Son of God and that He was born just as the Bible teaches, both in prophesy and in fulfillment.

In Isa. 7:14 we read, "Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Immanuel." In Matt. 1:20, 21 it is said to Joseph, "Fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins." He was to be called "Emmanuel," which meant "God with us." Yes, this birth was a miracle, but it was "The Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes." It was beyond human reason, for it was from God.

God was with us for over 30 years in the person of Christ. He grew up as an obedient youth, worked as a carpenter, then was baptized at the age of 30 to "fulfill all righteousness." After this, He was tempted in all points like as we, yet without sin. He loved and had compassion on mankind, and ascended back to God to make intercession for us. He is indeed a wonderful Saviour! Will you accept and obey the One who can save you?

## By Faith We Understand No. 7

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Since it is revealed in God's holy word, we understand that Jesus is a wonderful Saviour. In Isa. 9:6, we learn that "his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." As we study His life in the four gospels we see just how great; how wonderful He was and is. We need to study His life more to understand the worth to us of His life and teachings. Jesus was a man of great compassion for humanity. Let us consider a few instances of His compassion.

In Mark 1:40-42, a leper "beseeched him" and Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth His hand and touched him and said to him, "I will: Be thou clean." In Mark 5:25-35, we find a woman who had had an issue of blood for 12 years; had spent all her money on physicians, with no hope for a cure. She touched the hem of His garment and was healed.

Again, in Mark 8:1-9, we find Jesus having "compassion on the multitude" and feeding the four thousand.

In Luke 7:11-17, we read of a widow's only son who had died, and when Jesus saw her "he had compassion on her" and raised him from the dead. Also, In John 11, we read of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. In verse 35 we have the statement "Jesus wept". He was truly a man of sympathy. He is truly a "Wonderful Saviour"!

To be continued.

For assistance, call 447-4766.

Radio WJWS Sundays, 8:15-8:30.

## By Faith We Understand, No. 8

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Friend, it is by faith we understand that Jesus was born of a virgin and that He was "God with us" for over 30 years. He was tempted in all points "like as we are, yet without sin" - Thus, He lived a beautiful, perfect life, and was the only sacrifice God would accept for our sins. Truly, we are redeemed by the precious blood of Christ the Lamb!

After Jesus' prayer in the garden of Gethsemane, Judas, one of the twelve, betrayed Him with a kiss. Later, Judas went out and hanged himself. Jesus was arrested and taken before the high priest, then before Pilate. After His arrest we find in Matt. 26 that Peter followed Him afar off, and later denied Him three times - the last time with a curse. He then went out and "wept bitterly". Our Lord was falsely accused, and at least two times they spat upon Him.

Our Saviour was buffeted - severely beaten - was mocked and humiliated in many ways. The Jews cried out "Let him be crucified" and "Let his blood be upon us and our children". They crucified Jesus, driving the nails into His hands and feet. Then, "sitting down, they watched him there". Yes, Christ died in agony on the cross - all for you and me. But even in death He looked down on His murderers and said "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

To be continued.

For assistance, call 447-4766.

Radio WJWS Sundays, 8:15-8:30.

## By Faith We Understand, No. 9

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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In Matt. 28:5,6 it is stated: "And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for He is risen." Thus, we know by faith that Jesus did arise from the dead. After Jesus arose, He remained upon the earth forty days, continuing to instruct His apostles and to further prove that He was indeed the Son of God. We find in 1 Cor. 15:3,4 that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that He was buried and that He arose again the third day according to the scriptures. After this, He was seen by from one to above 500 people at one time. We thank God that Jesus did arise and ascend back to God.

Jesus is now at God's right hand. Please note, in Heb. 7:25, His purpose: "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come to God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them." In Matt. 28:18 it is stated, "And Jesus came and spake unto them saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and on earth." The American Standard version uses the term "all authority". We must accept this wonderful truth - that Jesus, the Son of God, the One who died for us, has **all authority** in religion. So we are to speak only as we are authorized to speak in the New Testament on all subjects.

Nexts: "Jesus' Parting Charge".

For assistance, call 447-4766.

Radio WJWS Sundays, 8:15-8:30.

## If the Soul Lives in Heaven

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Hymn No. 356 in "Sacred Selections" is entitled "Won't It Be Wonderful There?" Let's notice the first stanza: "When with the Savior we enter the glory-land, won't it be wonderful there? Ended the troubles and cares of the story-land ..." Then the chorus, "Won't it be wonderful there, having no burdens to bear? Joyously singing with heart - bells are ringing, O won't it be wonderful there?" Remember, friend, heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people.

In Rev. 21:7 we note: "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son." Then in verses 23-25, we have "And the city had no need of the sun, neither the moon to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there."

In Rev. 22, we find "A pure river of water of life clear as crystal, coming out of the throne of God and the Lamb." There is also the tree of life, and there will be no curse. Verse 4 states "And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads."

Read Rev. 21 and 22, noting especially 22:14, "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have a right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."

## A Living Soul — 2:7

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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In Gen. 2:7 we read "And the Lord God formed man out of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." This soul (your soul, my soul, friend) lives forever. Yes, it lives here — then throughout eternity. God, in creating a living soul, wanted it to have a good life here. Living for the Lord is not a drab, sad, or dreary existence as Christianity is so often pictured; but is a joy, a peace, a serenity which supercedes any circumstances.

Jesus said in Matt. 11:29 that when we come to Him "Ye shall find rest unto your souls." In Ps. 119:17 we find "Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I may live, and keep thy word." Again, Jesus said in Matt. 4:4 "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." His word is found only in the Bible — which enriches our lives and leads us to enjoy true living here when we learn and do His will.

After Jesus had said that we are to love God with our whole being and our neighbor as ourselves, He says in Luke 10:28 "This do and thou shalt live." In John 14:15, He said "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

## If the Soul Lives in Heaven

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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We have learned that the soul of man lives throughout eternity, either in hell or heaven. We want to encourage you to follow Jesus so you will be in heaven. The first stanza of the song "Heaven Holds All To Me" states, "Earth holds no treasure but perish with using, however precious they be; yet there's a country to which I'm going, heaven holds all to me." Then the chorus, "Heaven holds all to me — Brighter its glory will be; Joy without measure will be my treasure — Heaven holds all to me."

As we read in Rev. 21, 22, our desire to go to heaven is strengthened. Please note in Rev. 21:3,4, "And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things have passed away."

Just think of having God to gently "wipe away all tears," not to have to even think about death, to be free of pain, to have no sorrow. All this — not just for a day, or a year; but forever and ever. But, friend, remember this is only for those who "fear God and keep his commandments."

## Thoughts About The Soul

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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There is a song entitled "Where the Soul Never Dies" — about heaven, where we should all want to go. In Prov. 11:30 we read, "He that winneth souls is wise." The value of a soul is so great it is hard for us to comprehend. In Mark 8:36, 37 we read, "For what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

In Matt. 10:28 we find this admonition: "Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear him which is able to destroy both body and soul in hell." This is the reason Solomon said "Fear God, and keep His commandments: For this is the whole duty of man." — Ecc. 12:13. He goes on to say in verse 14, "For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."

In James 1:21 we are told to "receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls." Hebrews 6:18, 19 encourages us to "Lay hold upon the hope set before us: which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast." This applies to all Christians who are faithful.

## If the Soul Live in Hell

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Friend, I spend my time in writing, teaching, and preaching God's word to save souls. Remember that Jesus asked the question, in Matt. 16:26 "For what is a man profited, if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" The answer is that, if I lose my soul, if you lose your soul, we are doomed to eternal punishment in hell.

No, we don't want to think about hell, as it is a terrible place to spend eternity. Note in Luke 16:23 that the rich man "In hell lifted up his eyes, being in torments." Then, verse 24 continues "For I am tormented in this flame." We find in Mark 9:43-48 "The fire is not quenched." Four times, and "To go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched" used one time. Jesus says it is better to go through life without a foot, an eye or a hand than to be cast into "hell fire."

In Matt. 25:41 at the judgment scene we are told Jesus will say to those unprepared "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." Again, in Rev. 20:15, "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life as cast into the lake of fire." Friend, hell is real and if we are to avoid it, we must listen and follow the will of God.

## Job's Further Tests

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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In Job, Chapter 2, Satan comes again among the sons of men (This reminds us that Satan is always around seeking whom he may devour). Again God says to Satan "Have you considered my servant Job? Even after all you have done to him, he is still faithful, a perfect and upright man, one that fears God and hates evil, holding fast his integrity, although thou movest me against him to destroy him without cause." Satan told God that if he would touch Job's bone and flesh he would curse God to His face. Then God permitted Satan to do what he would, only to save his life.

So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and "smote Job with sore boils, from the sole of his foot unto his crown." Job was very miserable, with sore boils all over him. If you have ever had a boil, you know how miserable one can be — and Job had no relief at all. Then in chapter 2, verse 8, Job's wife added salt to his wounds by saying, "Dost thou still retain integrity? Curse God and die." Job's answer in verse 10 was: "Thou speaketh as one of the foolish women speaketh; What? Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this, Job did not sin with his lips."

In times of trials, sickness, hard going and tribulation, it is possible to lose faith and sin — especially with our lips. But we turn to Job 13:15 and see further his trust in God; "Though he slay me, yet will I trust him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him." Then let us note verse 18: "Behold now, I have ordered my cause; I know I shall be justified." It took an unshakable faith in God to undergo the things this man endured. Friend, do you have enough faith in God to hear, believe, and obey Christ's gospel? Next: Job's friends.

## Job's Three Friends (?)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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We remember that Job "was perfect and upright and one that feared God, and eschewed evil." God permitted Satan to take away his earthly possessions, his seven sons and three daughters— and finally to smite him with sore boils all over his body. Satan was sure that Job would reject God. Even Job's wife said to him, "Curse God, and die." But "Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly." So we can see the great faith and deep trust this man had in His Maker, and that he was determined to stay with Him, even though he did not understand why all this was happening to him.

Job had three so-called friends: Eliphaz, Bildad, and Tophar. Now, when these three heard of Job's plight they came to "mourn with him and to comfort him." When they reached Job they sat down upon the ground and none of them spoke a word for seven days and seven nights. Then, beginning in chapter three and throughout a good part of the book, they began to accuse him of being a hypocritical sinner and pointing out that this was the cause of all his sufferings. They took turns in telling Job what they thought his sins were, and urging him to repent and turn to God.

Job accused them of being "miserable comforters." You know, Jesus said "Judge not, that ye be not judged." Job's friends, without knowing anything about why he was suffering, were judging that he had sinned to bring on the miseries he endured. They needed to look within and get themselves right-- and then to really give comfort to him.

## Job: A Perfect Man (-2)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Every book in the Bible has a purpose, and Job is no exception. However, it means nothing to us unless we read and study it. So why not read the entire book of Job? In this study we see that Job was a perfect man — one whom God felt would stand the test and remain faithful to Him. Satan told God that He had built a hedge about Job to protect him — that if what Job had was taken away he would curse God.

In chapter 1:12 God told Satan that what Job had was in his power. Then in verse 19 we learn that disaster struck as a result of the devil's work. Job had seven sons and three daughters, as well as several thousand sheep, five hundred yoke of oxen, three thousand camels, five hundred she-asses — and a large household. Verse 3 states "So that this man was the greatest of all men of the east." When disaster struck his sons and daughters and all his great possessions were taken away in one day. One minute Job was enjoying his family and possessions — secure in all he needed. Then, suddenly he was a pauper — with all his children and possessions gone! How did he react?

In Job 1:20-22 we find that "Job arose and rent his mantle and shaved his head, and fell down on the ground, and worshipped, and said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, naked shall I return thither; the Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly." This man Job had great faith in God and still believed in His goodness and mercy. He sinned not.

## Job's Happy Ending

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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For the past three weeks we have been studying about Job and his misfortunes and miseries which befell him. This included the loss of his children, his worldly goods; being stricken with sore boils from head to foot and, finally, the company of three so-called friends who caused him even more heartache. All this was a test that God permitted Satan to try on Job. But Job stood the test, and God blessed his latter end even more abundantly than the former.

Again, to get some very good lessons and to understand what happened to Job, please read all 42 chapters of the book. The climax comes in the last chapter. It is a happy ending— and we all like happy endings. This was a resounding defeat for Satan— and we also like for evil to lose! These things can be paralleled in every person's life, if we will but look to God and let Him guide us through His word. Job's three friends displeased God and He required that they offer sacrifices— They also had to have Job pray for them, or else He would destroy them. This they did and their lives were spared.

In Job 42:10 we find that "The Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before." All of his brethren and friends came and comforted him, everyone giving him a piece of money and an earring of gold. Verse 12 says "So the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses." Verse 13 adds, "He had also seven sons and three daughters." After this "lived Job an hundred and forty years ... So Job died, being old and full of days." He died to go to heaven and I would like to meet him there.

## Job: A Perfect Man

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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It was stated last week that Job was a good example for us. This is especially true in patience. To learn to appreciate Job and what he underwent— and how he dealt with heartache, pain and suffering we suggest that you read the entire book of Job. Please note what is said of him in Job 1:1, "There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed (shunned) evil." As we study the book of Job, we see that he was a man whom God could point to with pride.

Enoch, in Gen. 5:24, "walked with God: and was not; for God took him." However, the men who walked with God were very few. Job was with God and God felt that he could pass the ultimate test. In verse 7 of Job 1 we find that Satan was walking to and fro among the sons of God as they came before the Lord. The devil was busy then— and he is busy now, going about "seeking whom he may devour."

In verse 8 "The Lord said unto Satan, hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil"— Then Satan said that Job feared God for naught. He wanted to know if God had built a hedge about Job and about his house, and about what he had. In verse 11 Satan said "But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath and he will curse thee to thy face." Next we will see what happened to Job and how he stood the test.

## Serving God

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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In Mal. 3:14 God said to the Israelites, "Ye have said, it is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinances, and that we have walked mournfully before the Lord of hosts?" Then in verses 16 and 17 we read, "Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another; and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and thought on his name. And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels."

No doubt, many today say that it is vain to serve God; but God rewards His servants, and God's people should always enjoy a wonderful fellowship together. In Ps. 100:2 we read "Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing." Verse 4 reads, "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name." Verse 5: "For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations." In Ps. 136 all 26 verses end by repeating "For his mercy endureth forever."

God, however, does not force us to serve him; however we do know that no one can "serve two masters." So after reaching the age of accountability we choose to either serve God or the devil. In Matt. 4:10 Jesus said to the devil, "Get thee hence, Satan: For it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." To serve God, you must be a Christian — and to be a Christian, you must obey the gospel of Christ, His Son. Friend, where do you stand?

## Have A Good Marriage

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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It is not my desire to "speak as one having authority" on the subject of marriage and happy homes. Christine and I have been married for more than 43 years and we are both convinced that people can have good, happy marriages — if each will do his part. Husbands and wives are to love and cherish each other and to live according to God's plan.

Each must realize that the vows they made were "until death do us part" — and dedicate themselves to make it so. This is, for two reasons, best: First, God gives only one basis that is acceptable for divorce and re-marriage — fornication (Matt. 19:9); The second is mentioned by *Readers Digest* — sixty percent of second marriages fail. Especially difficult is a case of children involved. Children need a "two-parent" family.

To have a good home work together in all areas, as: planning, working out a good system of budgeting, living within your means, sacrificing for the sake of others. As much as possible, learn to have some mutual interests. It's good to love good reading material — especially the Bible; Have family devotionals; Let all see your joy in home life; Listen to relaxing music together, and enjoy good conversation together. Keep up your courtship and grow in your love and devotion to each other — and you will be richly rewarded.

## Further Scriptures About Christ

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Matt. 26:39, "And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt."

Matt. 27:25, "Then answered all the people, and said, his blood be on us, and on our children." Verse 26, "Then released he Barabbas unto them"; and when he had scourged Jesus, (beaten or whipped) he delivered him to be crucified." Verse 36, "And sitting down they watched him there" — to be crucified.

Mark 15:34, "At the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

Matt. 28:6, "He is not here: for he is risen as he said." Acts 3:15, "And killed the prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead: whereof we are all witnesses." Matt. 28:18, "All power (authority) is given unto me in heaven and in earth." Mark 16:15, 16, "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

Acts 4:12, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name given among men, whereby we must be saved." 1 Cor. 3:11, "For other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." Rev. 22:12, 13, "And behold I come quickly ... to give to every man according as his work shall be. I am alpha and omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last."

## The Preaching That I Bid Thee

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ

God said to Jonah "Arise, go unto Ninevah, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee" — Jonah 3:2. Just as Jonah was to preach what God told him to, so we today are to preach what God tells us to preach. In 2 Tim. 4:2, we are charged to "preach the word" — Why? Because "Thy word is truth" and "the truth makes free."

Faith comes by hearing God's Word. In Ps. 119:105, we find that "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." Again, in James 1:21, "Receive with meekness the engrafted word which is able to save your souls." Then in 1 Pet. 1:22, we read, "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth" and in verse 23, "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever."

To truly live here, and then go to heaven, only God's Word — the Bible — must be diligently preached and heeded!

## Loving Life and Living Fully

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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In Matt. 6:33 Jesus said "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things will be added unto you." He was speaking of food, clothing and shelter. His promise is that God will supply these if we put Him first. In Luke 12:6 Christ stated "Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God. But even the very hairs of your head are numbered. Fear not, therefore; ye are of much more value than many sparrows." God knows our needs and how to supply our every need — Rom. 8:28, Luke 6:38, Mal. 3:10, Ps. 34:10.

In 1 Peter 3:10, 11 we read "For he that will love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and do good; Let him seek peace and ensue it." God wants our days upon the earth to be happy, as we prepare for the home of the soul.

What is our incentive to live right by seeking and finding God and putting Him first? It is to have a good life here — and remember what is said in 1 Cor. 2:9 "Eye hath not seen nor ear heard, neither have entered the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." Again, in Rom. 8:17, "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."

As we continue the 339 days of 1983, let us look up, trust and follow God without wavering. In doing so, we will love life and truly live. For assistance, call 447-4766.

For "Dial-a-Devotional" call 447-8749.  
Radio WJWS, Sundays, 8:15-8:30 a.m.

## How to Seek the Lost

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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We seek the lost by teaching the truth of God just as we find it in His book. Jesus said in John 8:32 "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Then Jesus said in John 17:17 "Sanctify them through thy truth: Thy word is truth," and "the truth" makes free. This means that God's word must be preached diligently and faithfully if souls are to be saved.

In Acts 8:5, we read "Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ unto them." Verse 12 says, "But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." Then in verse 35 it is stated of Philip when he began to teach the Ethiopian eunuch "Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus."

The eunuch believed, confessed Christ, and "they went both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him." We see that the eunuch was baptized as soon as he heard, believed, and confessed Christ. Thus, the way we seek the lost is to go and preach the gospel of Christ. When they believe and are ready to obey, we assist them in being baptized into Christ. (to be continued).

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## How to Seek the Lost

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Jesus said to His apostles in Matt. 28:18-20, "All power (authority) is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. AMEN."

In Mark 16:15, 16, Jesus commanded them to "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

Here we have Jesus telling us how to seek the lost. First, He said He had all power, or authority, both in heaven and earth. Then He said to go and preach the gospel to all the world — that all would have the opportunity to believe and be baptized to be saved. This is the only way to seek the lost today: that is, to go and preach the gospel of Christ, baptizing the believers into the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

Paul, in seeking the lost, said in Rom. 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation." Today, we seek the lost by going and preaching the gospel of Christ, hoping the lost will believe and be baptized. (to be continued).

## How to Seek the Lost

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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We seek the lost because they *are* lost and are headed for "everlasting fire" which was prepared for the devil and his angels. Beyond this, the lost will miss heaven, where there will be no more death, sorrow, crying nor pain — where God Himself will wipe away all tears. Those things will have passed away (Rev. 21:4). So: I seek you who are lost because I don't want you to miss heaven ... I want you to avoid eternal punishment — Matt. 25:46.

We *must* seek the lost according to God's teaching. In Rom. 10:13 we read, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Now, if we isolate this verse we could teach that all we have to do to be saved is call on the name of the Lord. However, let us read verses 14-17 of Rom. 10: "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For, Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

How to seek the Lost? By faithfully teaching and preaching the Word of God. Remember, faith comes by hearing the Word of God. I must not fail to teach all of God's requirements on any subject, if the lost are to be saved. (To be continued).

## How to Seek the Lost

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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To be a dedicated Christian, and especially a faithful gospel preacher, there is no greater joy than to seek the lost. Christian living and helping people to come to Christ is our vocation in life. It is my fervent desire that you will be saved by coming to the knowledge of the truth and becoming a dedicated Christian.

We have learned that to seek the lost we must recognize that Jesus has "all authority" and that He has commanded all preachers to "preach the gospel." This "gospel" is God's power to save! We remember that faith comes by hearing God's word, so we "preach the word" to the lost.

God's Word is Truth and makes free. We realize the danger of tampering with, or changing in any way Christ's glorious gospel. Let us note Gal. 1:8, 9, "But though we or an angel from heaven preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."

Paul also said, "Woe is me if I preach not the gospel." Thus we reemphasize that the only way to seek the lost is to faithfully and prayerfully study, understand, teach and preach Christ's wonderful gospel.

## “CARING”

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When Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive,” He was teaching us to care for others. While it is important for us to give money, yet the greatest thing we can give is ourselves. When we truly love we care, and when we care, we help others. In 1 John 3:16, 17, 18 we read “Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.”

There are so many people in the world who need our love and care! Jesus set the example for us. Acts 10:38 states: “Who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.” We are to follow in His steps. If we are not careful we will shut up our “bowels of compassion” and pass by on the other side. We are living in a busy world; but we should take time to seek out and help those who need us.

It is good to feel that we are needed — and everyone is needed. Some of those who need our help and understanding are our young people, who need to know that we love, care for, and understand their problems. Those who are sick at home or in hospitals also need our care. Plus any bedridden, shut-ins, and nursing home residents. The elderly, as well as the retarded are others. Paul said in 1 Thess. 5:14, “Comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.” There are many others we can help. In Gal. 6:10, for instance: “As we therefore have opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto the household of faith.”

## “Caring:” Young People - III

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Young people are important and we care for them deeply — and we want all to have a great life. It is essential to feel needed, to have proper values as well as good self-esteem without airs of haughty arrogance or conceit. We want our young people to mature and to work for their own best interests. In this process, they are to learn to care for themselves, in the earlier years, to truly be somebody; and to make this world a better place in which to live.

