

You

- I. Introduction:
 - a. (**Josh 24:15**) “And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”
 - i. Man is a free moral being – able to make choices
- II. Have you been saved?
 - a. God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit are Anxious to save
 - i. (**1 Tim 2:3-4**) “For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.”
 - ii. (**Matt 23:37**) “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!”
 - iii. (**Rev 22:17**) “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”
 - b. Others can do much for you
 - i. Preach
 - ii. Pray
 - iii. But cannot decide for you
 - c. You must decide Like Felix and King Agrippa
 - i. (**Acts 24:24**) “And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ.”
 - ii. (**Acts 26:27-29**) “King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest. Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian. And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds.”
- III. Is your life going to be happy?
 - a. Happiness cannot be bought, begged, borrowed, or stolen.
 - i. It is within the grasp of each.
 - b. The Lord wants you to be happy
 - i. (**Matt 5:11-12**) “Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”
 - ii. (**Luke 6:23**) “Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets.”

1. Blessed – “makarios (mak-ar'-ee-os) supremely blest; by extension, fortunate, well off.”
 - a. We are fortunate in our suffering because we will receive our reward in heaven
 - b. **(1 Peter 4:13)** “But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.”
- c. Happiness comes from obedience to the Lord and a close relationship with him
 - i. **(Ps 144:15)** “Yea, happy is that people, whose God is the Lord.”
 - ii. **(Psalms 33:12)** “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord: and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.”
 - iii. **(Acts 8:35-39)** “Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and 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. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way **rejoicing.**”
 1. Why so happy?
 - a. Understood his situation – Danger of sin
 - i. **(1 John 3:4)** “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”
 - ii. **(Rom 6:23)** “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”
 - b. Every time that we sin – a slap to the face of God – God created the Law – Sin is the breaking of that law
 - i. **(Heb 10:31)** “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”
- d. Happiness does not depend upon material things
 - i. **(Luke 12:13-15)** “And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me. And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you? And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the **abundance** of the **things** which he **possesseth.**”

- ii. **The Wisdom of Paul** – (**Phil 4:11**) “Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.”
- IV. Are you going to have friends?
 - a. To have friends you must:
 - i. Be a friend
 - 1. Able to confide
 - a. (**Prov 27:9**) “Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so doth the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel.”
 - i. Good dose of Advice
 - 2. Able to be trustworthy
 - ii. Be friendly
 - 1. (**Prov 18:24**) “A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.”
 - iii. Be unselfish
 - 1. (**Phil 2:4-7**) “Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. 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 the likeness of men:”
 - iv. Do things for others
 - 1. (**Matt 23:11**) “But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.”
- V. Will the Church continue to grow?
 - a. The church grew in the first century
 - i. (**Acts 2:47**) “Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”
 - ii. (**Acts 4:4**) “Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.”
 - b. It grew because of what the members did
 - i. (**Acts 2:42**) “And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”
 - ii. (**Col 1:23**) “If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;”
 - 1. They were the church
 - c. The Church growing depends on you!
- VI. Is the Church going to be strong?
 - a. In friendliness – Hospitality?
 - i. (**Matt 25:35**) “...I was a stranger, and ye took me in”
 - ii. Robert Burns, the national poet of Scotland, was in a strange city and was feeling very lonely. He went to church, but received no

word of welcome and no hand of friendship. But before he left he scribbled this bit of verse on the flyleaf of the song book:

As cauld a wind as ever blew;
A caulder kirk, and in't but few;
As cauld a minister's e'er spak;
Ye'll all be hot ere I come back!

- b. In soul-winning?
 - i. (**Prov 11:30**) "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise."
 - ii. (**James 5:19-20**) "Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins."
 - c. In sacrifice?
 - i. (**Rom 12:1**) "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."
 - d. In knowledge?
 - i. (**Hos 4:6**) "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children."
 - ii. (**1 Tim 1:12-14**) "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus."
 - e. In attendance?
 - i. (**Heb 10:25**) "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."
- VII. Is the Church going to remain sound in the faith?
- a. (**2 Tim 1:13**) "Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus."
 - b. (**Titus 1:13-14**) "This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith; Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth."
 - c. Unsoundness is a gradual process
 - i. Begins with an attitude and comes slowly, step by step
 - ii. (**2 Tim 4:3-4**) "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 shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."
- VIII. Are you going to heaven?
- a. All are going some place

- i. **(Matt 25:31-46)**
 - ii. **(Rev 20:12-15)** “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”
 - b. The Lord has gone to prepare it
 - i. **(John 14:1-4)** “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 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 ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.”
 - c. Are you prepared?
- IX. Must be a child of God
- a. **(Gal 3:26-29)** “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. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.”