Our young friends, to be healthy in mind and in body, you must learn to say “NO” at the right time and to know when to say “YES” ... Not to things that are harmful, destructive, or a hindrance to proper development. Yes, you should say “no” to drugs, smoking, and the use of smokeless tobacco. Listen to what has been learned by those who studied effects of the use of this product which has been glamorized and popularized by the ones who profit financially from it. Talk to those who have smoked or chewed tobacco for many years to find what they would advise you regarding the habit.

Further, do not feel you are working in your own best interest to follow the crowd — unless “the crowd” is doing what is best. Be a person who thinks for yourself, decides for yourself what is for your own best interest, then act accordingly. When you let God, through His word, direct you, you are working in your own best interest.

## “Caring:” Young People - II

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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In Prov. 22:1 Solomon said, “A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and gold.” Again, in verse 18, he says “Bow down thine ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply thine heart unto my knowledge.” Then once more, in Prov. 1:7, he says, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.” In Ecc. 12:1, we read further: “Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth.” Also, we find in Ps. 1:1, “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.”

We want our young people to be physically well and to have a good education — and to be successful and happy. At no time should we talk or write with more care than when dealing with young people, as it is in youth and young manhood that character is formed. A single false precept formed in the mind can mar one’s character. As we mentioned last week, parents should be good “role models” for their children — by not only teaching right, but also by setting a good example.

Young people must choose a good name, and in doing so, will choose a good character. It is very important to choose good company and good counsel. It is always good to choose good thoughts. Since God is your Maker, choose to remember Him “in the days of thy youth.” Don’t simply follow the crowd, but love good, obey God — and be a leader!

For information, call 757-7218.

Radio WJWS Sundays, 8:15-8:30.

## Caring: Young People (Conclusion)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Young friend, in these lessons it has been my purpose to not just write words, but to use words that will encourage and help you. We want you to care for yourself and understand what is best for you. Listen to Solomon in Prov. 1:7 — “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.” So if you want to be wise “Fear God and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.” This way, you will “Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth.”

As you go through life remember that it is “more blessed to give than to receive;” So form good habits as early in life as possible — and shun evil companions, as they corrupt good morals. As you go through life listen to others, but determine what is in your own best interest — and do it. This is your life you are building! Listen to your peers, but don’t follow the crowd unless the crowd is doing what is right. Make your interest in life varied, and enjoy life while realizing that “life is real; life is earnest.”

Above all, keep in mind what Jesus said in Matt. 16:26, “For what is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? The soul is that part of you that lives on throughout eternity, either in heaven or in eternal torments. So, young friend, live each day to its fullest and begin to prepare now to meet your God. Best of wishes!

## Wisdom Is Everywhere

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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The wisdom we need — must have — is the wisdom which is from above. James 3:17— "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated; full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy." This is the wisdom we find in Proverbs. The wisdom of this world is "earthly, sensual, devilish."—James 3:15. Yes, we are to seek wisdom, but only God's wisdom. Where is it?

Prov. 8 states, "She is in the top of high places, she crieth at the gates, at the entry to the city, at the coming in at the doors." Wisdom says, "Hear, for I will speak excellent things." Wisdom says "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil" — Also, "My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver: I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me." We all need wisdom which is from above.

The rest of Prov. 8 beginning with v. 22 shows that the world was created by wisdom. Note: "The Lord possessed in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning or ever the earth was." Please note: "When there were no depths, I was brought forth." "I was there when the fountains were brought forth, the mountains, the hills, the earth, the fields, the heavens, the clouds, when the waters of the sea were told that they should not pass his command," and in v. 30, "I was daily his delight."

In verse 35 wisdom says, "For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favor of the Lord." Friend, are you seeking that wisdom that is from above? If so, you will "fear God and keep his commandments"— This is your whole duty.

## WISDOM: Proverbs 6

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Prov. 6 has 35 verses, and we suggest that you read all of it. In verses 6-11 Solomon speaks of going to the ant for those who are lazy: Study her ways and be wise, as it prepares food and shelter ahead of time. The lazy person refuses to work and depends on others — and in our day too many people want to start at the top. No one should be afraid of honest work — it is refreshing and enjoyable!

Verses 12-15 speaks of those who are wicked and the things they do. He walks with a forward mouth, winks with his eyes, speaks with his feet, teaches with his fingers, devises mischief continually, and sows discord; but in v. 15 we read "His calamity shall come suddenly. Suddenly he shall be broken without remedy." Then, verses 16-19 tells what the Lord hates: "These six things doth the Lord hate: Yea, seven are an abomination to him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, and heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that are swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren."

In verses 20 through 35 we are warned of the danger of being immoral. Solomon knew what he was talking about in warning men to not go after strange women— "lust not after her beauty in thine heart." Note v. 28: "Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned?" He is encouraging all to "keep themselves pure."

For information, call 757-7218.

Radio WJWS Sundays, 7:05-7:20.

## Wisdom: Proverbs 1:20-33

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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The Bible has a lot in it about wisdom. The book of Proverbs was written by the man of wisdom, and he was also inspired by God in writing it. This man was, of course, Solomon. Naturally, the book is filled with wisdom; so why not read the entire book — but for the present, pay special attention to Prov. 1:20-33. Note what is said about it, and be certain that you heed what wisdom has to say. You know, some people — according to Ps. 53:1 — are "Bible fools". "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God."

Prov. 1:20-23 tells us that wisdom is everywhere. She crieth without, she is in the streets, in the chief place of concourse, in the opening of the gates. To us today, she would be in the factories, on the farms, in the woods, in our neighborhood, next door, plus many other places. So let us each seek and listen to wisdom. Wisdom points out that simple ones love simplicity — and she asks how long will they resist wisdom and delight in scorning, and fools hate knowledge. But wisdom reproves and pleads with all to turn and to listen. When anyone is ready, wisdom will teach the things we need to know.

In Prov. 1:24-33 it is pointed out how foolish it is to reject wisdom and knowledge, and what will happen to those who refuse to listen and heed what wisdom is teaching us. Wisdom will plead with us for a time; but when it is too late wisdom will not hear us. Verse 32 states "Therefore the turning away of the simple shall slay them." Then we find in verse 33 "But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely and shall be quiet from fear of evil." Friend, will you be sure to heed wisdom as it is taught in God's word?

## WISDOM: Proverbs 4

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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It is important that we study "wisdom" as we find it in the book of proverbs, and then to use this wisdom as we learn. Wisdom is essential for all ages; but young people can profit more, as their minds are alert to learning and that is when character is formed. We older people are more "set in our ways."

This week, we are studying chapter 4 and from now on we will study selections, as there is not time to study from the entire book. In v. 7 we read "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all they getting get understanding." Then in v. 8, "Exalt her and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honor, when thou dost embrace her." We see also that wisdom will help us to have a longer, and certainly a better, life. In v. 13 we are told: "Take fast hold of instruction: let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life."

In verses 14-19 we are warned of the dangers of following the wicked. V. 15 states: "Avoid it, pass by it, turn from it, and pass away." This is another way of saying what James said: "Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God and he will draw nigh to you." (James 4:7, 8). The wicked have only one aim: to drag us down with them!

Verse 25 says "Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee." Then v. 27 advises "Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil." In other words, look straight ahead and forward, with worthy aims and goals in life.

## You Are Somebody

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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There is a strong desire within most people to really be somebody - to feel important. Not only can each of us be somebody; We are somebody. We must never overlook the fact that we were made a little lower than the angels - created in the image of Almighty God! He made man to have dominion over all other works of His hands. God made us for a wonderful purpose, and expects us to live up to the high standard He has set. Mankind is to have highest respect for God, and for himself.

Man's problems came when Satan came on the scene. He is ever-present, convincing in his multitude of ways, that it does not pay to follow God. Satan is the reason that so many have a low opinion of themselves. He is the one who makes people feel that life is not fair and to so degrade themselves as to yield to the lust of the flesh, and eye and the pride of life, and in so many cases to commit suicide. Remember, that in the beginning there was no want, no disease and no death. It was only after sin came and corrupted the beauty of life that it changed. But you can know that God loves you, and God loves me, for "God is love."

Please read 1 John 5:3 where we are told "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."

For assistance call 447-4766.

Radio WJWS Sundays, 8:15-8:30 a.m.

## You Are Somebody (No. 2)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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As has been pointed out, there is a strong desire within most people to be somebody important. In God's eyes, you are somebody - somebody God found worth giving His only begotten Son for, that He might have you back with Him some day! In 1 John 3:1 we are reminded of this when it is said, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God."

Gal. 3:26, 27, we read "For ye are all children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ." Then in Rom. 8:17, "and if children, then heirs, heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ." So to be children of God make anyone secure and important.

In 1 Pet. 2:9 we find that God's people are a "chosen generation, a royal priesthood," a "holy nation," and a "peculiar people." Further we were called out of "darkness into his marvelous light." So when one follows Christ's teachings and becomes a Christian, he is truly one of the "people of God." Eph. 2:19 states "We are fellow citizens of the household of God." God so loved us that He makes us somebody if we only accept His way.

## You Are Somebody (No. 3)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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As has been pointed out, too many people have a low opinion of themselves - their self-esteem is low. This keeps people from living up to God's standard, and they are many times unproductive in their lives. These are not useful to others and society, which causes individuals to be miserable, and affects those around them.

In Gen. 1:27, we find that man was created in the image of God. Please note: "So God created man in his own image; in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." Then note Ps. 100:3, "Know the Lord that he is God: it is he that made us, and not we ourselves." God, who created us, loves us and wants us to truly be somebody, somebody special. We reach this desire by drawing nigh unto God and fleeing from Satan. James, in chapter 4, verses 7 and 8 says "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you."

Paul, in Eph. 3:18, 19, stated that we "may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge." Thus, we reach in all direction, and when we are submissive to His will, we are much better and happier persons. We are somebody.

## You Are Somebody (No. 4)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ  
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To be somebody, we must have friends. We know, of course, that God loves us and wants us to be on His side. When we become Christians, we know too that Jesus the Son of God, who died in our stead, is our Friend. He will be with us always if we will but stay with Him. We remember that Jesus, our Friend, is also our intercessor to God; that He is the "Alpha and Omega"; the "King of kings and Lord of Lords"; the "Prince of peace and of life"; and the "Author and finisher of our faith". This, without doubt, makes all who give their lives to Him "somebody"!

We need people to love and care for us in order to feel that we are somebody. This is another beauty of being in Christ. Christians are to "love one another with a pure heart fervently". We are also to "esteem others better than ourselves". Being members of one another, we have the same care one for another. Thus, we love "not in word, but in deed and truth." In the family of God, each member cares about the physical, emotional and spiritual health of the others. Christians let each other know they care. It is important that we see the good in all, and express our love in a positive way.

Yes, God wants us to be "somebody"; but we must come to Him in loving obedience and let His word be "A lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" - Ps. 119:105.

## The Days of Our Years

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Psalm 90:10 states "The days of our years are three score and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away." Then in verse 12 we find, "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." Yes, we will all "fly away." But until we do, we must do our best to learn to live as God would have us live. He wants us to live — not just exist!

Psalm 92:12 says "The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree; he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon." Then note verse 14: "They shall bring forth fruit in old age: they shall be fat and flourishing." I firmly believe God intended for us to live full, rich and enjoyable lives — not a drab life without joy and peace. We are here for a purpose. As is stated in Ps. 23:6, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." We find in Rom. 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God."

If we love God we keep His commandments, and this will bring a good life here and we will "fly away" to eternity in heaven, the home of the soul.

For assistance, call 447-4766.  
Radio WJWS Sundays, 8:15-8:30.

## Teach Us to Number

"Swifter Than a Weaver's Shuttle"

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Job said in Job 7:6 "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle Time as going by at a fast clip for him — AND THE SAME IS TRUE FOR ALL OF US. In Job 14:1-2 he stated "Man that is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow and continueth not." In James 4:14 we read "For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

Truly life is short, even at best, and is full of heartaches, pain, sickness and disappointments. So it is vital that we learn to adjust our lives to what is, realizing that life will not adjust to us. Let us heed Ps 90:12, "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our heart unto wisdom." In Prov. 1:7 we read "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction."

In Eph. 5:16 we are told, "Redeeming the time, because the days are evil." Since time is "swiftly passing" and we have appointment to keep, we want to prepare to meet God. Heb. 9:27 says "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after his the judgment." Death and judgment are appointments all of us will keep. Friend, are you prepared?

For assistance, call 447-4766.  
Radio WJWS Sundays, 8:15-8:30.

## Sermon on the Mount

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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In chapter 4 of Matthew we find Jesus being attempted of the devil three times and resisting each time. He then began His ministry of teaching and helping. In so doing He showed His great love and compassion for all humanity. Great numbers began to follow Him, wanting to hear His teachings. In Matt. 5 we find that Jesus went up into a mountain and great crowds following Him, He sat down and spoke to the disciples.

In verses 3 through 9 we have Him speaking about the beatitudes, showing the importance of humility and the ability to feel for others as well as the blessings that go with these qualities. In verse 5 He mentions the meek, saying "They shall inherit the earth." Jesus was a meek man, but was never afraid to do all that was necessary to please God. A meek person is obedient to God. In v. 6 the discussion is about those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, and the promise that they will be filled. When we want to do right, then follow through, God will bless us. In v. 9 Jesus says that peacemakers shall be called the children of God. All of God's children must be peacemakers!

In verses 10-12 Jesus tells us that all faithful Christians can expect to be persecuted, reviled, and have all kinds of false things said against them. He tells them to not be downcast, worried, or to give up, as it is always been so with God's people. Jesus says that, if this is for righteousness' sake, be happy and rejoice: "for great is your reward in heaven." In other words, don't give up; but go forward with a greater determination than ever!

## Sermon on the Mount

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ  
409 W. High Street - South Hill, Va.

Friend, above all I want you to be saved— to go to heaven and avoid hell. To do so, in the light of what is taught in God's holy word, I firmly believe you must be obedient to God, Jesus was. You know He said, "My meat is to do the will of my Father which is in heaven." In Hebrews 5 we find that "though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered." He then "became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him." So when you obey Christ you are saved, but not before.

The "Sermon on the Mount" was written or spoken to teach how we should live as God's people. It is possibly the greatest sermon preached by Jesus. We will be studying it as recorded in Matt. 5, 6, and 7. We will see that it covers all phases of living and teaches us how we must live in today's harried world. As we study this we will realize that very few are living as Jesus taught that all should live. We cannot please God and love the things of the world.

As we study Jesus' beautiful sermon, we will see that what He taught was, in many instances, opposite to what was taught in the Old Testament. As He said "It was said of old time... but I say unto you." Jesus was introducing a new law, a new way of living that was to be followed until the end of time! He was later given all authority both in heaven and on earth. Thus we are to hear Him, as He is the "Author and finisher of our faith." Heb. 12:2. To understand better, why not read this sermon as recorded in Matt. 5, 6, and 7 before next week?

## You Are Somebody (No. 5)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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To be "Somebody", we don't have to be wealthy, powerful, good looking, hold any particular social position, or be of any specific race. But we do have to be humble and submissive to God. The greatest are those who serve best. Jesus, in several places, set the example. In the thirteenth chapter of John we remember that Jesus washed His disciples' feet, thus teaching the lesson of humility and service. So to be great, to really be somebody, we must never be selfish, but learn to serve others with joy. A true christian serves both God and man.

Everyone who is truly somebody has the mind of Christ. Please note Phil. 2:5-8: "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." It was then that God highly exalted Him, gave Him a name above every name — plus all authority, both in heaven and earth.

As Jesus became Somebody special by humbling Himself, and becoming obedient, so each one is truly somebody when we "Fear God and keep his commandments."

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## *You Are Somebody - Conclusion*

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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In these studies of "You Are Somebody" it has been my purpose to persuade all to realize that every person is important. Each of us should have the proper "self-esteem," for God created us in his own image. It is important that we know, beyond any doubt, that we did not evolve from some form of animal life. Thus, we accept that God is our maker - and we realize that He has given us His holy word to guide and direct us to the best possible life. Also, we know He will guide us to heaven after this life.

In Psalm 23:6 David said, "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." David could say this because he was a faithful child of God. Everyone today who hears, believes and obeys the gospel of Christ is a faithful christian, a child of the King, and has accepted Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords. He is ready to be guided each step of the way with Christ — to truly be somebody!

In Romans 8:6 we read, "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." So when you accept the invitation of Jesus to "Come unto me," you will have the peace of God which passes all understanding. You are truly "somebody" - somebody to truly live, worship God, and serve.

## Inspiration of the Bible

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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As was pointed out last week, the Bible claims to be inspired: "All scripture is given by the inspiration of God," and "Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." It was said to Moses in Ex. 4:12, "Now, therefore, go and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say."

In 2 Sam. 23:1-2, David said "The Spirit of the Lord spake by me, and his word is in my tongue." The Lord said to Jeremiah in Jer. 1:9 "I have put my words in thy mouth." In 2 Thess. 2:13 Paul expressed appreciation that they had "received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth the word of God, which effectually worketh in you that believe."

What is meant by inspiration? Our word "inspiration" literally means "a breathing in, God-spirited, God-breathed, or filled with the breath of God." The word implies an influence from without, producing effects which are beyond natural powers" (Miller). So we may safely conclude that inspiration is that influence which God exercises through the Holy Ghost over the minds of Biblical writers to make them exact in both the receiving and recording of His will.

God selected "Holy men" and gave them His infallible message to all men for all time, so that when we read and study the Bible we have God's message — not man's.

## Loving Life and Living Fully

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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In Psalm 23:6, David said "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Again, in the 119th Psalm, "Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I may live and keep thy word." This principle holds true for us all: Our lives, if they are directed by His word, will be fully lived — not a mere existence, nor lives of dread and fear. With God, we expect a good life and live to that end.

Age will not keep us from a life of usefulness — note Prov. 16:31 — "The hoary head is a crown of glory if it be found in the way of righteousness." Older people can be useful in encouraging the younger, in being a good example to all, in being courageous in service to God and in helping all to look up. The aged, the ill, shut-ins and infirm should not be discarded or cast aside. They should be loved, appreciated and supported in their needs.

We must have proper self-esteem and realize that it is "more blessed to give than to receive." Hereby we give of ourselves in service to God and man. We know we can overcome all temptation (1 Cor. 10:13) and that "The Lord is my helper" — Heb. 13:6 — and that Christians are told: "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (1 Per. 5:7)

To love God and serve Him diligently, giving of ourselves for others, is to really live — and this is love. May each of us live fully in the remaining 346 days of 1983.

Next: "Loving and Living," continued.

## Inspiration of the Bible

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ

409 W. High Street South Hill, Va.

Thank you, friend, for reading these weekly articles in *The Enterprise*. Our aim in writing is to help all to appreciate God, Christ, and the love they have shown us. This is expressed by God in sending His only begotten Son to die in our stead. Christ came and lived as a man (and as God), suffered humiliation, went about doing good, died the cruel death of the cross, was buried and raised the third day, and ascended back to God.

He is now at God's right hand, on His throne as King and Lord of lords. He understands our problems and ever lives to make intercession for us. However, all of God's love and Christ's sacrifice for us will mean nothing to us if the Bible is not from God by inspiration.

There are those, even in religion, who do not accept the Bible as being from God. Some want to accept it in part, but reject what they cannot reason out or what is supernatural. Thus, creation as God gave it is rejected, as well as the miracles, the virgin birth of Christ, His vicarious death and His resurrection. Some reject what is taught about hell and eternal punishment — possibly heaven itself.

In a series of lessons it will be shown that the Bible is inspired, not in part, but that all of it was indeed given by the "inspiration of God".

For assistance call 447-4766

## Loving Life and Living Fully

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ

409 W. High St. South Hill, Va.

God created man, so He knows his needs — both physical and spiritual. He has promised to take care of us if we will trust Him and follow His way. It was God's plan that man would love life and see good days. He wants us to live a life of joy, peace, and happiness. He wants us to have the good things of life.

It is my hope and prayer, as you continue in the 353 days of 1983, that good things will be yours. I know that if you will let God direct your life it will be a good life, regardless of problems or circumstances. The only way you can let God direct your life is to first come to Him, becoming a Christian and living a faithful life in Him (If you need assistance in studying and understanding God's word, call me at 447-4766).

What will 1983 bring us? We know not; but we know that all things will work together for our good if we truly love God — Romans 8:28. In Romans 8:31, we find "What shall we say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?" — then, in verse 37, "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

Jesus said in John 14:15, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." In verses 23 and 24 He says "If a man love me, he will keep my words... he that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings." To live fully we must love God and do His will.

## The Verse After

(Continued)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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As has been pointed out, sometimes a verse or verses of scripture will be isolated and taught to "prove" a point. The verse after may not be quoted because it might contradict the point a teacher or preacher is trying to get across. However, we need to be reminded that God's word does not contradict itself, but is in perfect harmony.

An example of this misuse of holy writ can be found in Rom. 10:13, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." This is used sometimes to try proving that all we have to do to be saved is, in effect, say "Lord, Lord." Of course, if we read on in verses 14 and 15, we find that we must hear and in order to hear must have a preacher. Then in verse 16 we read "But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith Lord, who have believed our report?" So we must hear, believe and obey.

Jesus said in Matt. 7:21, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord shall enter into the kingdom of heaven: but he that doeth the will of my father which is in heaven." Yes, we must confess Christ, but we must also heed what Jesus said in Luke 6:46, "And why call me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"

Next week: The Verse After, continued.

For Dial-a-Devotional" call 447-8749.

Radio WJWS, "Searching the Scriptures," Sunday.

8:15-8:30 a.m.

## The Carnal Mind

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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We are beginning a study of the carnal mind and of the spiritual mind. First, let us consider the carnal mind: What does it mean to have a carnal mind? Webster says, "Relating to or given to crude bodily pleasure and appetites; temperal, worldly." Paul stated in Rom. 8:6 "For to be carnally minded is death." Then in verses 7, 8, "For the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God." In Rom. 8:1 we read, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

In 1 Cor. 3:3, in condemning division in the church at Corinth, he said "For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife and divisions, are ye not carnal and walk as men?" In warning the Galatians against being carnally minded, Paul said in chapter 5:16, 17: "This I say then, walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the spirit, and the spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary to one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would."

Almost from the cradle to the grave there is a constant battle in every person. This battle is between right and wrong; between the flesh and the spirit. It is a battle between Christ and the devil. God and Christ will help us to not lust after the flesh, but the Spirit. But it is up to each person to decide on which will win!

## The Carnal Man (continued)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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As we have learned, the carnal man is one who lives after the flesh and thus dies spiritually. Rom. 8:13: "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify (put to death) the deeds of the body, ye shall live." Then in Gal. 5:24, Paul says, "And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts." Again in Gal. 6:7, 8, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

God is saying through Paul here that to be carnally minded is death. In 1 John 2:15 we read again, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." In entirely too many instances these three things are controlling people. Jesus put it this way in Matt. 5:28: "But I say unto you, that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."

In the Old Testament the act had to be committed before a person was guilty; but Jesus changed that and said that to sin in thought makes a man carnal. So to live the kind of life that will please God, we must learn to think "no evil." We learn to control our thoughts — then our deeds will be good.

## The Carnal Man (Conclusion)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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This week we are concluding the study of the "carnal man." To be carnal is to live after the flesh — to live after the standards of the world. We know there is a constant conflict between the flesh and the Spirit, and that the desires of the flesh are strong and will win over the Spirit if we will permit. However, we also know that "To be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."

In Gal. 5:19-21, Paul says, "Now the works of the flesh are manifest which are these." He goes on to name 17 different sins which are easy to see. Among these he lists "adultery, fornication, murders, drunkenness, and revellings." Then he goes on to warn, "and such like: of which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the Kingdom of God." We should teach our young people that "fornication" is a serious sin. All should know that getting drunk is sin; also adultery and all the other things mentioned in Gal. 5 and elsewhere. The sure way to not be a drunkard is to not drink!

In Rev. 21:8 we are told, "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake with fire and brimstone which is the second death." Friend, are you a Christian? Have you obeyed Christ's gospel, and are you walking after the Spirit rather than the flesh? If not, why not?

# The Bible, The Light-Giving Book

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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George Pepperdine wrote the following shortly before his death: "The Bible is the most wonderful book in the world. It does not claim to be a book of science, philosophy, geography, or history, but wherever it touches on these subjects it is unerringly accurate. The Bible leads us into realms in which science and the learning of men cannot follow.

"What mathematical equation could measure the depths of faith, patience, mercy or brotherly kindness? What test tube could determine the substance and strength of love, gentleness, virtue or loyalty? What slide-rule could prove the dimensions of joy, peace, or godliness? What scale could accurately weigh the spirit, mind or ideas of music or culture?"

"The Bible is a book which covers the relationship between God and men; the origin of the human race, the successes and failures of men's efforts to live as God challenged them to live. It tells of the destiny of man, both of the righteous and the unrighteous. We shall be judged by this book in the last day.

"The Bible charts our course through this world on the way from earth to heaven. The route is a meandering trip through many hardships, trials and sorrows until we determine to travel only on the high road through the obedience, worship, brotherly love, gentleness, temperance, peace of mind and charity to all."

Note: Brother Pepperdine sold the Western Auto stores in the thirties and established Pepperdine College in California. WBF.

# Follow The Book

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ

The Bible is God's inspired word. Without the Bible the world's history is incomplete and without it nothing would be known of a Savior. It is the book of a Man, the Man of men, the Peerless Son of God. It presents Him to us as "The way, the truth, and the life" — John 14:6. In the old testament He is predicted, but in the new testament He appears as our living, loving Lord. Without the Bible men would not know how to come to Him or how to live acceptably. Faith comes by hearing God's Word — Rom. 10:17. We are "brought forth by the word of truth" and have redemption through the blood of Christ.

they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them — Isa. 8:20.

The Bible is unique in purpose and content, and will lead all who live by it to a nobler plane on earth and to eternal life in heaven. It enriches all who will read it, believe it, and obey its teachings.

The Bible — not the ideas of men — should be the sole standards for all in religion. Error proceeds from man, but never from God — for His Word is infallible. "If

## The Verse After

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Preachers are commanded to "preach the word" and to handle aright the word of truth. It is important that we be fair and present all of the truth on any subject. We should never take a scripture out of its context or quote a verse while leaving off the next applicable verse because it might not fit in with some theory or idea of our own. So we must use the verse after or before if it helps to get across God's truth which makes free.

To clarify what we are saying, let us notice John 3:3. Jesus is speaking: "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Now, notice verse 5: "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." Verse 5 teaches that baptism is necessary for salvation, but if I don't accept this and quote verse 3, leaving out verse 5, I am not teaching the lesson that Jesus taught.

May we always teach and preach God's word just as it is — as He gave it. This will please God.

## The Verse After (Continued)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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As we continue to study about "the verse after," we focus on Acts 16:30-33. Verse 31 is often isolated to again prove that we are saved by faith without baptism. There are so many scriptures which teach plainly that baptism is essential for salvation that no one should misunderstand.

Let us notice: In Acts 16, Paul and Silas had been thrown into prison and the prison doors were opened. The jailor thought the prisoners had all escaped; but Paul assured him that all were still there. Then the jailor said to Paul and Silas, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?". In verse 31, they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." Some teachers and preachers will stop there, leaving off verses 32 and 33.

This is what is found in verses 32 and 33, "And they spake unto him the word of the Lord and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his straightway."

Note that when they heard the Word of the Lord, they were baptized at once — they couldn't wait even until tomorrow. Why? Because Paul had preached the gospel of Christ, which includes baptism for the remission of sins — (Acts 2:38). Yes, it is essential to preach the verse after!

For "Dial-a-Devotional" call 447-8749.  
Radio WJWS, Sundays, 8:15-8:30 a.m.

## The Bible Is Verbally Inspired

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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I am convinced that the Bible is verbally inspired — This means that the words, as well as the thoughts, of the sacred Word were inspired. Jesus promised this very type of inspiration. He said that the "Holy Spirit" would teach the apostles how and what to say. The "what" is the thought and the "how" is the verbiage or the manner of expression. This is verbal inspiration.

In Matt. 5:18, Jesus said "Til heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass away from the law, til all things are accomplished." Thus, He guarantees the verbal indestructibility of His word. Not even a "jot" (small letter) or a "tittle" (a small part of a letter) will pass away until all is fulfilled.

Paul, in 1 Cor. 2:13, said that he spoke "not in words which man's wisdom teacheth," but "in words which the Spirit teacheth." While the Holy Spirit moved men to write, yet He permitted them to use their own individual background. Paul was logical; John was more emotional — and they were not purely mechanical. In the writing of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John we see difference in styles of writing. At the same time, God was guiding their hands in writing so that, when it all came together, we have God's word and not man's.

It is amazing to see the compilation of forty writers, over a period of sixteen hundred years, presenting 66 books without a single contradiction of any note to be found. We can depend on it: The Bible is indeed inspired of God!

For assistance call 447-4766.

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Radio WJWS, Sundays, 8:15-8:30 a.m.

## God's Way for Man's Heart

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Last week we learned that Jesus said that to love God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength was the greatest commandment of all — and that the second greatest was to love our neighbor as ourselves. We must always remember that we are not to love in word or in tongue, but in deed and truth. Our actions prove our love.

God tested Abraham's love in Gen. 12 when He told him to leave his country, his kindred, and go to a place that God would show him. God promised to bless him, and that in his seed all nations of the earth would be blessed. Abraham courageously accepted, not knowing where he was going. God kept His promise, and wonderfully blessed Abraham and, through him, us even today.

Then, in Gen. 22, we find that God put Abraham to the ultimate test when He called on him to offer his only son as a sacrifice. God said to him, "Take now thy son, thine only son Issac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering." Abraham obeyed his God without question, and was ready to kill his only son, but God stayed his hand.

God tests our hearts in many ways. We can pass these tests only by being ready to do His will without question.

To be continued next week.

For assistance call 447-4766.

For "Dial-a-Devotional" call 447-8749.

Radio WJWS, Sundays, 8:15-8:30 a.m.

## Worshipping God

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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God demands first place in our lives. We cannot serve two masters. In Ex. 20:3 it is stated, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." Then, in Matt. 4:10, we find "It is written, thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." Jesus said in Mat. 6:24 "No man can serve two masters ... Ye can not serve God and mammon." Thus, God demands our allegiance in worship and service to Him. We worship God in "beauty of holiness."

Man, from the beginning of time, has turned to and worshipped other gods. The children of Israel's downfall was in turning from God and worshipping other gods. In the New Testament we find in Acts 17 that the Athenians were worshipping hundreds of gods. To make sure that they include all gods, they put on one inscription "TO THE UNKNOWN GOD." Paul pointed out that they should turn to the true God, who made the heavens and the earth and follow Him. In Acts 17:26 he stated, "For in him we live and move and have our being."

The people of Ephesus worshipped the goddess Diana; but when they turned to God they gave up their worship of Diana. When Peter came to Cornelius in Acts 10, he wanted to worship Peter. In verse 26 Peter said, "Stand up; I myself also am a man." Oh, yes, we are to worship only God!

## Worshipping God

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ  
409 West High St. — South Hill, Va.

In Psalm 29:2 and 96:10, we read "Worship the Lord in beauty of holiness." Jesus, in resisting the devil, in Matt. 4:10 stated, "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." Then we find in John 4:24, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and truth." So we learn that proper worship to God is beautiful; that we are to worship only God. Our worship must be with the right attitude and according to His will.

Our special day of worship together is Sunday, the first day of the week, the Lord's day. John said in Rev. 1:10, "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day." In our worship to God we are not to exalt one above another, but worship Him constantly on the first day of the week in "beauty and holiness."

One of the avenues of worship is partaking of the supper of the Lord, or observing the communion, as a memorial to Christ. Why partake of the communion every first day of the week? Here is a concrete example for us to follow: Acts 20:7, "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them." So, just as the first-century Christians remembered Christ in this memorial, we are to follow their example.

## Stephen: The First Christian Martyr

By W. B. Freeman, Minsiter  
South Hill Church of Christ  
409 W. High Street South Hill, Va.

In Acts, Chapter 6, we have the selection of seven men for the office of what is usually termed deacons to serve that large Jerusalem church. These were to see that the Grecian widows were taken care of. Two of these deacons soon became preachers — Philip and Stephen. So far as we know, Stephen preached only one sermon; but that one goes down in Bible history as one of the greatest. It is recorded in Acts 7, and I suggest that you read all of it.

The burden of Stephen's sermon was to prove, beyond any doubt, that Christ, whom they had crucified, was indeed the Son of God. He began with Abraham and proved by Old Testament history that Jesus was the Christ — and that they were guilty of murdering the innocent Son of God.

In verse 51 he said to them, "Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: As your fathers did, so do ye." Then in verse 52 he called them the "betrayers and murderers" of Christ.

Stephen was preaching to some of the most religious people of that day. His words, to some, might seem harsh, but we must remember that he was speaking by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost. So, he was speaking for Christ. He was speaking the truth that would have made them free — if they had accepted it as did the Jews on Pentacost (Acts 2: 37-41).

## The Resurrection - Part II

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ

Last week's study covered pre-trial circumstances, the trial and sentencing, the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ the son of God. In pondering on these vital matters, let us consider the alternative course for humanity.

What if Christ had not been raised? For one thing, we would not have songs such as "Joy To The World," "Fairest Lord Jesus," "The Love Of God," "I Love To Tell The Story" and innumerable others that inspire many toward God.

There would not be the multitude of good works among men such as schools, orphanages, hospitals ... There would be a sad lack of missions. Also, there would be no "golden rule" — Matt. 7:12.

We would have no New Testament with its path of

Christianity with attendant blessings. Neither would we have the one perfect and beautiful life on earth as exemplified by Jesus Himself recorded in the New Testament. Think of the good He did in His short life!

Without Christ's resurrection, we would have no way, no church into which all are invited by its Founder to come and follow His example for eternal salvation — John 14:1-5.

## Stephen: The First Christian Martyr, No. 2

By W. B. Freeman, Minsiter  
South Hill Church of Christ  
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We have learned that Stephen, by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, preached a powerful sermon to some of the Jews who had crucified Christ, in Acts 7. He called them "stiff-necked, betrayers and murderers" of the Just One — that is, Christ. There is no question but that Stephen was preaching the unvarnished truth to those hard-hearted Jews. But how did they accept God's truth?

In verse 54 we read, "When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart and they gnashed on him with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord and cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep." So Stephen, a great man of God, became the first martyr for Christ.

Stephen died peacefully, although in tremendous pain. It can truly be said of him "Though he being dead yet speaketh." His life and death inspires every dedicated preacher of the gospel to be faithful in "preaching the word."

## Remember Now Thy Creator

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Solomon told young people to "Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth." Solomon was a man of wisdom and experience, having set out to see what was good for man all the days of his life. He tested almost everything his heart desired, and came to the conclusion that "things will not bring real happiness." So his conclusion for all young people was to "Remember now thy creator." God is our Creator and He knows what is best for us. Ps. 100:3 tells us to "Know ye that the Lord he is God: It is he that made us, and not we ourselves."

Since God made man, He knows what is best for every one of us and what will bring real peace and happiness to our lives. When Solomon says, "Remember thy Creator," he is saying to look to Him and to serve Him. Young people who begin in their youth to serve God never regret it. But one's allegiance must be to God alone — not to God and Satan, as "No man can serve two masters." When we serve God, we add and subtract. We add those things that are good, and subtract that which, in the long run, will bring unhappiness and misery.

As Solomon closed the book of Ecc. he said in chapter 12 and verses 13 and 14, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil." So to remember God, young friend, you must fear God and keep His commandments. When you do this you are doing what is the very best for yourself.

## *The Apostle Paul: The Man*

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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As we continue to study the life of the apostle Paul, we continue to see that he was a great man: A man with strength of character, who could always be trusted to do what was right. As we read his writings and hear him preach, we see his great love for God and all people. He wanted all people to be saved but he had a special feeling for his own people, the Jews.

He stated in Rom. 9:2, 3, "I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh." Then in Rom. 10:1, "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved." In Rom. 1:14, Paul felt he was a debtor to everyone. Then in verse 15 he said, "So as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also." In verse 16 he tells why the gospel of Christ is so essential to everyone. "For it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

So to be a great preacher one must be a great man, love all people, and above all preach Christ's gospel, God's power to save. It must not be changed or diluted. (To be continued).

## *The Apostle Paul: The Man*

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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409 W. High Street South Hill, Va.

This week we are studying about the apostle Paul - the kind of man he was. As we remember, he was called Saul until after his conversion. In Acts 13:9 we find the first record of his being called "Paul," but throughout his life after this he is Paul. Paul was a Jew born in Tarsus, educated at the feet of Gamaliel, being devout and a strong persecuter of the Lord's church until his conversion.

Paul was honest and conscientious in all that he did. He persecuted the church because he was convinced that Christ was an imposter. He thought Jesus had established the church under false pretenses. But we also remember that as soon as he learned he was persecuting the Son of God, he asked "Lord, what will thou have me to do?" As soon as he could, he obeyed the Lord (Acts 22:16). Through the remainder of his life, he seemed to try doing more than his duty in trying to make amends for his sins.

As a man, Paul was not afraid to work, and is a good example to us who preach today. He was a tentmaker by trade (you remember that Christ was a carpenter by trade Mark 6:3) and worked at this to support himself and preach Christ's glorious gospel. We preachers need to work and suffer hardship to understand and to be a good example also.

## *The Apostle Paul: The Man* (CONTINUED)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ  
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In writing about Paul, "The Man," we have given you only a "Bird's Eye View" of Paul as a man. To get a better understanding of Paul as a man, why not read the book of Acts and the letters he wrote to individuals as well as churches? You will be wonderfully blessed, enlightened, and enriched.

Paul had learned the lesson of contentment. Please note Phil. 4:11, "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." Then in verse 12, "I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need." He goes on to say in verse 13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Thus, we see, he was content because he trusted in and followed Christ, not himself.

Paul stated in Phil. 4:4, "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, rejoice." Paul at this time was in prison but he could say, Phil. 3:1, "Finally my brethren rejoice in the Lord." Paul as a man, both by precept and example encourages us to be content and rejoice in the Lord always. He could do this because he had obeyed Christ in becoming a Christian and was faithful to his calling.

## *The Apostle Paul (Continued)*

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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In 2 Kings 2:2, just before David died, he said to Solomon his son, "I go the way of all the earth: Be thou strong, therefore, and show thyself a man." God has always wanted real men to carry out His work. He chose many who were real men — like Noah, Abraham, Moses, Samuel, David and others. However, He chose some who did good works at times, but at the end did not turn out too well. Among these were Saul, the first king, Solomon, Samson, and of course Judas — to name a few.

When God chose Paul to be an apostle, He not only chose a great apostle, but also a real man. He was an honest man with the strength of character to do what was right, regardless of what men might say or do to him. On one occasion, some told him if he went to Jerusalem he would be bound. Paul's reply was: "I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

Paul was a real man in his unselfishness. In Phil. 1 he said he was undecided as to whether to remain or depart and be with the Lord. Then he said it was more needful that he remain with them and that is what he did — Phil. 1:23,24. We appreciate Paul the apostle. We appreciate the man Paul.

For assistance call 447-4766.

For "Dial-a-Devotional" call 447-8749.

Radio WJWS, Sundays, 8:15-8:30 a.m.

## Saul of Tarsus

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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It is interesting to note that when we first meet this great man, who later became the apostle Paul, he was known as Saul the Persecuter. In Acts 7:58 those who were stoning Stephen to death "laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul." Then we find, in Acts 8:1, "And Saul as consenting unto his (Stephen's) death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem." The Lord's church was scattered abroad and they went everywhere preaching the word.

In Acts 8:3 it is stated that "as for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women, committed them to prison." Again, in Acts 9:1,2 "And Saul, yet breathing out threatening and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, and desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem."

Saul thought at this time that he was doing God a favor by persecuting Christians. He thought he was doing God's will. He said later (in Acts 23:1) "I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day." This teaches that our consciences are not a safe guide, unless properly taught. (To be continued).

## Saul of Tarsus: His Conversion

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ

409 W. High Street South Hill, Va.

As we left Saul last week he was en route from Jerusalem to Damascus to bind Christians, both women and men, and bring them back to Jerusalem. As he and his company neared Damascus, something happened. A light from heaven suddenly surrounded him. He fell to the earth and heard a voice saying "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?"

Paul in his excitement asked, "Who art thou, Lord?" Jesus answered "I am Jesus, whom thou persecutest." Then Saul, trembling and astonished, said "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" Jesus then told him to "Arise and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do."

At this time Saul realized that, instead of doing God's will, he had been persecuting Christ. All the while he was making havoc of the church, consenting to the death of Stephen, and breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples, he was indeed persecuting Christ.

Now Saul realized that to be saved, there was something that he must do. Why? Because Jesus had told him to go on to the city and he would learn what he must do. Saul did not question further, but arose and went directly to Damascus to find out what it was that he must do. Next, we will learn just what Saul did to be saved.

## saul of Tarsus (Continued)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ

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As we have learned, Saul was consenting to the death of Stephen and making havoc of the Church. He was convinced that Christ was an imposter and that the mouths of Christians must be stopped. His zeal in this was tremendous. He said of himself in Phil. 3:8 "Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless."

This is why he could say "I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day."

In Acts 9, he gets his authority from the high priest to go to Damascus and bind Christians, men and women, and bring them back to Jerusalem. Damascus is 140 miles one way, making the trip 280 miles. Taking such a trip on foot proves Saul's determination to do what he thought was right in God's sight.

Zeal is commendable in anyone. But, if it is not coupled with knowledge, zeal will do more harm than good. Certainly, each person should do what his or her conscience dictates — if at the same time there is honest mind-searching; that is, satisfied with nothing less than God's holy truths.

His promise is "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth will make you free." (To be continued).

## Saul of Tarsus: His Conversion

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Jesus had spoken to Saul on his way to Damascus, and Saul asked, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" Jesus told him to "Go into the city and it shall be told thee what thou must do." — Acts 9:6. Saul then went to Damascus to find out what he is to do to be saved. Saul was without sight for three days and nights while waiting.

In Acts 9:10-18, we learn of a certain disciple named Ananias who was told by the Lord to go to Saul and help him to receive his sight and to assist him in becoming a child of God.

Ananias had heard of Saul's reputation and at first did not want to go, but was finally persuaded to. When he laid his hands on Saul the scales fell from his eyes and he received his sight and was baptized by Ananias.

In Acts 22, Saul (his name having been changed to Paul) relates his conversion. In verse 16 he states that Ananias said to him "And now, why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." So, Saul was not saved on the way to Damascus, but when he was baptized to "wash away" his sins.

Jesus had said in Mark 16:16 "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Then in Acts 2:38, "Repent and be baptized ... for the remission of sins." Paul said in Gal. 3:27, "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Saul heard, believed, and obeyed the gospel of Christ to be saved.

## Add: "Brotherly Kindness"

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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After adding to faith virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, and godliness, we are to add "brotherly kindness" — which is "having a gentle, considerate nature; sympathetic."

Eph. 4:32 saates, "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." And 1 Cor. 13:4, "Charity (love) suffereth long and is kind."

We find in Rom. 12:10 "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another," and in Heb. 13:1, "Let brotherly love continue."

Our kindness extends to all men, but especially to those who are Christians. Kindness is expressed in thought, word, and deed. Kindness is helpfulness. It is to become a part of our nature — real.

Brotherly kindness will help one to be happy and to enjoy serving others. It also helps in avoiding selfishness, thus making us more like our Lord. We know that "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

## Add Patience

(2 Peter 1:5-8)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
Church of Christ  
409 W. High Street South Hill, Va.

After adding to our faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge temperance, then we are to add patience: "steadfastness despite opposition, difficulty or adversity." In Romans 5:3,4 we read, "We glory in tribulations also; knowing that tribulation worketh patience, and patience experience, and experience hope." Then, in Col. 1:11, "Strengthened with all might according to His glorious power, unto all patience and long suffering with joyfulness."

When we grow in patience, then we will be able to adjust to life and take well whatever comes. Paul "learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." A patient person lives a healthier and more serene life than an impatient person. Patience has a bearing on happiness.

We must grow in patience as is stated in James 1:4 — "But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." Patience is a part of successful living.

## Add Temperance (Self-Control)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
Church of Christ  
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We have learned that to our faith we must add virtue and knowledge. To knowledge we are to add temperance. This is another way of saying we must learn self-control. Paul stated in 1 Cor. 9:27 "But I keep under by body, and bring it into subjection: lest by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."

In Prov. 16:32 we read "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city." Then in Prov. 25:28, "He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls."

With God's help we must be temperate in all things. We must learn to say "No" — to do and partake of what is good for us in moderation and to leave off altogether whatever is harmful. We must control our thoughts, temper, actions, words, and desires. Thus we will direct our energies to do good — to serve God and our fellow man.

## Growing in Christ: Virtue

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ

After getting into Christ by complying with His terms, we are to grow in Him: "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." — 2 Peter 3:18. In 2 Peter 1:5, we are told "and besides this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue."

To give diligence means to give steady, earnest application. "Virtue" is the courage to do right, regardless of what others may do, say, or think. In the area of morals we will be pure and clean. We are to understand what sin is and avoid it.

The works of the flesh are listed in Gal. 5:19-21, and in other scriptures. Here, 17 sins are named. Among these are "Adultery, fornication, murders and drunkenness." When we add virtue we have the courage, with God's help, to avoid all these sins.

We are to learn to "abstain from all appearance of evil" — 1 Thess. 5:22. Parents, are you a good example to your children and young people? Do you "bring them up on the nurture and admonition of the Lord?" — Eph. 6:4. If not, why not?

## “Godliness With Contentment”

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Greetings, friend. We appreciate very much your reading these short articles each Wednesday in *The Enterprise*. It is my desire that you have contentment in your life, along with godliness. If so, you have great gain. Too many people trust in things rather than God. David stated in Ps. 20:7 “Some trust in chariots, some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God.” The rich, young ruler went away sorrowful because he trusted in his riches and refused to obey the Lord.

Today, people trust in cars, bank accounts, education, pleasure — so many other things — rather than God. To be happy and have peace of mind we must have godliness, and this brings a contentment that is lasting because we are laying up treasures in heaven. We remember that Jesus said “Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” In Col. 3:2 we read, “Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth.” Rom. 8:6 states, “For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.” If we are spiritually minded, then God is for us — and “If God be for us, who can be against us?”

Only those who have obeyed Christ’s gospel which is God’s power to save can add godliness to their lives. So to have “godliness with contentment” in one’s life it is necessary to come to Him and become a child of God. Then one can endeavor day by day to be more like Him, with His help. Not only will we have the necessities of life here, but eternal life in heaven!

## The Gospel Is Good News

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ  
409 W. High Street - South Hill, Va.

Beyond any doubt, the gospel of Christ is the greatest boon that ever came to mankind. However, unfortunately, very few people are interested in this good news and will be lost in hell for not taking advantage of it. The plan of salvation which Christ gave is easy to understand and obey. It will bring peace and serenity in this life and everlasting joy in the world to come.

Let us note 1 Cor. 2:9: “But as it is written, eye have not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.” In Rev. 14:13, we read “Blessed are the dead in the Lord from henceforth: Yea saith the Spirit, that they may rest from all their labors; and their works do follow them.” You know, it was Jesus who said in John 14 “In my Father’s house are many mansions ... I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you I will come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”

Then let us note Rev. 21:4: “And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; For the former things are passed away.” Also note Rev. 22:14: “Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have a right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.” For these wonderful blessings, one must “die in the Lord” by “doing his commandments.” Friend, are you preparing for eternity with God, Christ, and the redeemed? The only way is to “Fear God and keep his commandments.”

## How To Continue In Christ

We learned that to become a Christian we must hear God’s Word, believe in Christ, repent, confess Christ, and be baptized into Christ — water baptism.

After this, “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.” — 1 Pet. 2:2. We learn in 2 Pet. 3:18, “But grow in the grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

Let us notice 2 Pet. 1:5-10: “And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity (love). For if these things be in you and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful ... For he that lacketh these things is blind ... and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins ... for if ye do these things ye shall never fall.”

Thus, we must “run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher (perfector) of our faith.” — Heb. 12:2,3.

Next: “Adding Virtue.”

## God’s Way for Man’s Heart

We learned last week that Abraham’s heart was tested and stood the test. Our hearts are tested daily, so let us, with God’s help, prepare our hearts and minds to pass the most severe tests. We keep in mind that where our treasure is, there will our hearts be also (Matt. 6:21) and that we are to forgive from our hearts, also — Matt. 18:31. All Christians are to love one another with a pure heart fervently — 1 Pet. 1:22.

When we love God with all our hearts, we seek to please Him in all that we do. Thus, love is an integral part of our lives — 1 Cor. 13. So we suffer long and are kind, and let envy have no place in our way of living. We are not high-minded, but humble. Love does not seek its own, is patient and kind; does not act unbecomingly. Love does not brag, and is not easily provoked. Love rejoices in the truth and hates evil.

We must not overlook the second greatest commandment — “Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.” What does it mean? To get Jesus’ answer, please read about the good Samaritan in Luke 10: 25-37. Here we find a man beaten, robbed, and left half dead. The priest and the Levite look at him and pass by on the other side. The Samaritan comes along, has compassion on him, binds up his wounds, and tenderly cares for him — proving he loves his neighbor.

## Living for Jesus

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ  
409 W. High Street - South Hill, Va.

In 2 Pet. 1:4-11 we have some beautiful and meaningful lessons on living for Jesus. Note v. 4: "Whereby are given to us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." Then in verses 5-7 we find what we are to add: "Beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity (love)."

These are commonly called "the seven graces" and, as we note in 8-11, we must add these if we are to go on to heaven. "For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure; for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: for so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

Thus, we see how vitally important it is that we, after becoming a christian, live for Jesus in a way that will please Him. We should all want to go to heaven so much that we will do the will of Our Lord as it is written for us.

## The Bible

(Adapted from "Greetings")

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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The Bible is God's inspired word. It is the book of a man — The Man of men, the peerless Son of God. It presents Him as our Savior, the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6). He is our living, loving Lord. Without the Bible men would not know how to come to Him, or live acceptably in God's sight. Without the Bible, man would be in utter ignorance of the future.

This Book should be our standard of appeal in all religious matters. Error proceeds from men — never from God. His word is absolutely infallible: "If they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" — Isa. 8:20.

The Bible should be our guide — a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. It should be our daily meditation: "O how love I thy law; it is my meditation all the day." (Ps. 11:07). If we will let it be our guide, it will comfort us in sorrow and its words will whisper hope and peace in the death hour.

Next week: "The Bible," continued.

For "Dial-a-Devotional" call 447-8749.

Radio WJWS, "Searching the Scriptures," Sunday, 8:15-8:30 a.m.

## Living for Jesus (Conclusion)

By W.B. Freeman, Minister  
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Friend, it is my sincere desire and prayer that you are indeed living for Jesus— or that you want earnestly to do so. Remember, only those who are in Christ can live for Him. In Gal. 3:27 Paul stated, "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." So the big question is: Have you been baptized into Christ? If so, you are in position to live the christian life, which is a life of growth and of dedication, love, sacrifice, joy, and fellowship in Christ.

Do you know that well over half of the New Testament was written to teach how to love for Christ? Let us note what is said in Col. 3:1-4 "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, and not on things on the earth. For your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory." This is indeed a beautiful admonition and promise, isn't it? Then in v. 5 we are told to mortify our members which are upon the earth. In v. 6 we find: "For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience."

Then, beginning with v. 8, "But now ye also have put off all these; anger, wrath, malice,...filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds...Put on therefore as the elect of God...bowls of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness...and above all these things put on charity (love) which is the bond of perfectness." Friend, let me encourage you to read, study, and follow God's holy word.

## Inspiration of the Bible

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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409 W. High Street South Hill, Va.

The question of inspiration of the Bible is vital. If it is not of divine origin, we cannot rely on its statement of fact; we need not bow to its claim of authority; neither can we derive comfort or hope from its promises. On the other hand, if the Bible came from God, its authority is unquestionable and its statements are infallible.

The Bible claims inspiration. In 2 Tim. 3:16-17 we read, "All scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

So we see that "all scripture" came from God — not to be edited by man — and that the purpose was that the "man of God" would be completely furnished for all good works. But we note further in 2 Pet. 1:21, "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: But holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Spirit."

Even the casual reader of the Bible has no doubt been impressed by the frequent use of such expressions as "Thus saith the Lord", "God spake", and "The Lord hath spoken it". It is said that the prophets used these expressions more than 1,300 times, and in the Old Testament 2,500 such phrases on the authorship of God are found.

## Count Your Blessings

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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409 W. High St. — South Hill, Va.

The first stanza of "Count Your Blessings," song No. 68 in "Sacred Selections for the Church," states "When upon life's billows you are tempest-tossed, when you are discouraged, thinking all is lost, count your many blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord hath done."

Yes, we get discouraged - thinking sometimes that life is not fair. So we need to stop and begin to truly see "what the Lord hath done," and that He has wonderfully blessed us. In Ps. 136:1 we read, "O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever." This Psalm closes out in verse 26 saying "O give thanks unto the God of heaven: for his mercy endureth for ever."

This same expression is used in every verse in this chapter. So we are to count our many blessings and really see what God has done — not for others only, but for me, for you, for each one of us!

David said in Ps. 34:4, "I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears." Man's greatest need today is to seek the Lord, to be a child of His — realizing that "If God be for us, who can be against us?" Hear, believe, repent, confess Christ, be baptized into Him and be thankful.

## Count Your Blessings

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Greetings, friend! I continue to desire that each of us may "Count Your Blessings" and daily thank the great God who created us for His merciful love and goodness to us. Please note the third stanza of the above song — "When you look at others with their lands and gold, think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold; Count your many blessings money cannot buy, your reward in heaven, nor your home on high."

Not only do we have a promise of heaven where all will be peace and happiness; but God's children will be blessed in this life. When we hear, believe, and obey Christ's gospel, we also have the best that is possible in this life. The fruit of the Spirit is "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance" — Gal. 5:22, 23.

Every true child of God is rich, having the best things of life, regardless of how much or how little he possesses of this world's goods. In Phil. 4:4 Paul says, "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say rejoice." Then, in verse 7, "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Friend, be certain that you are His child. Accept only the truth of God and His way, and remember "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free" and "Thy word is truth."

## Count Your Blessings

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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409 W. High St. — South Hill, Va.

The second stanza of the song "Count Your Blessings" says "Are you ever burdened with a load of care? Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear? Count your blessings, every doubt will fly, and you will be singing as the days go by." Oh, yes, we need to look at the good side of life and to be able to see the wonderful blessings God has bestowed upon us.

God's greatest blessing to us is His love: "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" — John 3:16. God did not give one of many sons; He gave His "only begotten Son" as a substitute for my sins, for your sins, for the sins of the whole world.

Jesus, as is stated in Phil. 2:1, "Humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." This, after He was persecuted, accused of being born a sinner, mocked, scourged, spit upon, slapped, before being crucified between two thieves.

But we thank God that Jesus made the supreme sacrifice for us and "became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him." — Heb. 5:9.

## Why Serve God?

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Jesus said in the "Sermon on the Mount" in Matt. 6:24, "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and Mammon." Then in Matt. 4:10, in resisting one of the devil's temptations, He said "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." There is no question that there is every advantage in serving God — and none in serving the one who "was a murderer from the beginning ... for he is a liar and the father of it." (John 8:44) My friend, are you serving God or the devil?

Joshua told the Israelites in Joshua 24:15 "Choose you this day whom you will serve ... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." It was said of Moses in Heb. 11:25, "choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." Turning out to be the great men in Bible history as they did Joshua and Moses are a great inspiration and encouragement to us today in serving God. For that matter, so are Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph, plus all others who died and suffered so much for us. These also include Paul, Peter, John and all faithful apostles, as well as a faithful servants of God from then until this day.

Friend, you must choose to serve God, or else you are serving the devil — for there is no middle ground! The gospel of Jesus Christ God's power to save you and me; but it will only save when we obey it — Him. This is true of all who have reached the age when they are accountable to God.

For information, call 757-7218.  
Radio WJWS Sundays, 7:05-7:20.

## The Spiritual Man

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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After enumerating the works of the flesh in Gal. 5: 19-21, Paul turns to the fruit of the Spirit. In verses 22, 23, he says "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: Against such there is no law." Then in verse 24, "They that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts."

LOVE: Remember, we are to love God with our whole being and our neighbors as ourselves — and we are to love even our enemies. Love is indeed the greatest thing in the world. The Christian life is a life of JOY. In Phil. 4:4 Paul said "Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say, rejoice." The writer, in 1 Pet. 1:8 states "Ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory."

God wants us to have PEACE — first, peace with God, then with our fellow man, and peace within ourselves. Paul stated in Rom. 12:18 "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." Jesus said to His disciples in John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: Not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

When one obeys Christ, coming to Him, he is assured of the best things in life. However, one must, even after becoming a Christian, follow the "fruit of the Spirit" if he is to be eternally saved. No man can serve two masters. It is a choice between God and Satan.

For the present we are concluding the study of the "Spiritual man." It will be studied more later. When one comes to Christ, deciding to obey Him, he will become a Christian and thus ceases to be carnal. Being Spiritual, he then is controlled by the Lord rather than Satan — and he is working in his own best interest.

As has been pointed out, he is following the fruit of the Spirit: Love, joy, peace (Gal. 5:22). One also becomes long-suffering. This takes patience and self-control, even in adversity. Paul said in 1 Cor. 13:4 "Love suffereth long and is kind." Again, in Eph. 4:2, 3 "With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Gentleness is also a fruit of the Spirit, along with goodness, faith and meekness. When we are meek or humble, then we can be submissive to God. In 1 Pet. 5:6, 7 we read "Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."

James 4:6-10 gives us a wonderful lesson on humility. Please note: "Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh unto God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye doubleminded .... Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." We must develop the attitude of "Speak, Lord, and I will hear; command, Lord, and I will obey."

# Tr **esurrection**

(Matthew 26 and 27)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ

In pondering on the resurrection of Christ we consider His agony in the garden, His betrayal with a kiss for 30 pieces of silver by Judas before the trial.

We can see the mockery in the arrest, trial, and conviction of the sinless Son of God who was compelled to carry His own cross. Though Jesus did not have to do this, think of what would have happened to us if He had not died!

Our Saviour was scourged, taunted, spat upon, and reviled. Beyond humiliation, the torture of spikes in His hands was almost unbearable

— See Him cry out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" in Mark 15:34. Then "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" in Luke 23:34.

After commending His spirit to the Father, Christ died, the just for the unjust, was buried — then, thank God, He arose on the third day according to the Scriptures (Matt. 28:1-6; Mk. 16:9; Luke 24:6; Cor. 15:1-8).

Yes, God did indeed "so" love you and me! This means if we obey Christ we can be saved. See Hebrew 5:8,9.

# Search the Scriptures

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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We continue to exhort you, friend, to "search the scriptures." As you study God's word, do so for the right reasons and with an open mind - always anxious to know and do His will. Search the scriptures to know what to do to be saved; but keep in mind that the Bible teaches us how to live here. God's word is not just to die by, but is also a book to live by.

Do search the scriptures for yourself - and don't swallow "hook, line, and sinker" what we preachers say! We can be wrong. A good illustration: A woman was contending that Adam and Eve would not have eaten of the "forbidden apple" since apples did not grow in the land of Mesopotamia, where supposedly the garden of Eden was. When asked where she got her information, she said "My Sunday school teacher told me so". Her mistake was in assuming the forbidden fruit was an apple. If she had studied for herself, she would have found Gen. 2:17 simply stating "the tree of knowledge of good and evil." We are not told the kind of fruit.

Yes, we should listen to what others teach; but with so much misinformation and false teaching, we must search the scriptures for ourselves. Our attitude should be, "O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day."

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## How to Seek the Lost

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ  
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The word "lost" is a terrifying word. We hate to think of anyone being physically lost. However, it is so much worse to be spiritually lost. This means that unless one is found and brought to Christ, this person will be doomed to an eternal punishment! More than that, the lost will miss heaven, the home of the soul.

In order to seek the lost we must love the souls of all — the unloveable as well as the good moral people who are lost. We must seek the good, the bad, the indifferent — even those who do not realize they are lost.

To effectively seek the lost, one must be ready to sacrifice and to not give up. This means that, realizing the fate of the lost, we will do all within our power to save them. This takes a real dedication and staying power on the part of the seeker.

In Luke 15: 1-7, we have the parable of the lost sheep. We find here that the shepherd, on realizing that one sheep was lost, went into the wilderness to search until he found it — then, he put it on his shoulders, rejoicing. After this he came home, calling his friends together saying, "Rejoice with me." Why? He had found the lost sheep.

In verse 7, Jesus says "Likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth." We seek the lost by finding the lost and bringing them to Christ. (to be continued).

## Why Seek the Lost?

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Why seek the lost? Because they are lost — doomed, on the way to hell where they will remain forever and ever. The lost are without Christ. To be without Christ means to be without all spiritual blessings; Eph. 1:3b "Who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ."

Also, LOST is to be without salvation — Acts 4:12 "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Jesus said in John 8:12 "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

To be without Christ is to be without strength: Rom. 5:6 "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly." In Eph. 2:12 we read "That at that time ye were without Christ ... having no hope, and without God in the world," and again in verse 14, "He is our peace." Rom. 5:1 says "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

In 2 Cor. 5:17 we read "Therefore if any man be in Christ he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new." How does one get into Christ? Gal. 3:27 states "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." To be continued.

## Ephesians 4:28

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Eph. 4:28 reads: "Let him that stole steal no more; but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth." Paul is here writing to those who had heard Christ's gospel, had believed it, repented, confessed Christ and had been baptized for the remission of sins. They are told: "Let him that stole steal no more." When the ten commandments were given in Exodus, one of them was "Thou shalt not steal." So it is wrong to steal from others. It is a way of life for many, but stealing is a sin. One can steal in many ways, so each of us must watch and deal honestly with all people.

God's solution for us to have what we need is to labor, "working with his hands." This was not only for our own needs, but that we might be able to help others. Jesus is a good example for us in work: He worked in Joseph's carpenter shop and as a carpenter, Himself. Then after He started His ministry, He said in John 9:4, "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." Throughout His earthly ministry He was constantly busy doing God's work.

God designed that we should work, and working with our hands is good for us - as long as we are working that which is good. Paul stated in 2 Thess. 3:10, "For even when we were with you, this we commanded you. that if any would not work, neither should he eat."

## The Agony of Loneliness

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Loneliness is, no doubt, one of the most desolate words in the human language. It plays no favorite, ignores all rules of courtesy, as it strikes people in various situations. Loneliness comes uninvited and it stays and stays. It is painful, and it can be dispiriting when it comes and stays.

Just ask the inmate in prison, the person who has just buried a companion or loved one. The couple who have just buried a young child know it, as do the elderly and the shut-ins who are neglected. We can include those who feel useless and not needed. Many teenagers who feel that their parents don't understand — sometimes running away from home and becoming disillusioned.

Let us not forget those who serve country, many of whom may be away from home for the first time, and the wife whose husband is away on business for long periods. This list could go on and on.

We are a nation of strangers, and this brings or loneliness. Too many times we meet, speak, and pass or — never getting to know each other. All hunger for recognition, but in our busy world it may never come. We know the names of those around us — uptown, across town, but we are so busy we don't have time to really get acquainted. Thus, with people all around, we are still lonely.

## Eph. 4:28 (Continued)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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In Eph. 4:28, we are taught to not steal, but instead to labor, working with our hands the thing which is good. This has two purposes: to take care of our own needs and to help those who are in need. Everyone, especially our young people, should be taught that work is honorable and that it is good for us. It may not always be the work we would like to do most - and could be a work we detest. On the other hand, at first we may not like to work at all!

If most young people are like I was when I was growing up, they will work in the beginning because they have to! It was my job to bring in and help milk the cows, chop wood, work in the garden and the field, and whatever else was needed done on the farm my parents had in middle Tennessee. There was one job I did like -- picking cotton! When you think about it, there is an art in picking cotton, milking cows, yes, even using a pick and shovel, mowing a lawn, and many other things that come under **manual labor**. So, young friend, don't be afraid to work at any honest work.

Honest work will help one to develop a good conscience, rest better, and have a good influence on others. Further, as in my case, we learn to enjoy work as we grow older and appreciate its value. But next week we will learn that, if a man won't work he should not eat.

## Coping With Loneliness

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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As we have mentioned, loneliness strikes people in all walks of life. All of us feel it in some degree. Loneliness strikes hard, making us feel unappreciated and ill-treated. Loneliness sneaks into the office, the hospital room; it comes to the bereaved, to the alcoholic who has lost his family. It makes people feel that life is not fair — in many instances that there is no hope. It fosters gloom, self-pity, a feeling of being trapped, and sometimes leads to suicide.

There are no simple solutions; but some things will help. Get busy; get involved in helping others. This will help to get our minds off ourselves. Verbalize frustrations to someone you can trust, and let it out. Let them know how you feel and what's troubling you. You may find others as lonely as you.

Although Jesus had people around Him much of the time, He was alone, except for God and His apostles. What did He do? He went about doing good, healing many and helping the lonely, the outcasts, the friendless. Keeping occupied in this way, He looked up — He trusted in God. Today the cure for loneliness is to look up, trust in God and read and follow His word daily.

Next: Elijah and His Loneliness.

## As We Grow Older

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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This article is a follow-up of last week's, and is being written on my birthday — June 16. The fact that it is another birthday proves that I am growing older. You, my friend, are growing older, as is everyone. However, this is nothing to fear or dread; but rather something for which to be thankful: God has spared us through this day or this year. As time goes by we become all the more conscious of time. This should cause us to determine to use our time in the service of God, our families and our fellow-man.

We remember that life, at best, is short and that we soon "fly away." So we want to use our lives as constructively as possible, thus we "number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." Eph. 5:16 says, "Redeeming the time, because the days are evil" — and then verse 17 adds, "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." So it is essential that we understand what is the will of God, and then do it!

First, what is God's will for me if I am not among His family — a true Christian? It is for all of us to come to Him now. How? We are to "hear him" — Rom. 10:17. When we hear (listen to) His word, we are to believe it, and that Jesus Christ is God's Son — Mark 16:15,16. We then repent of sins — Luke 13:3-5 — and after this we are to confess Christ to be God's Son — Acts 8:37. Next, we are to be immersed into Christ — Rom. 6:34; Col. 2:12. Now is the point at which we are Christians and must go on faithfully unto death — Rev. 2:10. Only in this way can we go to heaven.

## Loneliness:

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There are, indeed, many people who are lonely and hungering for attention from other human beings. People in all walks of life need to know that there are those who care. Each of us must, to be useful and happy, learn to love God with our whole being and our neighbors as ourselves. We must realize that our neighbor is anyone who needs our help.

Goodness and kindness are qualities all can acquire and use for the happiness and wellbeing of others — and in doing so, we enhance our own usefulness and enjoyment of life. It is truly "more blessed to give than to receive." Jesus said; "Give and it shall be given you." So, as we give of ourselves unselfishly to and for others we are abundantly rewarded.

As we think of helping others, we ask who needs our comfort most. In answer to this, we may think of a shut-in who needs cheering up - and of course, there are always patients in nursing homes or hospitals who need to hear or see someone to say or show that "I care." And to these people who are depressed or have special problems. We can always find people who can be reached by letter or telephone.

To come to Christ and follow Him and to persuade others to be Christians also is the real way to conquer loneliness. Obey Christ and follow him every day.

## Listening to God

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It is a great privilege to just read, or hear read, the word of God — thus listening to God as He speaks to us. Today, we can listen to the reading of God's word anytime we want to by way of cassette tape. But there is no better way than to read the Bible for ourselves, and we can read so much in just a short while. For example, the book of Philipians has four chapters and can be read in about 15 or 20 minutes.

The Jews in Nehemiah's day wanted to hear God's law read: In Neh. 8:1 we find they wanted Ezra to bring the book of the law and read to them. In verse 2 we find Ezra brought the book and read to them, "Both men and women and all that could hear with understanding." Verse 3: "And he read therein ... from morning until midday, before the men and women, and those that could understand; and the ears of the people were attentive unto the book of the law."

Verse 6: "And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God. And all the people answered Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: And they bowed their heads, and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground." Finally, in verse 8: "So they read in the book of the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading."

At this time the Jews were "hungering and thirsting" after righteousness — God's word. They listened to the reading of it for several hours, standing up. As you know, friend, we need God — and by listening to and heeding His commandments we can find Him.

## Reducing Life's Stresses

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Close-knit families where love for God and one another prevails will prevent and reduce life's stresses. There is nothing that will take the place of love in the home, the church, or the community in which we live. Love in the home will cause each member to be kind, tender-hearted, and forgiving. When father, mother, and children love one another all will feel secure and have an overall sense of serenity.

In Ps. 100:3 we read, "Know ye that the Lord he is God: It is he that hath made us and not we ourselves." When we truly take this in (having been made in God's own image), we feel better about ourselves. In Gen. 1:27 we note: "So God created man in his image, in the image of God created he him." Our Maker knows us and what is best for each of us, for "In him we live, and move, and have our being" — Acts 17:28. When we have complete trust in God and are ready to let Him direct our lives, stresses will be reduced.

When we believe in God and are ready to let Christ be our Saviour, we find an inner confidence which will sustain us through all the crises of life. Christians believe that "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me," — Phil. 4:13. There is no question that life has its stresses. But these can be handled by letting God and Christ lead us.

## Living in Today's World: Stress

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Everyone who writes or speaks to others should not just say something; but should have something to say that is worth while. As I write, it is my fervant desire to help those who read to live in this life — not merely exist — and at the same time to prepare for heaven, the home of the soul. Moreover, I realize how limited my knowledge and ability are. But there is a hope (with prayer) that those who read may be benefitted.

In today's world we must learn to cope with stress. Heart problems, I believe, still cause more deaths than anything in America. According to experts, the thing that lies at the root of heart attacks, high blood pressure, strokes, migraine headaches and other health problems, is uncontrolled stress. Much is being said about stress and how to avoid it.

Stress not only contributes to illness, but often leads to other serious problems in human relations: families, neighbors, marriages, run-aways. Drunkenness and crime can be touched off by stress that is uncontrolled, also. So, to truly live, we must learn to control stress.

If we learn to cope with stress we will live longer and happier lives; work more effectively, and have a better relationship on others.

Next: "Dealing with Stress".

For assistance call 447-4766.

For "Dial-a-Devotional" call 447-8749.

Radio WJWS, Sundays, 8:15-8:30 a.m.

## Coping With Stress

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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In order to cope with stress, we must learn the lesson of contentment. Paul stated in Phil. 4:12, "For I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." Paul had learned that, regardless of anything that happened to him, he would have peace within. There are so many things which can bring on stress, unless we have learned to deal with it. This is not easy in modern society — and there are no simple or easy answers.

Stress can be brought on by loss of a job, financial reverses, death in the family (particularly a tragic death), serious illness, inability to meet bills, divorce, problems within the family, loneliness — these plus many more.

If we are to deal with stress, we must get our priorities set right. This may entail a change in our value system. In pursuit of the right goals, we must be able to adjust to life as it is. We cannot afford to try keeping up with, nor live like others — unless that is best for us and within our means.

It has been said, "If you would be happy, keep your wants few and simple." So he that would be happy and avoid stress will control his wants, keeping them within his ability to provide for himself.

To be continued.

## Reducing Life's Stresses

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One of the surest ways to reduce life's stresses is to let God, through His word, direct our lives. Jesus said in Matt. 4:4 "It is written 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God'." King Solomon set out to learn what was good for the sons of men all the days of their lives. In his pursuit of happiness he got power, pleasure, knowledge and wealth — only to conclude at the end that all was "A striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun." — Ecc. 2:11.

In Ecc. 12:13, he said "Fear God, and keep his commandments: For this is the whole duty of man." So in order to reduce stresses of this life, we must realize that God made us and knows what is best for us. We must make His will our will.

Nothing would be more helpful in getting our priorities in order than a thoughtful reading of God's word. A few minutes each day will take one through the Bible in a year. After all, the Bible is God's only message to man today.

If you do not choose to read the Bible through, you might select chapters that will be helpful: for instance, Ps. 1, 8, 19, 23 and 139 — many more. If you make a habit of reading the first four books in the New Testament, you will enjoy it — and life's stresses will be reduced. (to be continued.)

## Trusting in Things

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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It is not good to trust in things. Too many people place their trust in things and thus lay up treasures on the earth. Please note what Jesus said in Matt. 6:19-21: "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon the earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

In Ps. 49:6,7 we note, "They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitudes of their riches; None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him." Then in verses 10-13a, "For he seeth that wise men die, likewise the fool and the brutish person perish, and leave their wealth to others. Their inward thought is that their houses shall continue forever ... they call their lands after their own names. Nevertheless man being in honor abideth not: he is like the beasts that perish. This their way is their folly."

Let us note verse 17: "For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him." To trust in things rather than God is true folly!

To be continued

## Trusting in Things, No. 3

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In 1 John 2:17 we read, "The world passeth away, and the lust hereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever." In Luke 12:15 we learn, "For a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth;" then in verse 21, "So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." The lesson we get here is that our priorities in life must be right: We are to put God first, or we make a fatal mistake!

The rich man in Luke 16 put his riches first and left God out of his life. The result was that "In hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torments ... I am tormented in this flame." In Matt. 19, Mark 10, and Luke 18 we read about the rich young ruler who came to Jesus asking, "Good master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?"

Jesus told him to keep the commandments and enumerated them. The young man was delighted to report that all these things he had kept from youth up. Then he asked, lack I yet?" In Mark 10:21 Jesus "beholding him, loved him and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: Go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor ... and follow me." But the rich young ruler turned away sorrowful, because he had great possessions. What was his problem? He trusted in things, so refused to do Jesus' commandment. Friend, are you trusting in things, or in God?

## Trusting in Things -2

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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We realize that "things" (food, clothing, shelter) - the things that help make life good - are necessary. We also realize that having these things help to make our lives better. But we dare not trust in things; for trust is to be in the God of heaven. In Ps. 20:7 we read "Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God." When people trust in money, lands, horses, houses, education, any of the things of this world, they are making a fateful mistake. Jesus taught us to "seek first the kingdom of God", and the necessities of life would be taken care of.

The rich farmer in Luke 12:13-21 teaches us this truth in a very powerful way. As we study this, we see that he had a very bountiful crop and thought he had it made for life. As we note, he was a very selfish man - thinking of himself. Please note the number of times he used the term "I" in only two or three verses. He was not interested in his neighbor and he cared nothing about God and his own soul. So he told himself to "take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry."

God said to him, "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee." Then in verse 21: "So is he that layeth up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God." Truly, we must lay up treasures in heaven!

## Trusting in Things

### (Conclusion)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Friends, as I conclude these lessons on "Trusting in Things," I want you to know that God wants you to have the good things of this life. He who made us knows of physical and spiritual needs and will take care of these if we will look to Him - ready to do His will.

David said in Ps. 34:10, "The young lions do lack and suffer hunger: but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing." He said in Ps. 23:6, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life." But we must remember also what Jesus said in Matt. 4:4, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

In Matt. 6:26, Christ gives reassurance to His followers by reminding them that, since the fowls of the air and the lillies of the field are cared for by the Father in heaven, He will much more take care of our needs. Then in verse 33 He said, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." We should remind ourselves daily that to have the best in this life and in heaven later, we must do His holy will.

For assistance, call 447-4766.

Radio WJWS Sundays, 8:15-8:30.

## To Whom Shall We Go?

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Greetings, friend. I trust you have had a good week and that you and yours are well and living so that all is well with your soul. In this life the most important thing is to prepare for heaven, the home of the soul. When this is done all else will be the very best. So when you decide whom you will follow, is it not in your own best interest to go to Jesus? As Peter said in John 6:68 "Thou hast the words of eternal life." Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: No man cometh to the Father but by me."

In Phil. 2:7-8 we read "But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

Then in verses 9-11 of the same reading we find that Jesus was highly exalted by His Father and given a name that was (is) above every name, and that every tongue would confess that He is Lord to the glory of God. In Heb. 5:8-9 we learn that Jesus learned obedience through suffering ... He then became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him."

The question arises, friend: Have you obeyed Christ in becoming a Christian, then in being faithful? In John 3:5 Jesus said "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Have you been born of water and of the Spirit by hearing, believing and being baptized into Christ? Do you understand fully how to become a Christian? Why not let me help you to study, understand, and do God's will? To whom shall you go? Jesus is the answer!

## To Whom Shall We Go? (Conclusion)

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Friend, I missed our study last week and I hope you missed it, too. But it is good to be back this week in the concluding study of "To whom shall we go?" It is so important to make up our minds early in life who, or what, to follow — what our priorities will be. Most people do not consider this early enough; so it takes longer to change our course when we do learn. We must at some point think about the next life and give account to God! There will be only one of two courses to follow— either God or the devil.

What are the consequences of following the devil? Please note Matt. 25:41: "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." This is only one scripture on the fate of the lost. Please note others— and we urge you to read these. Mark 9:43-48; (unquenchable fire); Luke 16:19-31 (The rich man in hell, tormented); 2 Thess. 1:7-9 (Jesus is coming in flaming fire to condemn those who know not God and obey not the gospel); Rev. 20:12-15 and Rev. 6:14-17. These help us to avoid hell.

To get a good picture of heaven, the "home of the soul," please read all of Rev. Chapters 21 and 22 — and read Jesus' promise of a wonderful mansion in John 14:1-3. In 2 Cor. 5:1 we are promised a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Some other scriptures to read: 1 Cor. 2:9 and Rev. 14:13. If you will read and study about heaven and decide you want to go there, you must "Fear God and keep his commandments" as revealed in the Bible — especially today in the New Testament.

## The Great Invitation — No. 1

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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All of us like to receive important invitations. This is true regarding friends, the well-known or office-holders — those who have the respect of others. We might, or might not, accept, depending on circumstances and what is offered. But the greatest invitation of all time was extended by Jesus almost two thousand years ago.

Please note Matt. 11:28-30: "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

This is a marvelous invitation, for it is issued to all who are weary, burdened down with sin, problems, heartaches, or in need of a friend to hear. Jesus invites "all", not just the elite who are monied or prominent, or in the social register. He invites the poor, the lame, the halt, the blind — whether old or young — Yes, all who are willing to accept Him and His way.

Why should everyone accept? This invitation is from Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Lord of lords, and King of kings. He was God with us, and thus knows and understands man. It is a great privilege to come to Him who died for my sins and yours.

## The Great Invitation (Continued)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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The invitation that Jesus gave in Matt. 11:28-30 is indeed a marvelous one. Man cannot possibly receive an invitation which compares to His. The benefits of accepting are not only in this life, but so much more in the life to come. Heaven, the "home of the soul", is a place that is so wonderful we cannot even imagine it! This is why everyone should seek its benefits both here and throughout eternity.

Though Jesus promises rest and peace, an easy yoke, and light burdens here, this does not mean that the Christian life will be a "bed of roses." The Christian has many temptations, reverses, trials, and tribulations. He may even lose his family or friends. The child of God has sickness, terminal illness, accidents and financial losses just as others have. But there is a big difference: Jesus Christ, the Son of God — the One who died for our sins, is with His people all the way.

In John 15:15 Jesus told His disciples: "But I have called you friends." In John 14:27 He said, "Peace I leave you ... let not your heart be troubled; neither let it be afraid." Then in John 15:14 He said, "Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you." We can truly say, then, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." It is clear that we must be friends of Jesus by doing His will if He is to be our Friend.

## The Great Invitation (Continued)

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The only way to God is through Christ. Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: No man cometh unto the Father, but by me." God "highly exalted" Christ and gave Him a name which is above every name (Phil. 2:9) and He is above principality, power, might, dominion, and every name that is named — not only in this world, but also in that which is to come (Eph. 1:21). God is well pleased with His Son and we are to do all things in the name of the Lord (Col. 3:16).

We urge people to come to Jesus, as He will plead our cause to God, and our burden of sin will be lifted. In Isaiah 1:18 we find "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." When the nails were being driven through Jesus' hands, and He was being ridiculed and mocked, it was for my sins and your sins. O, what wonderful love and compassion He had for us!

When one comes to Jesus he must let Him rule his life. In Matt. 10:24, He said "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." Truly, no man can serve two masters — so each Christian takes up his cross daily and follows Jesus Christ every day all the way.

## The Great Invitation (Continued)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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As I enter the fourth year of writing this article in the weekly *Enterprise*, I express my profound appreciation to all who read it. It has been my aim to write in a way that will help you live here so that you will go to heaven when you die. This means encouraging all to first be a Christian by coming to Christ in obedience to His will, and then to be faithful unto death by studying and following the lessons taught to Christians in the New testament. If ever I can assist you in any spiritual way, just remember that I am as near as your telephone. So don't hesitate to call or write.

It is my firm belief that more people would come to Jesus if they fully understood the benefits of being a Christian. There are wonderful advantages in this life; but the life that counts most is that of the home of the soul, heaven, throughout eternity. The other choice is hell, a place of "outer darkness", "flaming fire" which shall never be quenched. As Solomon stated in Ecc. 12:5, "because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets."

When Jesus gave the Great Invitation to "Come unto me," He was asking us to do what was best for us. This great invitation was given to us not because of what He could get, but rather what He could give us.

## The Great Invitation (Continued)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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As was pointed out last week, everyone should accept the great invitation given by Jesus in Matt. 11:28-30. In this invitation He promises rest and peace to all who will accept. Jesus wants to draw all men to Him. Please note in John 12:32 where He said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." Jesus' appeal and drawing power is great, but too many people draw back and refuse to accept "the great invitation" of our blessed Lord.

Why should we come to Christ? Notice John 14:6, where He said "I am the way, the truth and the life: No man cometh unto the Father but by me." The way to God is Christ. The truth is Jesus, and He is also the life. In John 1:4,5 we read "and in him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehendeth it not." Then in verse 17 we find "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

When Jesus asked His disciples in John 6:67 "Will ye also go away?", Peter, in verse 68, answered "Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life." Yes, the only way to have rest and peace today — then go to heaven when we die — is to "Come to Jesus."

## How We Accept Jesus' Invitation

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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For the past few weeks we have been encouraging all to accept Jesus' invitation in Matt. 11:28-30 to "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden." We remember that He promises rest for our souls, an easy yoke, and a light burden. After many years of teaching, preaching, and living the christian life, I am convinced that following Him is the best possible life.

But what steps do we take to accept Jesus' invitation? All agree that faith is essential. But how does one reach faith? Rom. 10:17 states "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." In Luke 8:11 we find that "The seed is the word of God." In 2 Tim. 4:2 Paul commanded Timothy to "preach the word."

In every instance of conversion in the New Testament, the word of God was preached; thus the seed was sown and, hearing the word, faith was produced. Today it is the same: Faith comes only by hearing Christ's gospel!

The next step in coming to Christ is to have faith — a faith which listens to and heeds His commands. In Mark 16:16 Jesus said "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Then in Heb. 11:6 we find "But without faith it is impossible to please him." So because one has saving faith, he heeds Jesus' teaching in "coming unto me."

## The Great Invitation (Continued)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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We remember that Peter asked the question, "Lord, to whom shall we go?" He went on to say, "Thou hast the words of eternal life." Today, if we don't accept the "great invitation," to whom shall we go? When we come to Jesus we come to the One who has all power, all authority, in heaven and on earth - Matt. 28:18. He is truly the One we must hear, as we note in Matt. 17:5, when God said of Jesus, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him." So now we are to listen to the One who has all authority!

We should come to Jesus, because He is humanity's high priest, Heb. 4:15, 16 states "For we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feelings of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." So Jesus is indeed a compassionate Savior and Friend.

Jesus' invitation is to accept the unsearchable riches of Christ - Eph. 3:8, and to be partakers of the divine - 2 Pet. 1:4, and to become like Him. It is an invitation to serve God and man! Friends, why not accept Jesus by hearing, believing, and obeying His gospel?

## How to Accept Jesus' Invitation (Conclusion)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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The most important step anyone can take is to "Come unto me." Jesus made His way easy to understand and to follow. In John 14:6 He said "I am the way, the truth, and the life: No man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Then, we find in Heb. 12:2, "Looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith." Just how do we come to Jesus?

Last week we stressed that faith is required, and that faith comes by hearing God's word -- Rom. 10:17 — so hearing and believing are the first two steps. The next step is to repent. In Luke 13:3,5 Jesus said "I tell you nay; but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Then we find in Acts 17:30, "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now he commandeth all men everywhere to repent."

Acts 2:38 tells us, "Repent and be baptized ... for the remission of sins." Next, we are to confess Christ, as stated in Math. 10:32 "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven." The eunuch said in Acts 8:37 "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

The final step in reaching Christ and salvation is to be baptized into Him. Please read John 3:5; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12. Notice what Jesus said in Mark 16:16, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Then Gal. 3:27, "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on christ." These are the steps one takes to "Come unto me."

## Living for Jesus

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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A very pleasant good day to you, friend. I trust you have had a good week and that all is well with you and yours. In our last few lessons we have learned what one must do to become a christian. Now we look at what it means to "Live for Jesus". Let us note first Gal. 2:20. Paul here says, "I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: And the life in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." Then, in Gal. 5:24, "And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts."

When we are in Christ, old things are passed away and all things are become new. In 1 Cor. 6:19, 20 Paul said, "and ye are not your own. For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body and your spirit, which are God's." All christians have been bought with the precious blood of Christ, who was slain for the sins of the whole world. Thus, the christian has a new Master, new hope, a new relationship, new aspirations, new standards to live by, and a new outlook on life.

As christians we are to love God with our whole being, and our neighbor as ourselves, and we love other christians with a pure heart fervently. It is written in 2 Pet. 3:18, "But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen." This growth begins when we are baptized into christ and continues as long as we live.

## God's Greatest Gift

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In 1 Cor. 15:22 we read, "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." When Adam and Eve sinned, then spiritual death came to all mankind. There was only one way that man could be rid of sin, and that was through the blood of God's only begotten son, Jesus Christ. In John 3:16 we find that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son to die for mankind.

Christ is, indeed, God's greatest gift to us! We are thankful that Jesus was willing to come to earth, live a perfect life, and then shed His blood that we might be cleansed of our sins. Christ was "God with us" for over 33 years, and then after His death and burial He arose from the grave, and ascended back to God. He learned to understand and sympathize with us, and we can truly take our petitions to God through Him.

Phil. 2:8 states, "And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross ... God highly exalted him and gave him a name which is above every name." Heb. 5:8, 9 says, "Though he were a son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; and being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salavation unto all them that obey him." There is a song that states "Jesus Is Wonderful." Why not read and study more about the life of Jesus and His teachings — then obey Him, God's greatest gift to man.

## Living for Jesus

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Amos 4:12, 13 states "Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: And because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel. For lo, he that formeth the mountains, and createth the wind, and declareth unto man what is his thought, and maketh the morning darkness, and treadeth upon the high places of the earth, the Lord, the God of hosts is his name." Today the greatest need I have or you have is to prepare to meet our God! Yes, we will all meet God; but only those who are prepared will be with God in heaven — and avoid hell.

The only way to prepare to meet God is to be in Christ. If any man is in Christ he is a new person; Christ is his Master and heaven will be his home. Gal. 3:27 states "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." When this step is taken, then we are ready to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ. We are ready to live by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God — Matt. 4:4 In Ps. 23:6 David said "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."

From this and other scriptures we learn to "Live for Jesus". It brings us a better life here as well as preparing us for heaven. Gal. 5:22, 23 says, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: Against such there is no law." Thus a christian is a better father, mother, son, daughter neighbor, friend, citizen — and is always helpful to others and worshipping God.

## Christ's Parting Charge

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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As we learned that Christ arose from the dead and then ascended back to God. Before He ascended God gave Him all authority both "in heaven and on earth" - Matt. 18:18. Jesus, by this authority, gave a final commission to the eleven apostles. Let us note it from Matt. 28:19,20: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Here we see that this is a world-wide commission, as he said "Go ye therefore and teach all nations." So, whatever was to be taught or preached was for all nations and no one was to be left out.

Next, Jesus said "baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost." So He said to teach, to baptize, and then, "teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." Further, He gave a promise: "And lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." This was a mind-boggling work for those apostles and for those who should follow.

It was a mission to which the apostles would devote their lives because of its necessity, and because of their love for Jesus. In fact, all but one of the apostles would be put to death because they followed Him - all the way.

## Christ's Parting Charge.

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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After Christ arose and just before He ascended back to God, He gave His last command to the apostles. As is recorded in Mark 16:15,16, it was to "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." In verse 15 we find that the gospel was to be preached to every creature (or person). Then in verse 16 we learn the responsibility of the hearer: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

There are two things mentioned that those who hear must do: "believeth and be baptized." So one must believe these are essential to salvation. We see that little three-letter conjunction "and" joining "belief" and "baptism" for the purpose of being saved. In Matt. 19:6 we read "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." God, through Jesus, joined belief and baptism for salvation; so let no man put them asunder. The gospel must be preached just as Jesus gave it if the lost are to be saved.

We go to Mark 16:20 and read "And they (the apostles) went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following." The conditions of salvation have not been changed. Jesus today is saying, "Preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved."

## Obedience to God Is Essential

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It is not only necessary to get into Christ to be saved, but one must be faithful unto death. Rev. 2:10 reads, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." This tells us that until we die a natural death or should be put to death for His sake, we are to be faithful. Christ's religion is serious, and we must be ready to go all the way with Him.

Jesus said in Matt. 7:21-23, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? and then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Note next in Heb. 5:8,9, "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; and being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him."

In Heb. 12:2 we find, "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith." Next, please note Phil. 2:8, "And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Yes, Christ obeyed God - and so must we!

## Add Godliness

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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After adding to our faith virtue, knowledge, temperance (self-control), and patience, we are to add godliness — which means to walk with God, to love and follow Him. In 1 Tim. 2:2, "That we may live a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty" and in 1 Tim. 4:7,8 we are told to "Exercise thyself rather unto godliness. For bodily exercise profiteth little; but godliness is profitable unto all things, having the promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come." 1 Tim. 6:6 says, "Godliness with contentment is great gain."

In 2 Pet. 1:3 we read: "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness," and again in 2 Pet. 3:11, "Seeing that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness."

Thus, when we add godliness we endeavor to walk with God. We love Him with all of our being — We study His Word and do our best to please Him daily. Then we have the peace of God with us.

## Man's Whole Duty

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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In our study last week we found that Solomon, in the book of Ecclesiastes, set out to see what was good for "the sons of men" all the days of their life. As he closed out the book he said: "Fear God and keep his commandments: For this is the whole duty of man." The reason for this, he explains, is "For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil." As Paul put it in Heb. 9:27, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."

In 1 John 5:3 we read, "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." He is saying here that His commands are not hard; for when we obey them we get a wonderful benefit from doing so. For example, in Acts 2:38, the huge multitude to whom Peter was preaching were told to "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Three thousand were baptized after gladly receiving His word, and were added to the Lord's church — Acts 2:41. Then we find in verse 47: "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

We learned that God's commandments are not grievous, or hard, and we see this in Acts 2:38. "Repent" simply means to have Godly sorrow and turn to Him — This certainly should not be hard to do. To be baptized is going down into the water and being immersed into Christ. To see this, read Acts 8:37-40; Rom. 6:3, 4; Col. 2:12 and Gal. 3:27. The reward of repenting and being immersed into Christ is remission — forgiveness — of sins and the gift of the Holy Ghost.



# Greatest Thing in World

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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As we continue to study "The Greatest Thing in the World" — Love — we see that it has found that "Love suffers long and is kind"; that "Love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up"; — that love is humility. In this, regardless of what we have done, we put a seal on our lips and forget our good deeds — not telling the world about it. Love puts a waiver on self-satisfaction. Love indeed "vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up."

Next, love "doth not behave itself unseemly." This is a matter of action — the how of behavior. Gentleness, consideration for others, sympathy, and courtesy. Then, "Love seeketh not her own." Unselfishness is a rare thing to find: This quality puts others before self. There is not greatness in things or in getting — but in giving! Do we seek to be happy? Then, let us learn that truly "It is more blessed to give than to receive." A great part of our world seems to seek ownership of things, with the idea that this will bring happiness — but this is a costly lesson, or it brings emptiness rather than happiness. Let us all concentrate more on giving (time, money, talents, etc) to others; and be happy!

As we endeavor to see the beauty of the greatest thing in the world, love, it is helpful to not only read and study 1 Cor. 13, but to use a good concordance and look up the word love. We cannot reach Christian love without first becoming a Christian — a child of God. Friend, are you a child of the King? If not, why not?

*Without the greatest thing in the world we have nothing.*

- A. One may have the gift of outstanding speech or of miracles and at the same time be nothing - eloquent speech that holds audiences spellbound profits nothing.
- B. This would be classed along with making a loud and meaningless noise.
- C. Gifts of prophecy, knowledge, or faith to accomplish great things - none of these can profit anything at all without love.
- D. I might sacrifice all I have:
  - (1) Give everything I have to feed the poor and allay their hunger.
  - (2) Offer my body to be burned up - would profit me nothing.

III We are to love not in word, but in deed - in action. Let us see love in action: its elements:

- A. Love suffereth long. Love is patience - love is not in a hurry; but calm; ready to do its work. It wears the ornament of a quiet and meek spirit - Love understands and therefore waits.
- B. Kindness - active love. Much of Jesus' life was used in merely doing kind things. He spent much of His time in just making people happy.
  - (1) This is one thing we can all do - kindness is one of the great needs of the world. Love is success; love is happiness, love is life.
  - (2) Where love is, God is - God is love. Therefore, we love without distinction. We are to make a habit of showing kindness - It means so much to a selfish world. Let's do it - or begin to do it - today (Esp. 4:32)

# Greatest Thing in World

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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As we continue to study "The Greatest Thing in the World" — Love — the next ingredient we find is: "Not easily provoked," or good temper. Bad temper is not a harmless weakness, but a thing that is very serious and can destroy a person. It is often a blot on an otherwise noble character. An easily-ruffled, quick-tempered or touchy disposition is hard to deal with. For embittering life, breaking up homes or communities, withering up otherwise noble men, for misery-producing power, bad temper is near or at the top of the list! In Eph. 4:26 we read "Be ye angry and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath." So to be "not easily provoked" is a MUST for good living.

The next ingredient in love is: "Thinketh no evil." In this we learn that we must control our thoughts. It was Solomon who said "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." Sin originates in the mind; thus if we control our thoughts we control ourselves. Love "rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth." Love hates evil, but loves good. As it is put in Rom. 12:21, "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." When we love and rejoice in the truth, love good and hate evil, then we will look to God and follow Him. Love also has faith, hope and endurance for that which is good.

"Love never faileth." Miracles and prophecies have been done away, but love abides forever. Our love for God, and for our neighbor should grow stronger as time passes. Love for husband, wives and children and the good should be imbedded in our lives. Remember, "This is the love of God that we keep his commandments." Friend, do you love God? If so, you are obeying His commandments.

# Greatest Thing in the World,

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Friend, please read 1 Cor. 13 again and note the contrast of what is not love and what is. Paul first contrasts love with eloquence. What a noble gift — the power of moving the souls and wills of men and of rousing them to lofty purposes and deeds! Paul says, "If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling sycmbal." We all know why, as we have listened to the brazenness of words without conviction and emotion — just high-sounding words.

Next, he contrasts it with prophecy and with mysteries, as well as knowledge. He also includes faith. "If I have all faith so that I could remove mountains, and have not love, I am nothing." Love must be there if we are to benefit from these gifts. Note next the contrast with sacrifice and martyrdom. "And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not love, it profiteth me nothing." So without love, nothing will help us; so we must be certain that love is an integral part of our lives.

In verses 4-6 Paul tells how to inspect our lives to see if love is moving us. The spectrum of love has nine ingredients: Longsuffering (patience); kindness — generosity (Love envieth not); Love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up (humility); doth not behave itself unseemly (courtesy); seeketh not her own (unselfishness); Is not easily provoked (good temper); thinketh no evil, (guilelessness); rejoiceth not in iniquity, rejoiceth in the truth (sincerity). We will continue this study next week and get a better understanding of what love really is, so that we can be sure it rules our lives.

## More Love!

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I find that I cannot let go the study of love without a further delving into this greatest thing in the world. If you are well acquainted with your Bible, you can recall with me that "Love suffers long and is kind." It does not envy anyone, nor does it brag. Love is not arrogant — indeed does not act with an air of arrogance; Love does not seek its own, is not provoked — and does not think evil. It does not delight in iniquity; instead, it rejoices in the truth. Love is what enables us to bear, believe and endure all things. This love never fails.

Of the 660 commandments, love for God comes first. We find in Mark 12:30 "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, soul, mind and strength" — In other words, we are to love Him with all we have and are.

What does it mean to love God with our whole being? In John 14:15 Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" and, in verse 21, "He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me."

Our love for God is stressed further in verse 23 of the above scripture: "If a man love me he will keep my words." Verse 24 puts it this way: "He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings."

In 1 John 5:2, 3 we read, "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."

## Heartfelt Religion.

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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In understanding heartfelt religion we must know what the Bible heart is. We have learned that the heart is the affection of the mind. In 2 Sam. 15: 6, we read "So Absalom stole the hearts (affections) of the men of Israel." The heart is the mind, the understanding, the whole inner man. Jesus said in Luke 24: 38, "Why do thoughts arise in your hearts?" Acts 8:22, "Pray God that if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee." Rom. 10:10, "With the heart man believeth." The heart is the part of man that believes, thinks and causes him to act.

The character of the heart can produce great good or evil. Solomon said, "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." In Jer. 17:9 we read, "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked; who can know it?" Matt. 15:19 tells us, "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications." When the heart is defiled by sin it has a very black character, and is fearfully depraved. However when the heart is touched by the love of God and converted to Christ by His gospel, much good will result. Since "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh," we must watch to keep our hearts pure.

The heart is to be exercised properly since we "think with our hearts" - Mark 2:8; "imagine with our hearts" - Gen. 8:21; "meditate with our hearts" - Ps. 19:14; "purpose in our hearts" - 2 Cor. 9:7; "understand with our hearts" - Matt. 13:15. Let us keep our hearts right with God!

## Heartfelt Religion

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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To practice religion is to "bind anew or back, to bind fast." The christian religion, subjectively, is piety or holiness; objectively, it is a system of divine truth that brings and binds men back to God. The purpose is to bring men back to God. This is done by obedience to the commandments God has given for that purpose: in becoming a christian, then living a faithful christian life.

What is heartfelt religion? There is much confusion about this. Some think it is a change of heart. Some think it is something one feels in his physical heart. With some it is the complete process of conversion, which is received into the heart, felt and enjoyed in the heart, producing a change of heart and a changed way of living - purity of heart and holiness of life.

We must understand what the Bible heart is and does. Spoken of in the Bible, the heart means the affections of the mind. Matt. 6:21 reminds us: "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Our treasure is where our heart will be entwined. Ecc. 7:4, "The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth." Truly, where our treasure is, there will our desires and affections be! Thus, we fear God and keep His commandments to show our love for Him.

## Heartfelt Religion

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We have learned in our study of the "Bible Heart" that it is the part of man which thinks, feels, acts, and loves. We also "reason in our hearts," "meditate with our hearts," "purpose in our hearts" and "imagine in our hearts" - as well as "understand with our hearts." In Rom. 6:17 we find, "Ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you." Then in verse 18: "Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness."

It is essential that the heart be changed from a love of sin to a love and affection for righteousness - to a desire to be not overcome of evil, but to overcome evil with good; from disobedience to obedience. Real faith in Christ will change the affections of the heart to the point of being ready to make any change in our living that will please God. Saul of Tarsus was a blood-thirsty persecutor of Christians until he learned that he was persecuting Christ! His attitude changed and he asked, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" He was told "Go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do." In Acts 22:16 he was told, "Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins." Thus he became a Christian.

When we obey Christ our hearts are purified. 1 Peter 1: 22 states, "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth ... see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently." Friend, have you "obeyed from the heart" the gospel of Christ?

## How We Get Into Christ

### (Hearing) Part I

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ

The first step to get into Christ is to hear God's Word, as faith comes by hearing His Word — Rom. 10:17. In Luke 11:28, Jesus said "Blessed are they that hear the word of God and keep it," and again (Matt. 7:24), "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock."

We find in Acts 2:37, "Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said to Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Then in Acts 4:4, "Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of men was about five thousand." Acts 18:8, "And many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized."

In James 1:22, we learn "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only." Thus we are to hear and gladly receive God's Word — This is our first step to God.

## Steps to Christ

### Repentance — No. 3

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ

The first step to Christ is to hear God's Word; the second is to believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. The third step is to repent. Jesus said in Luke 13:3, 5 "I tell you, nay: but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Then in Luke 24:47, "And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

In Acts 2:38, "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

In Acts 3:19, we read "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out." and in Acts 11:18, "And glorified God, saying, then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life."

To repent is to turn from sin to serve the living God.  
Next, confessing Christ.

## Steps to Christ — No. 2

(Faith or Belief)

By W. B. Freeman  
South Hill Church of Christ

The first step in getting to Christ is to hear God's Word. The second step is to have faith — to believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God. We find in the first verse of Hebrews 11 "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." And in verse 6 "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

In Mark 16:16, Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved," and we read in Acts 8:12, "But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God ... they were baptized, both men and women." Again, in verse 37, "And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God."

Acts 11:21 says, "And a great number believed, and turned to the Lord." Rom. 10:10, "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness." Thus, faith takes us closer — but we must continue.

Next, repentance.

The South Hill (Va.) Enterprise, July 15, 1981

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## Steps to Christ — No. 4

(Confess Christ)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ

To get to Christ, one must first hear God's Word, then believe that Christ is God's Son, then repent of all sins. The next step is to confess Christ — Matthew 10:32, "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven."

Again, in Romans 10:10, "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." And in Romans 14:11, "Every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."

Then in Acts 8:36,37, "The eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest: And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God." After this confession, Philip took the eunuch down into the water and baptized him.

Next, getting into Christ.

## Getting Into Christ

### Part V, (Baptism)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ

We have learned that the steps to Christ are: (1) Hear God's Word, (2) Believe Christ is God's Son, (3) Repent of sins, (4) Confess Christ to be God's Son. Now we find the step which gets us into Christ: Baptism.

Gal. 3:26, 27 says, "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." In Rom. 6:3 Paul states, "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?" Then in verse 4, "Therefore, we are buried with him by baptism into death ... Even so we also should rise to walk in newness of life."

In John 3:5, "Jesus answered, verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

As we study God's Word, we learn how to get into Christ: In Christ we are saved, with old things passing away and all things becoming new.

## Nuggets of Gold: Truth

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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409 W. High St. South Hill, Va.

There is a "pot of gold" at the end of God's "Rainbow." In this pot of gold there are many nuggets. Let us notice first the "nugget of Truth." Solomon said in Prov. 23:23, "Buy the truth and sell it not; also wisdom and instruction and understanding." Truth is of great and high value — especially God's truth.

To have the treasure of divine truth, you must pay the price — studying and searching the Scriptures (Acts 17:11, 12:2 Tim. 2:15). In Psalm 119:72, we read "The laws of thy mouth is better unto me than thousand of gold and silver." Again, in verse 127, "I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold."

Jesus said, in John 8:32, "And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." Then, in John 17:17, He said "Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth." So the truth that makes us free is God's word. But we must have a love of God's truth, or be damned — 2 Thess. 2:10.

The law of the Lord converts the soul — Ps. 19:7. Thus we are to "receive with meekness the engrafted word (truth) which is able to save your souls" — Jas. 1:21. In 1 Pet. 1:22 we find "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth." Truly, we must "buy the truth and sell it not!"

## Nuggets of Gold: Faith

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Faith is a tremendous nugget in "God's Pot of Gold"! In Heb. 11:6 it is stated "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." All spiritual blessings hinge on a deep abiding faith in God. We read in Heb. 11:3 that "Through faith we understand that the worlds were formed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." Thus, we accept the fact that "in the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" — Gen. 1:1. Further, we accept this just as it is taught in all of God's book — the Bible.

We further accept and recognize what faith is, as is stated in Heb. 11:1, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." So when the Bible says it, we believe it. That is certainly good enough for us! We also realize that faith comes by hearing God's word — Rom. 10:17.

It is so very important for every person to study and accept God's word by faith — especially young people. In addition, let God lead you through life — by obeying His son and living a christian life. All children and young people have the right to be brought up in "the nurture and admonition of the Lord" — Eph. 6:4.

## Nuggets of Gold: Love

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Love is a precious nugget in "God's pot of gold." Love is greater than faith because, as Paul says, "Now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; and the greatest of these is love." (1 Cor. 13:13) In order to avail, faith must work by love. There is great joy in doing good if love is the motivating factor. Without love, we are nothing!

God's love for us moved Him to give His only begotten Son to suffer and die in our stead — John 3:16. Thus, love sacrifices. Love sweetens, beautifies and enriches the duties of life. Since God loves us so much, it should be a pleasure to express our love and gratitude to Him by doing His will. This causes us to obey God and it makes our burdens light.

Our response of love cannot be commanded. Since "God is love," we cannot love without knowing Him. We cannot know the "Eternal God" without reading and studying His book, the Bible. The closer we live to God, the greater our love will be. To love God with our whole being, and our neighbors as ourselves, is to truly live.

## Scriptures on Love

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Friends, your reading of these articles is sincerely appreciated by me as the writer. I feel abundantly rewarded when you are encouraged to appreciate God and to have a greater desire to study and follow His book, the Bible. Love is indeed the greatest thing in the world; so please note these scriptures on love.

Deut. 10:12 — "What doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul?"

Deut. 11:1 — "Therefore thou shalt love the Lord thy God, and keep his charge and his statutes."

Josh. 22:5 — "Take diligent heed to ... love the Lord you God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him with all your heart and with all your soul."

Ps. 18:1 — "I will love thee, o Lord, my strength."

Ps. 97 — "Ye that love the Lord, hate evil."

Prov. 8:17 — "I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me."

Phil. 1:9 — "I pray that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment."

## Love,

(1 Cor. 13: 4-7)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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As we study these verses, we can see what love does as well as what it does not do. Love not only suffers, but it suffers long with all the problems, heartaches, sicknesses and distresses that come along. Love endures. Love also causes us to be kind — not just to some, but to all.

Love does not envy and "Vaunteth not" itself. It is not rash in its actions and is not puffed up. A person with love is not heady or high-minded but is, rather, humble. Love does not behave itself with bad conduct. It seeks not itself — is not selfish — and is not easily provoked.

Love practices self-control, thinking no evil. It fills thoughts with good. Therefore, Love rejoices not in iniquity or evil, but in the truth. It beareth all things, believes, hopes, and endures.

True love does not just happen; but is acquired through study of God's Word and putting it into practice. It gives a spirit of dedication to doing His will, knowing He will help.

## Loving God

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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In Mark 12:28, one of the scribes asked Jesus, "Which is the greatest commandment of all?" In the old (Mosaic) law there were over 600 commandments given. The scribe was anxious to find out which one of them Jesus would say was the greatest.

Jesus did not hesitate, and in verses 29, 30 answered: "The first commandment is, hear O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: This is the first commandment." Since we are to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength, we are to put Him first.

Jesus said in Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness." Thus, we are to have the attitude of "Speak, Lord, and I will hear; command, Lord, and I will obey."

Knowing that God speaks to us through His holy book, the Bible, we study it diligently with an open mind — ready to obey all His commandments.

## Love

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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If we are to please God, serve our fellow man, and be truly happy, LOVE must be the guiding force in our lives. As we have learned, love is not mere words — but is expressed in deeds and in truth. We are to love God, our brethren and friends, doing good to all — even our enemies. This love grows day by day and becomes a part of ourselves.

There are many scriptures which teach us about love and we ought to study these often. A good concordance or topical Bible or other helps can be much help in locating scriptures on love. We should read often and study the meaning of what is said in 1 Cor. 13. Here is a list of a number of scriptures on love:

John 3:14-17; Mark 12:29-32; Rom. 8:28; 12:9-10; John 13:14, 15, 34, 35; John 15:12; Gal. 5:13, 22; Eph. 5:2; Col. 2:2; Col. 3:12-14; Phil. 1:19; 1 Thess. 4:9; 1 Peter 1:22; 1 Peter 4:8; 1 John 3:11-23.

These are only a few of the many scriptures on love — why not read, study and assimilate what is said? It will do wonders for anyone!

All should realize that unless one is a Christian he cannot truly put love to much use. If you are not a Christian, why not become a follower of Christ? This is done by following in the footsteps of Christ in obedience — Heb. 5:8, 9.

## Scriptures on Love

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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1 John 2:5 — "Whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected."

1 John 3:18 — "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."

1 John 3:18-19 — "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us."

1 John 5:2-3 — "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments, and his commandments are not grievous."

John 3:16-17 — "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

Friend, do you appreciate the wonderful love of God? If so, you will come to Him through Christ. The way to do this is to believe and obey the glorious gospel which Christ gave. After this, be faithful in Christ, and you will go to heaven.

The most vital force in this life is that we love God with our being. Last week we closed with 1 John: 3, which states "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." Thus, God is pleased with us when we do His will — and He is highly displeased with us if we don't.

In Ecc. 12:13, we are told to "Fear God and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." Why? Verse 14 tells us "For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."

In Psalm 119: 172, we read "For all thy commandments are righteousness." This being true, how can we know His commandments? In 2 Tim. 2:15 we are told to study to show thyself approved unto God. Preachers are commanded to "preach the word." We are also warned to be instant, in season and out of season; to reprove, rebuke, etc. John 17:17 says "Thy word is truth." Again, John 8:32 states "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

The Gospel of Christ is God's power to save (Rom. 1:16); thus we who preach are to preach **only** Christ's gospel. If we preach any other gospel, the curse of heaven is upon us — Gal. 1:7-9. All who hear should make certain they are hearing God's truth: This is done by "searching the Scriptures" for ourselves.

## Love Thy Neighbor As Thyself

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Jesus taught us to love God with our whole being. This is the first commandment, and the second is to love our neighbor as ourselves ... Mark 12:28-31. Then, in Luke 10:25-37, He tells us who our neighbor is by giving us the parable of the good Samaritan. Let us notice.

A man (presumably a Jew) going from Jerusalem to Jericho fell among thieves, was robbed, beaten and left for dead. Then a priest came along who looked on him and passed by on the other side. Later a Levite came that way, looked at him, then passed by on the other side, also. These were the most "religious" that could be found — yet both were willing to let the man die.

Next, there came along a foreigner — one that the Jews hated. He had compassion on the wounded man and bound up his wounds, put him on his beast and took him to an inn to take care of him. When he left the next morning he left money with the innkeeper and agreed to pay any more expense incurred by the victim.

Who is our neighbor? Anyone who needs our help. We may not know him, or he might even be an enemy; but if we refuse to help we are disobeying God's second most important commandment.

We have learned in Mark 12:29, 30, that the greatest of all commandments God had given is to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. But, what does it mean to love God with our whole being and to put Him first?

Jesus said in John 14:15, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." Then, in verses 23 and 24, "If a man love me, he will keep my words: And my Father will love him, and we will come unto him and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings."

In 1 John 2:3-5, we read, "Hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith I know him and keepeth not his commandments is a liar and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected."

We find in 1 John 4:19, "We love him because he first loved us" — and again, in 1 John 5:2, 3, "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."

## Loving Our Neighbors As Ourselves

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Though it is necessary that we keep the first commandment to be saved, we dare not ignore the second, which is to "Love thy neighbor as thyself" - Mark 12:30. What does it mean to love one's neighbor as himself? And, who is our neighbor? To get a good picture of this, please read Luke 10:25-37. From this we learn that our neighbor is anyone who needs our help. To have love, compassion and sympathy for those who are in need is love for our neighbor.

Christ was a man of great compassion and He went out of His way to help those in need. He taught us that it is more blessed to give than to receive. He also went about doing good. If we are to emulate His life and please Him we must go and do likewise. Christianity is not a theory; nor is it a listing of words; but a life to be lived day by day.

When we think, we know where our neighbors are as Jesus defined the word. They might be next door, a few blocks away, or "on the other side of the tracks," so to speak. They could be people with whom we do not ordinarily associate. They may be shut-ins, blind, lonely - someone who needs a friend.

Our neighbors could be anywhere, suffering and needy - Dare we pass by on the other side? May none of us be like the priest and the Levite; but, rather, like the good Samaritan!

In the world we live in today we need people who are good examples of Christian living, as well as those who teach us by word of mouth or otherwise to do right. The need is for those who will follow in the footsteps of Jesus, who went about doing good. We must learn to love our neighbor in action, not in word.

We love our neighbors as ourselves when we practice pure and undefiled religion — James 1:27 — which is to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction and to keep ourselves unspotted from the world. We love our neighbor when we follow Jesus' teaching in Luke 14:12-14, which is to invite those to a feast or help those who are not in position to help us. Jesus specifies the poor, the maimed, the lame and the blind. These cannot recompense us again.

In 1 John 3:17, 18 John points out that if we see our brother in need and shut up our bowels of compassion that the love of God does not dwell in us, and that we are not to love in word, or tongue; but in deed and in truth. In James 4:17 James says "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

We have the privilege of helping others — bringing joy and happiness into the lives of those who are downcast, discouraged, sick, lonely, blind — any who have a special need for our care. We need to let them know that we do care!

## Love: The Greatest Thing (Conclusion)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Generosity — open-hearted dealings with others. "Love envieth not." For example, others can often do the same thing better than we do. This must not set off ill will in our hearts. Envy is unchristian. We do the best we can — and forget what we have done. Love does not gloat in self-satisfaction.

Love does not parade itself nor is it puffed up.

Love does not behave rudely, but is courteous, even in small things. Where love is, there is always consideration of others. This attitude should hold true, regardless of where we are or how others may do — love behaves properly.

Unselfishness: "Love seeketh not her own." This means self-denial: not seeking for personal benefit or acclaim. It has been said that "nothing is a hardship to love." Christ's yoke is easy, a way of life. It is easier and happier than any other. Happiness in Jesus' way is in giving, not in getting. The greatest people are the best servants.

"Good tempered" — "Is not easily provoked." Love is not quick-tempered — does not "fly off the handle." This is simple self-control. A quick temper can destroy anyone: It affects loved ones and can ruin a city or a nation. It is made of jealousy, anger, pride, cruelty, self-righteousness — all of which are the ingredients of a dark and loveless soul. It is a serious sin of the disposition, where love does not abide.

Love does not think evil, nor does it rejoice in iniquity; but rejoices in the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes and endures all — and it never fails.

For assistance call 447-4766.

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Radio WJWS, Sundays, 8:15-8:30 a.m.

# FREEDOM

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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This is being written on July 4, 1985. It is my hope and prayer - yes, my fervent desire, that we can all appreciate the freedom, blessings, and advantages which we all have. When we do this, the sacrifices that have been made for us to enjoy this freedom will not have been in vain. Thus, we will make this world a better place to live for those around us, as well as our descendants. As a result of our living, this world should be a better place for others. Truly, "no man liveth unto himself."

When we think of the great men who have lived before us and all they have done and sacrificed for us, it staggers the imagination and makes us humble. We remember the millions who fought in World War II - yes, so many young men dying before they had hardly a chance to really live, that we might have freedom today. In other wars and other ways people have toiled and labored that we may be the beneficiaries!

Our gratitude must be expressed each day of our lives. This can be done by being and living the very best that is in us. In other words, we live to please God - not ourselves. When we please God we put Him first, so that each life is one of service to God and to man.

## Spiritual Freedom (No. 2)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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This is being written on July 4, 1986 - a day when much attention is being focused on the "Statue of Liberty" and the freedom for which it stands. Our nation is two hundred and ten years old today, and the privileges and opportunities here are unsurpassed (I believe, unequalled) anywhere in the world. It is good to be living now - and we should be feeling that "I am here for such a time as this," and that none of us should live a selfish life. Living for self will make anyone miserable, as well as thwart God's purpose for us in being here.

Of all our freedoms we enjoy, the one we should appreciate more than any other is what we call an "Open Bible." This means that each of us is free to buy a good Bible, read it, study it, and love it by obeying its beautiful teachings. This way, after hearing, believing, repenting of all sins, confessing Christ to be God's Son, then being baptized into Christ, we can worship and serve (serve both God and man) as long as we live. Then after this life we can enjoy the beauties and wonders of heaven. In doing this, we avoid suffering with the devil and his angels throughout eternity.

But God, when he created man, made him so that he could choose to either follow or not to follow Him. He will not force us to do His will. We are encouraged to "choose life." So if we choose spiritual freedom, we choose that which is best in this life and in that which is to come.

## Spiritual Freedom (No. 3)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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You remember that when Jesus said in John 8:32, "The truth shall make you free," and in John 17:17, "Thy word is truth," that He was telling us the only way we could find spiritual freedom. We should feel as did the psalmist in Ps. 119:97 when he said, "O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day." As Jesus said in Matt. 5:6 "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled." In speaking of God's commandments in Ps. 19:10, David said "More to be desired are they than gold; yea, than much fine gold."

Friend, always study God's word with an open mind, ready and happy to hear and receive as God speaks to you through His word. Have the attitude of the Bereans in Acts 17:11 when "They received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." As you listen to preaching, study the truth which makes free and don't follow unless the truth of God is being presented. In 1 John 4:1 we read, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." Remember what Jesus said in Matt. 15:13-14, "Every plant which my heavenly father hath not planted shall be rooted up. ... and if the blind lead the blind, both shall into the ditch." In v. 9 He said, "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

I do want you to have spiritual freedom, so study for yourself to make certain that you are following the truth "which makes free."

## God's Way for the Nation - No. 1

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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As was pointed out last week, for the next few weeks our subject will be "Making God's Way Our Way". This is essential for a good life, both as a nation and as individuals. Today we are studying "God's Way for the Nation". Problems of our nation come because we do not follow God's way. The farther we get from God's way, the greater the crises we have to face. God's way must be respected if we are to have happiness, peace, and true prosperity.

Let us notice a few foundation scriptures for our study: Prov. 14:12, "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man; but the end thereof are the ways of death." Then note 1 Cor. 10:12, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." Please read also Prov. 16:18.

Jesus said in Matt. 4:4, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Again, in Prov. 14:34, "Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people."

We believe that all nations should keep in mind Gal. 6:7, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Individuals and nations reap as they sow, but we truly reap more than we so — since we keep God in mind and heed His will.

## God's Way for the Nation (Continued)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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America has been, and is, wonderfully blessed in many, many ways. While our country is great, it has weaknesses that can hinder — and if not checked could destroy us. Let us notice some weaknesses.

The breakdown of the moral fiber of America is evidenced by dishonesty in high places, including bribery, scandals, etc. The intake of alcoholic beverages is on the increase at an alarming rate — with over ten million alcoholics, and this is on the rise among teenagers. Right now America is going through a gambling craze which is amazing. There is also a distressing rise in the rate of crimes: murder, suicide, rape, burglary, mob action, dope dealing, plus many others.

Homosexuality, incest, fornication, adultery, the so-called "sexual revolution", abortion — these and many other sins will attribute to a breakdown in morals.

The divorce rate is rising alarmingly. Herein is a breakdown of the home, which has contributed to America's greatness. We need the kind of homes that God wants for the best and happiest life. There is a general lack of respect for God and His ways, which can lead to all kinds of problems. So America needs desperately to come back to God by following His way for the nation.

## God's Way for the Nation No. 2

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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America is a great country and I am proud to be an American. It is my hope that you are, too. America is great for many reasons: Its wonderful beauty of mountains, plains, caverns, hills, valleys, rivers and streams. America is great because of its natural resources — vast supplies of timber, coal, oil, farming land — with machinery, technology to produce. No nation on earth is more richly blessed.

America is great because we have a superior system. This is true in economics, free enterprise, with good incentives for people to work, one of the highest living standards in the world, abundant comforts and conveniences. We also have in this area good doctors, hospitals, nursing facilities, plus many other blessings.

America has a good form of government — a government by the people with their elected representatives. Great people founded this country, and great men led us to where we are now. No nation can be great without great people.

Finally, America is great because it has religious freedom and an open Bible. Certainly, to please God we must follow His way; but at the same time we are free to read, study, and learn for ourselves how to follow God's way. And, this is what we must do if we are to go to heaven.

## God's Way for the Nation (Concluded)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ  
409 W. High Street South Hill, Va.

We believe America is a great country and, I am sure, all of us want it to be even greater. We believe the greatest need for America is to come back to God: This is especially true in morals. The three basic sins in the area of morals are: the lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life. We all need to recognize this and to follow God's standard, and not man's.

One of the most meaningful of David's Psalms is his first: (Let us adapt it slightly) "Blessed is the nation that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: but its delight is in the law of Jehovah; and on his law doth it meditate day and night. And this nation shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water ... and whatsoever it doeth shall prosper." This is only a part of the psalm, but it shows that nations as well as individuals must follow God.

It is evident that America has drifted away and needs to turn back to God. We need to return to the spiritual values. All of us must assess where we are, and put on the brakes! We need to think "What doth Jehovah require?" This is answered in Micah 6:8, "To do justly, and to live mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God." This sums up what God wants people and nations to do. Our great nation needs Christ!

## Back to God

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ — 409 W. High Street

**Bible Readings: Isa. 53**  
**Golden Texts: 2 Peter 2:21; 2 Tim. 3:16-17**

Greetings, friends, in the name of our blessed Lord who died for us that "we might have life and have it more abundantly." He is the one who has "all authority both in heaven and on earth" — Matt. 28:18. "In him was life; and the life was the light of men" — John 1:4.

He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: No man cometh unto the Father, but by me" — John 14:6. In Acts 4:12, he said, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved."

We should thank our great God, who is eternal, self-existent, and who created us, for His great mercy in "so loving us" that He sent such a wonderful, compassionate and good Saviour to die in our stead.

Jesus told us "and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" — John 8:32; and He let us know what truth is when He said, "Sanctify them through thy truth: Thy word is truth" — John 17:17.

Notice "Thy word is truth": This enables us to know beyond any question where to find God's truth. It is in His book, the Bible — the Word which came from God. In 1 Pet. 1:21, we read, "Holy men of God spake as they

were moved by the Holy Ghost." See also 2 Tim. 3:16-17. So let God's Word speak to you daily through the Bible, always with an open mind and obedient heart. If I can assist you write me at 404 W. High St. or call 447-4766.

For "Dial-A-Devotional" call 447-8749. For radio "Searching the Scripture" tune in WJWS on Sunday 8:15 to 8:30 a.m.

## Trustees to the Bible

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ  
409 W. High St. South Hill, Va.

"What wonderful tributes have been paid to the Bible!" The following are a few, quoted from "Greetings".

"Continents of truth — mountain ranges of doctrine — inland seas of mystery and majesty — rivers of light — streams of salvation — nestling forests of hope — nerve centers of eternal thought — fountains of living water — day-dawns of flooding light — sun-bursts of glory!

"The Bible is the Grand Old Book of the world. It breathes with sympathy, it throbs with energy, it pulsates with power, it vibrates with heavenly harmony, it sparkles with beauty, it thunders with eloquence, it flashes with light divine, its veins run crimson with the warm blood of the Son of God, it breathes the fragrance of the Lily of the Valley and the Rose of Sharon.

"Wonderful Book! Wonderful in unity; wonderful in variety; wonderful in doctrine; wonderful in prophecy; wonderful in the simplicity of its biography; wonderful in the gigantic sweep of its history; wonderful in the blending of the human and the divine in its authorship; wonderful in its construction; wonderful in its preservation. Well may we utter the prayer of the Psalmist, 'Open Thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law'".

For "Dial-a-Devotional" call 447-8740

## The Hearers' Responsibility

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ

It is necessary to be taught God's truth by preachers and teachers. However, hearers have to know what and how to hear. Jesus, in Mark 4:24, said "Take heed what ye hear." — and in Luke 8:18, "Take heed therefore how ye hear." God said in Matt. 17:5, "This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him."

God's Word must be heard with a receptive attitude ... with a desire to obey. In Acts 2:41, we read "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls." In Acts 10:33, "Now we are all here present before God to hear all things that are commanded thee of God." Further, in Acts 17:11, "They received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether these things were so."

Thus, to be saved and have a life of joy, knowing all is well, we hear God's Word gladly and study to be sure that we are following God.

## Studying the Bible

The greatest book in the world, God's Book, the Bible, is probably the most neglected. All need to read, study and meditate upon it often. If we follow its teachings our lives are enhanced and wonderfully blessed.

Humanity's spiritual appetites must be whetted to love God's word so that we desire to study it. Ps. 119:97 says, "O how love I thy law; It is my meditation all the day" — then, verse 103, "How sweet are thy words unto my taste! Yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!". Again, in verse 105, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Verse 130: "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding to the simple." Also notice Ps. 19:7, "Thy law of the Lord is perfect, covering the soul," and, verse 10, "More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter than honey in the honeycomb."

So we encourage — yes, urge — you to study God's word daily, prayerfully, always seeking to know the "truth that makes free." Be as the psalmist in 1:2, "But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night." Let God's holy word have the right place in your life.

## Serving God

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ  
409 W. High Street - South Hill, Va.

In Tim. 4:8 Paul stated "But godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come." In John 10:10 Jesus said "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." He came to improve the quality of life here and to enable us to avoid hell and to enjoy heaven. However, we must want to follow Christ.

When Jesus said in Matt. 11:28, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest," He was not saying He would take all our problems and hurts away. There have always been problems and hurts, at least, since sin raised its ugly head in the garden of Eden — and these will always be. The difference is that when we come to Christ, He will help us to bear our burdens, our sorrows, and disappointments. He died so that we might be relieved of the greatest burden of all — sin. We believe that, if people really understand Christ and what He means to all of us, more would rush to serve God.

When we come to Jesus to please Him, we obey His gospel by being baptized into Him, and our sins are forgiven — we are saved (Acts 22:16; Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16). Old things are passed away — All things are become new. We have forgiveness of sins, a new Master, a new hope, and new friends who are Christians. But above all, if we continue in Christ, we will be in heaven. The other choice is hell, with the devil and his angels.

## The Fifth Fundamental

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ  
409 W. High Street - South Hill, Va.

In our study of the fundamentals to becoming a christian, we have learned that the first is hearing God's word; the second, believing that Christ is God's Son; the third, repentance; the fourth, confessing Jesus Christ to be God's Son. Today we study the last fundamental, in which we are to be baptized into Christ. In considering these things necessary to becoming a christian, let me urge you to study for yourself to make sure. Friend, if there is any one thing you want to be sure about, it is the destiny of your soul!

In Rom. 8:1 we read: "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Again, in 2 Cor. 5:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." When a person gets into Christ there is no "condemnation." He is a "new creature" — old things are gone and all things are new. He is a christian, a child of the King and has a new life, new hopes, new aspirations. He is in position to live as a christian.

Baptism is the fundamental that puts one into Christ. Please note Gal. 3:26, 27: "For ye are all children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ." To get the true picture of whether baptism is necessary and what it is for, get a good concordance and look up "baptism," studying all the Scriptures to see what the Bible teaches — this is the important thing. This way, you can make certain for yourself. We will be studying this further — so continue to read. I appreciate it — and you will too!

For assistance, call 757-7218.

Radio WSHV Sundays, 7:05-7:20.

## The Third Fundamental

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ  
409 W. High St. - South Hill, Va.

The first fundamental in salvation is hearing God's word; the second, faith, and the third fundamental is repentance. But what is repentance? In Matt. 3:8 the scribes and the Pharisees were told to "Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance." Godly sorrow is not repentance but it does work or lead to repentance. In 2 Cor. 7:10 we read: "for godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation." Also, the goodness of God leads us to repentance. But we must repent.

In Luke 13:3 Jesus tells us: "I tell you, nay, but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." To stress this so we will get the lesson, He says the same thing in verse 5. In Jonah 3:10 it is said of the people of Nineveh: "And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil ways." And God changed His mind and did not destroy the people of Nineveh. Please note Acts 17:30: "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent."

There was a time when God overlooked ignorance but that time is no more, as all men everywhere must repent. So with you and me, friend, it is either repent or perish! God wants us to, but will not force us to. In 2 Pet. 3:9 it is stated: "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." So, after hearing God's word; believing that Christ is God's Son, you are in position to repent. While you have time, will you do so? You need God, His help and mercy on your side. Will you do so now? Call me if I can assist.

## The Mind of Christ

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ  
409 W. High Street - South Hill, Va.

In 1 Cor. 2:16b Paul stated: "But we have the mind of Christ." What is the mind of Christ? In Phil. 2:5-8 we read, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

What was the mind of Christ? "He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Then in Heb. 5:8-9 the writer says: "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; and being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him." Again, Jesus stated in John 6:38: "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but to do the will of him that sent me." Again, in John 9:4, "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh when no man can work." And in John 4:34, "My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work."

Let us note 1 Pet. 2:21: "For even hereunto were you called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow in his steps." Thus, to have the mind of Christ we must be ready to "follow in his steps." So we are to do the will of God by obeying His Son Christ.

## If the Soul Lives in Heaven

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ  
409 West High St. — South Hill, Va.

Another week has gone by, friends. They seem to go by so fast! You and I are a little closer to the great beyond. It is my hope and prayer that you are preparing for the glory, beauty, and majesty of heaven by doing the will of God. We read in 1 Cor. 2:9, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

In 2 Cor. 4:16, 17 we find, "For which cause we faint not; but through-our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction which is but for a moment, worketh for us a more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." In chapter 5, verse 1, we learn: "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

Jesus says, in John 14:2, 3, "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

Remember, Jesus said: "Not every one that saith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." — Matt. 7:21.

## How to Seek the Lost

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ  
409 W. High St. South Hill, Va.

It was two years ago this month that I started writing these articles in "The Enterprise." This means that about 104 articles have been written. It has been, and is, my purpose to help you to live as God would have you live as well as to see that the christian life is the best possible life. To live for Christ is indeed abundantly rewarding and will prepare us for a perfect life eternally.

In our last lessons we pointed out some reasons why we should seek those who are spiritually lost. There are several reasons why I seek the lost. There is the certainty of hell or of heaven, depending on the preparation, or lack of it, in this present life.

There is also the joy of living the christian life — the blessings that are in Christ, the joy of christian service to God and man. In christian service we know that our lives have been well spent.

But how do we seek the lost? Certainly we must teach the truth. This is vital and will be duly considered. One of the first essentials in seeking the lost is a love for people — a passion for souls. God so loved the world that He sent Christ to redeem us. We must so love the lost that we will follow God's plan in getting His saving message, the gospel of Christ, to the lost.

## The Verse After

It is vital for us that we know and understand God's truth which makes free. We remember that John 17:17 states, "Thy word is truth." Thus we find God's truth in Tim. 3:16, 17, and 2 Pet. 1:21.

All of us who claim to "preach the word" must study it and be fair and unprejudiced in its presentation. This means that we give the verse before and the verse after — and never take a verse out of context to try to prove a point.

One scripture which shows how some leave off a verse that is essential is Gal. 3:26, 27. Verse 26 states "For ye are all children of God by faith in Christ Jesus." There are those who believe we are saved by faith alone, and leave off verse 27 which reads: "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Certainly one cannot be saved without faith (Heb. 11:6). However, Gal. 3:27 plainly states that we are baptized into Christ.

If we do not present all that is said on any given subject, or if we try to alter it to fit our beliefs, we are perverting the gospel of Christ. To please God and to enable those we teach to be saved, we must preach God's word as it is.

## Values

By **W. B. Freeman, Evangelist**  
P.O. Box 268 — South Hill, Va.

Paul is one of my favorite apostles. His dedication, sincerity, love for the truth of God, passion for souls, and his example in sacrifice to preach the gospel of Christ is an example and inspiration to all preachers. In Acts 17:11 it is stated: "And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night to Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were nobler than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether these things were so."

Paul and Silas were treated cruelly in Thessalonica and were sent to Berea for their safety. In sharp contrast to the Thessalonians, the people of Berea had receptive ears to the word of God. Note: "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica," the reason being that they "received the word of God with all readiness of mind." Not only did they have a ready mind to hear, but also "searched the scriptures daily, whether these things were so."

Friend, this is the attitude which pleases God: To receive God's word readily, then to check it by His Book to see if it is so. John 8:32 tells us, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." So as you continue in 1990, why not search the Bible daily and accept His word daily as it applies to all today? Remember that if I can assist you, just call 757-7218. Don't forget our radio program each Lord's day at 7:05-7:20 a.m. on WSHV-FM.

## Values

By **W. B. Freeman, Evangelist**  
P.O. Box 268 — Phone 757-7218  
South Hill, Va.

Friend, it is good to write these articles again after an absence of a few weeks. This is being written on Tuesday, Jan. 2, 1990 — and it is my hope and prayer that you and yours are off to a good start in this new year. May you have good health and all the good things in life. We want you to have, above all, good spiritual health in 1990! Please take care of yourself and look to God; reading and studying His Word, and obeying the teachings therein.

As many of you know, I am now semi-retired, having lived beyond what most people think of as retirement age. We now have a new minister, Bro. David L. Downour, who resides at 404 W. High Street in South Hill — across from the Church of Christ's meeting place. His phone number is 447-6026. Since my health is still good, I now have a better opportunity to visit and to teach in homes and to do other good works. I continue to teach Sunday morning Bible class for the adults and to have the Radio Program over WSHV on Sunday mornings. My wife and I stand ready to serve you, so if we can assist you in any spiritual matter just let me know.

Have you made any New Year resolutions for 1990? It is my hope and prayer that if you are not a Christian, you will obey Christ's gospel soon and then live so that you will go to heaven, while at the same time avoiding hell. Please note what Solomon said in Ecc. 12:13, 14: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter; Fear God, and keep his commandments: For this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." Friend, may God richly bless you in every good thing in 1990!

## Decision of Character for the Young

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ  
409 W. High St. South Hill, Va.

We always want what is best for our young people. We want success, a good life — along with the realization of what a truly good life is. There can be no really successful life without God and Christ ruling our hearts. There are only two masters in the lives of people: One is God and the other is the devil. We must all choose between them. If the devil is in charge miserable failure is certain.

Young people cannot live by bread alone, by education alone, by the making of money, having a good time, living after the pleasures of this world, being a good honest citizen, or by living a morally good and upright life alone. A good moral life is essential; but the young deserve to learn that "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" — Matt. 4:4.

In Ps. 119:17, we read "Deal bountifully with thy servant that I may live and keep thy word." Verse 105 confesses "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

Young friends, why not spend some time each day reading God's word? You will enjoy it and be enriched. You can read Psalm 1 in about 45 seconds and Psalm 23 in about the same length of time. In 15 minutes, several chapters of reasonable length can be read and understood. "Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth" — Ecc. 12:1.

Young friend, always remember that you cannot decide for real character or happiness without God. Your sins (deeds, words, thoughts) are with you and separate you from God and Christ. These sins continue to grow as long as you are on the devil's side. Remember this, also: Until you become a christian by obeying Christ (Heb. 5:8,9) you are on Satan's side, as no man can serve two masters — Matt. 6:24. There is no middle road. God wants you and Satan wants you. You cast the deciding vote!

Some might say "I will become a christian and serve the Lord." But when will you take this step? There is no better time than now. You, as a young person, need the Lord on your side to really live. He will help you every day and give you that peace of mind which passes all understanding.

Do you not want to be an heir of God and a joint-heir with Jesus Christ? Remember, He is King of kings and Lord of lords. If you desire spiritual help, just write me, W. B. Freeman, at 404 W. High St., or call 447-4766.

You might ask the question, "How can I, as a young person, decide for real character?" Well, in Ps. 119:9 we find "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word." Then in verses 10 and 11: "With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee."

In Ps. 23:1, we read "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." Again, in Ps. 19:7, "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple"

Today's youth searches for leaders. Christ is the highest and greatest leader to be found. He said "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." — John 8:12. So why not become a Christian and let Christ lead you? In doing so you will be a grand success!

## Decision of Character for the Young (Continued)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ  
409 W. High St. South Hill, Va.

We want our young people to live up to their potential, to be the best possible "self". Young people deserve to be happy and to have a good life. All should desire greatness.

To be great, one must be humble and alert for opportunities to serve God and fellow man. In the world, as in the church, the greatest were and are those who serve best. Christ is our example in serving others. So hold on to your dreams, while putting service to God and your fellow man at the top of your priorities.

"Life is real, life is earnest; and the grave is not its goal" — So look for opportunities to develop, look to God, and prepare for a good life.

Always keep in mind that you can be a Christian and excel. We suggest that you select good friends, have high ideals and never follow the crowd unless they are doing right. Note Ps. 1:1, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful."

We might ask "Who are our young people?". These are not in the abstract or just numbers. People are all very real and vital to a good society. The young are people, too! The real feelings, hopes, aspirations and desires are there. So are problems — and they cannot be solved by criticism only or by giving up on the young.

Young people are not born bad but, as with older, can become bad. This is what we want to avoid. We want to do what we can in helping the young to be the best people. Young people are important to us who are older.

Our young people must, to be happy and successful, make obedience a part of their lives. This needs to be in the home, in school and in society. This means they will be guided in obedience to laws and regulations, whether or not they agree with them ... that is, unless these conflicts with God's laws.

I feel that our young people want to develop good habits and be particular and selective in recreations and pasttimes. Also, they will like the best in reading material, movies, television, ect. In learning to discriminate they develop an appreciation for the good and beautiful.

## Young People: Remember God

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ  
409 W. High Street - South Hill, Va.

Solomon said in Ecc. 12:1, "Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them." As we study the book of Ecclesiastes we find that Solomon had set out to find happiness and the good things of life, and that he tried almost everything to reach his goal. He said in chapter 2, verse 3, "I sought in mine heart to give myself unto wine, yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom: and to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the sons of men which they should do under the heaven all the days of their life."

Here we see Solomon setting out to make an experiment for mankind to determine what is best for all who came after him. Thus, they can know by my experience without learning the way I did. As we read chapter 2 we see that he made great works, built houses, planted vineyards, made gardens, planted trees and orchards. He also made pools of water, got servants and maidens, and had great possessions above all that were in Jerusalem before him. He gathered silver and gold, peculiar treasures, got men and women singers and the delights of the sons of men. He was great and increased more than anyone before him. Also, his wisdom remained with him.

In addition to all this, whatsoever his eyes desired he kept not from them. But he looked at it all and said behold all was vanity and vexation of the spirit. He found that true happiness came not from trusting in things, but in God!

## Youth Need God

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ  
409 W. High Street - South Hill, Va.

We believe that it is in the best interest of young people to remember God early in life. To remember God is to follow Him, their loving Creator and the one from whom all blessings flow. Today's problems for youth are complex and life can become confusing. What to do and what not to do is not easy to decide.

Some young people feel neglected and unloved by parents and others. They feel misunderstood, and the pressures are sometimes hard to deal with. Young people want to talk and to be understood - to be assured they have friends they can turn to for help and not be scolded, laughed at, or criticized. Youth need caring and help from people who are older.

In order to "remember God," young people need "role models" in parents and other leaders in their lives to see God and Christ in them; This comes by teaching what is right, but a good example has a better and stronger influence. This is why all parents should be dedicated Christians — So that youth can see the "beauty of Christ" living in them. This will mean that God, Christ and the Bible will be the center of the home. It is vital in a good home that children obey their parents and that parents bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Young people, obey Christ and live the Christian life - and you will be working (yes, joyfully) in your own best interest!

## Youth: Remember God

(continued)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ  
409 W. High Street - South Hill, Va.

When Solomon said to young people in Ecc. 12, "Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth," he was speaking from personal experience and also by inspiration. God, who created man, knows what is best for him. All are told in Ecc. 12:13, "Fear God and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." This is an eternal truth. The greatest need for young people is to know God by obeying Christ and living for Him!

Youth can follow God and enjoy the good things of life, while being successful and happy. God wants us, His creation, to have the good things of life, and He planned it that way. Of course, the devil has other ideas and is putting in full time enticing all to follow him. His plan is to get all to follow and live after the "lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life." He wants us to forget about God and follow him to hell, to be with him there with all its torments and miseries throughout eternity!

Young people, take time to read and study God's word, and in it see the beauty of being a christian, of Christ Himself, and of His glorious church for which He died. See also the beauty and simplicity of His plan of salvation, which is to hear His gospel, believe it, repent of all sins, confess Christ to be God's son, and then to be baptized for the remission of sins. When you take these steps, you are in His church — and when you continue faithful He will help you to truly live here and finally go to heaven.

## Youth, Remember God (Conclusion)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ  
409 W. High Street - South Hill, Va.

We want our young people to be happy and have a good life here, but to above all be prepared for heaven. The happiest and most joyful young people I have ever known were those who had yielded their lives to Christ by obeying His gospel — thus being children of God and joint heirs with Christ. God intended that Christians should be happy, and there are many scriptures that prove this.

In Acts 2:41, after Peter had given the terms of salvation, we read "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls." Later we find that they "ate their meat with gladness and singleness of heart." Then in Acts 8 we find that the eunuch, after he was baptized, went on his way rejoicing. We believe this is true of everyone who obeys Christ. In Luke 15:7 we find that there is "joy in heaven over one sinner that repents."

In Phil. 4:4, Paul said "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say rejoice." Yes, young friend, when you are a Christian you have much to rejoice about, especially that your name is "written in heaven." It is important that we live so that we will be of the greatest service possible. It was Jesus who said "It is more blessed to give than to receive." If we put God first, others second, things last of all, all will work for our good!

## Mothers Should Come Unto Jesus

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ  
409 W. High Street South Hill, Va.

All mothers should heed Jesus' call to "Come unto me." When mothers heed Christ by hearing, believing, and obeying His gospel, they become children of God and heirs - thus joint heirs with Christ. They are then in position to teach their children the right way. In Ps. 119:9 we read "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word."

Then, in Ecc. 12:1, "Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them."

When a mother is a dedicated christian, she will encourage Bible reading, as well as other good books, by both teaching and example. She will be a great influence in helping her children to see the "beauty of Christ" in her life and they will want to "Take heed thereto according to thy word." They will also "remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth."

Mothers are told in Titus 2:4-5, to "Love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home." So God's mother loves her children, feeds them well, sees that they get sufficient rest, helps them to love and have good memories of home. They appreciate God, their Maker, and desire to serve Him.

## Mothers Should Come Unto Jesus

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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Paul, in speaking of Timothy's "unfeigned faith" in 2 Tim. 1:5, said "which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also." This shows the power and influence of a good grandmother and mother. Mothers, always remember that you have a tremendous influence on your children, either for good or bad. While children are young is the time to begin to help mold their lives into being citizens of God's kingdom, as well as good, useful, law-abiding citizens in this great country.

Good morals are essential. As we read in Prov. 22:1, "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches." Good character is necessary for a good life. Children and young people must be taught to not use foul language, not to smoke, neither partake of strong drink, engage in anything immoral or have friends who practice such. Young people should not go along with the crowd in any way (including movies and television) *unless it is the right way*.

Mothers, take time for your children. Take an interest in them, listening to their problems, always keeping communication lines open. Children should feel their mother's love, her gentleness and kindness - But they should also realize that mother is in charge in her area. Again, we urge that God, Christ, and the Bible be the guiding force in the home.

## Mothers Should "Come Unto Jesus"

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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409 W. High Street South Hill, Va.

We believe that it is to the best interest of all to come to Jesus. The invitation He gave in Matt. 11:28-30 promises an easy yoke, rest, a light burden. To let Jesus and His way control our lives is the best life here and a home in heaven in the life beyond. As we have pointed out, fathers need to "Come unto Jesus" in order to be good fathers and to train their children right.

However, there is just as great a need for all mothers to be christians. Women should not desire children and bring them into the world unless they can give them a good home. In a good home children are taught to put first things first. Thus the mother takes a vital interest in her children's welfare. She not only sees that they have proper food and clothing, but she realizes the value of their learning about God — how He created the heavens and earth and loves everybody, having given a book to guide us to Him.

A good mother has a deep love for her children and does what she can to make home a place where children love to be. It is a home where God is ruler.

To be continued

## Wives, Reverence Your Husbands

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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God wants all husbands and wives to be happy in their relationship with each other. This can only be accomplished by each understanding the role given by the God who created them, and fitting in properly. God has made plain what each is to do to comply with His will.

In Eph. 5:23, we find "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church." Again, in Col. 3:18, - "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord." Then, in 1 Pet. 3:1, "Likewise ye wives be in subjection to your own husbands; that if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation (manner of life)

of the wives". In verse 6, "Ever Sarah obeyed Abraham".

Paul, in Titus 2:4, teaching the aged women, says "That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed".

Since God created both man and woman, He knows what is best for them. So, to achieve the good life, and help to have a better world, both men and women need to come back to God's way.

Next week: Conclusion.

For assistance call 447-4766.

Radio WJWS, Sundays, 8:15-8:30 a.m.

## Husbands, Demonstrate Love

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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While love between husband and wife does not always make a good home, yet there cannot be a good, happy home without love. Husbands are commanded to love their wives — and where there is love we find kindness. "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another" was written to Christians; but it is certainly a necessary ingredient for a good home.

A husband may show his love in "big ways"; yet there are many "little ways" we husbands show our love also. Some of these are picking up clothes and other things, not being "sloppy" around the house, giving the "sweet little lady" breathing space in which to do her work. Find ways to give her compliments and appreciation, rather than constant criticism. Be positive instead of negative. It is good to be careful how we say things and to look at her with kindness.

We who are husbands should let our wives know if we will be home at a given time or not. It is to be a joy to be at home together and with the family. Give your wife an affectionate kiss on leaving out and returning. Kind affection means a lot. Above all, look to God as Christians, and let Him direct your life.

## Husbands, Love Your Wives

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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In Eph. 5:25, we read "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it". In Col. 3:19: "Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them." Again, in 1 Pet. 3:7, we find "Likewise ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel.

While there are other reasons for getting married, it is essential that love be there to have good, happy and successful marriages. We will discuss the relationship of both husband and wife in these lessons; but we are "speaking" to husbands first. Men marry for companionship, to propagate the race, to prevent immorality, etc., (1 Cor. 7:2); but a deep love and commitment must be there — and his is to grow as the marriage continues. Remember, it is "until death do us part". In Matt. 19:5, 6

Jesus said "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh .... What, therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

We husbands must remember that we are to love our wives "even as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it". We are to give "honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel", and to not be "bitter against them"

## Husbands, Show Your Love

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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From Eph. 5:25, we have learned that husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church, and gave Himself for it. In verses 28, 29 we find "So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church."

Then, let us note verse 31: "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined to his wife, and they two shall be one flesh."

The word "nourish" means "to support, maintain, foster" and "cherish" means "To hold dear; treat with tenderness". So we can see that loving one's wife is giving her the proper support — Cer-

tainly, this means physical support; but it also means moral support. To cherish is to hold dear and treat with tenderness — This is a way of showing "honor as unto the weaker vessel". This means that every husband should show his love for his wife.

Love should grow sweeter as the years go by. There are many ways a husband may show his love: Little things mean much, whether opening doors for his wife, carrying the heavier things (as groceries, etc.), walking beside her at her pace, holding to her hand. All these show a genuine affection.

## Looking to 1983

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ  
409 W. High St. South Hill, Va.

In a very short time this year of 1982 will be history, and we will be into 1983. As we look back over 1982, we realize that things could have been much better; but at the same time they could have been much worse. God has richly blessed us in so many ways that we thank Him for His love, goodness and mercy to us.

My wishes for each one of you who read this are that the very best will be yours in 1983 and beyond. May your life be a God-directed life. It will be if you read, study and follow His holy word. To those who are sick, elderly, shut-in, lonely or bereaved, may you be comforted and strengthened by looking to God through His word.

There is no doubt that the Bible is indeed the greatest book in the world. It was not written by man, but by "holy men of God" who "spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" — 2 Pet. 1:21.

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God" — 2 Tim. 3:16, 17. We know that the truth makes free — John 8:32 — and that "Thy word is truth" — John 17:17. Friend, why not determine to read and live with the Bible? Why not read it through? You will be enriched thereby. If you have questions or need assistance in study, just call me at 447-4766. See you next year!

## We Need Christ in 1984

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ  
409 W. High Street South Hill, Va.

Friends, as we close out 1983 we look back and we look forward. It is my hope and prayer that you have had a good year and that God and Christ have been with you. We can leave Christ out of our lives, or forsake Him, but He will never forsake us. God is a very present "help in time of need." He has promised to never leave or forsake His people.

As we look to the new year, it is a time to get, or keep, our priorities right. It is a time of challenge and excitement. It is a time to let Christ rule our lives. When He is in charge our lives are happy, serene, and successful. But if our need for Christ is to be realized, we must be ready to follow Him. We must say "Speak, Lord, and I will hear Command, Lord, and I will obey." Then, we must study the Bible to find His will for us, with the attitude "I'll go with Him all the way."

In 1984 each individual needs Christ. The over four billion people of the world need Christ. Schools, homes, businesses, those in all walks of life need Him. Christ is indeed the hope of the world. We need Christ to be successful in our living here; but we need to follow Him in preparing for our eternal home, heaven.

## Looking to 1983,

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ  
409 W. High St. South Hill, Va.

As we look to 1983 we want it to be the best year ever, don't we? We all want the best possible life. Well, the best life possible is one that is God-directed. A God-directed life is possible only if we listen to Christ in Matt. 6:33: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you."

Here He was teaching that God cares and will take care of us. In Matt. 4:4 Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Again we read in Rom. 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God."

Thus in a God-directed life we put Him first, live by His word, love Him with all our being and our neighbor as ourself — Mark 12:28-31. So we serve God, not just on special days, but every day — making His way our way. This happens in the home, everywhere we are. We accept the New Testament teaching on the church, coming to Him and living the christian life.

The christian life is a life of real joy, peace, love and service to God and to man. May we put God first in 1983

## As We Continue in 1984

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ  
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Those who have made resolutions for 1984 may have already broken some, or all, of them. However, as all resolve to do some things that are good for them and for others, this is a good start. We all need to get and keep our priorities right. Everyone ought to put God first. When we do this, all else will fall into place.

We cannot put first things first without letting God's Holy Word, the Bible, be a vital part of us. It is a marvelous book; not only because it teaches us God's way, but because it is also a great book of literature. It has been said that no person who has good knowledge of the Bible could be considered an uneducated person and that any person who does not have good knowledge of the Bible could be considered an educated person. It is indeed the book of the ages!

The Bible contains 66 books (39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament) and was written by about 40 writers — this over a period of 1,600 years. The Biblical writers had no chance to compare manuscripts. It is amazing that there is not a single contradiction of any note in these 66 books. This is just one of the many proofs that the Bible is inspired, and from God instead of man.

## We Need Christ in 1984

(Continued)

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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409 W. High Street South Hill, Va.

Friend, as you know, we are living in a time of war, upheaval, turmoil, crime, drunkenness, adultery, fornication, murder — plus many more "big" and "little" sins. It is time that many people are becoming discouraged and pessimistic about the future. This all points up the fact that we desperately need Christ in our lives in 1984. In this new year is Christ, through His word, directing you? If your life and my life are not God-directed, then they will fail.

The evils, corruption and crime — all things that cause nations and people to fail and be miserable — come about because God is left out. When Christ rules our lives we can truly say "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever" — Ps. 23:6. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me" — Ps. 23:4.

As we continue through the remainder of 1984 there is no greater need and privilege than to read, study, and meditate upon — above all, follow — the greatest book of the past, present and future, the Holy Book of God, the Bible. This is the book that should guide us daily.

## As We Continue in 1985

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ  
409 W. High St. — South Hill, Va.

Greetings, friend, from W. B. Freeman on this third day of January, 1985 (the day this is being written) to you, wherever you are reading. I trust you are off to a good start in 1985 and that you will be blessed with as good health as possible, as well as having "peace that passeth all understanding."

I like what David said in Psalm 23, verse 1: "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." He could say this because he had chosen to serve God, and knew that God would take care of him. Then, in verse 4, he said "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and staff they comfort me." David here expresses confidence that God was with him, and that with His protection, he was not afraid, even of death.

Finally, in verse 6, he says "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." This was David's hope and confidence. This should be ours — and it will, if we follow Jesus. He said in Matt. 7:21, "Not every one that saith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."

For assistance call 447-4766.

Radio W.J.W.S. Sundays, 8:15 - 8:30.

## Happy New Year!

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
South Hill Church of Christ  
409 W. High St. — South Hill, Va.

Are you like me - always looking forward to the new year, but at the same time realizing just how "time flies"? It seems as we grow older time passes faster and we wonder where it has gone. As an old hymn goes, "Time is filled with swift transition" - and truly we are on a journey to the next world, where we will spend endless time in heaven (the home of the soul) or in hell, prepared for the devil and his angels.

Friend, it is my hope and prayer that you will have a good year in 1985. I trust you will have good physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual health in 1985. My most fervent prayer, however, is that you will be well spiritually, because this will determine whether you "Fear God and keep his commandments" - which is the whole duty of man.

As you go through 1985, remember that God created man "in his own image" and that He looked on His creation and (in Gen. 1:31) said "It was very good". Yes, always believe that there is a God in heaven who loves us dearly and wants us to be with Him throughout eternity. In 1985, friend, more than ever, enjoy reading and studying - following God's Holy Book, the BIBLE.

## As We Continue in 1986

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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As I write this (Friday afternoon), we are just in the third day of 1986. It does not seem that it has been 365 days since Jan. 3, 1985. The years go by so quickly, and as we grow older it seems so much so that we wonder where the time went. This is one reason we war to make each year better than the previous one. However, to do this we must keep in mind that we live one day at a time. So we must determine to use each day effectively.

In James 4:14 the question is asked, "For what is your life?" - The answer in the same verse is given: "It is even a vapor, that appeared for a little time and vanishes away."

Job 14:1, 2 puts it this way: "Man that is born of woman is of few days, and is full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: He fleeth also as a shadow and continueth not." In Ps. 90:10 we find that "the days of our years are three score and ten." Then, in verse 12, "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." So day by day we want to live preparing to meet God, being of unselfish service to our fellow man.

You are encouraged to look to God by a diligent study of His word, being ready always to do His will. Friend, it is my hope and prayer that 1986 will be the best year of your life thus far!

## Serving God

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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When we serve God we learn to recognize that Jesus Christ is the Son of God with power, having all authority both in heaven and on earth. Thus we listen to, and follow, what He taught us to do in the New Testament. His teachings at times may seem hard, and His requirements demanding. However, in serving God we must be willing to go all the way with Christ. Note what Jesus said in Luke 14:33 — “So likewise, he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath cannot be my disciple.”

The rich young ruler is a good example of one not willing to make the sacrifice necessary to follow Jesus. Let us note his story from Mark 10, beginning with verse 17. This young man came running, and knelt down to Jesus, and asked “Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?” Jesus named the commandments and the young ruler replied, “Master, all these have I observed from my youth.” No doubt, he was feeling good at this time, as he had been a good moral person — even a good example. Then in verse 21 Jesus put the damper on his spirit. Please note:

“Then Jesus beholding him, loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: Go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come take up thy cross, and follow me.” Notice the young ruler’s reaction in verse 22: “And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.” Yes, to be saved we must be ready to do whatever He commands and go with Him all the way.

# Serving

By W. B. Freeman, Minister  
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In Acts 20:35 Paul said to the elders at Ephesus as he was about to leave them, "So labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, it is more blessed to give than to receive." In Luke 22 there was strife among the disciples as to who should be counted the greatest — but Jesus said in verse 26 "But he that is greatest among you, let him be the younger; and he that is chief as he that doth serve." Jesus taught by example and by word that the greatest would be those who served best.

Today, we should all have the attitude of "Such as I have give I unto thee." In Eph. 4:28 we read: "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth." Thus we are to give to those who need our help. There are so many who need the help of others. We are thankful for those who are willing to give, especially of themselves, to serve others. Jesus said in Matt. 5:42, "Give to him that asketh thee and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away."

Who needs to be served by those of us who are able? The sick, in hospitals or nursing homes, those in wheel chairs, the shut-ins, people in situations that discourage or depress them — people of all ages. Teens need help to believe in God and His almighty power. The greatest gift we can give is ourselves. But before we can give to others effectually we must give our own selves to the Lord.