

Poems of the Soul and Proverbs



BY
JAMES E. GIBBONS



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This little book contains poems and proverbs
that ponder, praise, and preach (and even prod).



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As requests are often received, permission is herewith granted for the reprinting of any of the material in this little book in any noncommercial context that would glorify God and honor truth.—J.E.G.

Preface

Sometime ago my sister Peggy said that she would like to have a copy of my poems if I ever printed them. I have written a few through the years as sort of a personal expression to myself. Some of the poems included here go all the way back to my teenage years. Most were rather crudely written, so I have tried to polish them up a little for this presentation. Part of them had been put together in a theme binder for family and friends. One of them, "I Saw Him Standing there (Or, The Old Gospel Preacher)," was featured in *The Sword and Staff* publication. It was well received, and many requested the free copies made available suitable for framing. Thus encouraged by the reception of this poem, and with others strongly suggesting that other poems that I had written be printed, this little book is forthcoming. The poems are primarily religious in nature, and most have their roots in special meaning to me. They might be of some interest and value to you. Here they are.

Along with these poems of the soul, making up this little volume, are several hundred proverbial sayings that I have written. The Book of Proverbs in the Bible has always had a special appeal to me. I remember the first time that I read it as a youngster. My immediate reaction was, "Wow! This is great!" Truth expressed in a select number of choice words has a special appeal. It gets and holds our attention. It helps in remembering the truth (and incorporating it into our lives).

So, here is a little book of poems and proverbs that ponders, praises, and preaches (and even prods). May it serve a good purpose as you read it.

The poems and proverbs are arranged alphabetically.

James E. Gibbons
May, 1993

I Saw Him Standing There (Or, The Old Gospel Preacher)

I saw him standing there, this man of God,
Erect and firm, although his hair was gray.
The passing years had come and they had gone
To leave the weaker men along the way.

I saw him standing there, his face was fixed,
And he was unafraid to preach the Word.
Although the times had changed so many things,
His message was the same for those who heard.

I saw him standing straight and heard him preach
That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
He preached against men's sins with force and
 might,
Then called to one and all with pleading nod.

I heard him preach salvation through the blood,
The message many need to hear today;
How sinners must believe, and then repent;
And turn to be baptized the Bible way.

I heard him preach about the church of Christ,
The precious bride for which our Savior died,
As he condemned the sects of men as sin,
And called on all to give up party pride.

I thank the Lord for this, a stalwart man,
Whose message had that old familiar ring
Of the apostles' doctrine through and through,
And this to me was such a noble thing.

I saw him standing there, this man of God,
His life as faithful as the day is long.
It gave me courage that I needed most,
And I felt inspiration to be strong.

A Hike in Early Spring

I walked amid the newly sprouted wheat;
It was a morning cool with breath of Spring,
And I about with nature at my feet,
With gladness filled, the birds and I did sing.

Then there I was amid the wooded hills
With all the trees newly leafed and flowered,
Which gives a fragrance of perfume that fills
Your being with fuel for delights or prayers.

The day has now advanced to make it fit,
With skies of blue, to see the glowing grace
Foretold before the dawn by nature's prophet,
The frogs (and lizards) from the swampy base.

Alone at Night

In the darkness of night
Alone one finds himself
With feelings liberated
To face what he then feels
Exaggerated!

In the darkness of night,
Ones dreads are deepened;
Ones hopes are heightened;
Ones sorrows steepened,
And faith enlivened!

America, Repent or Perish! **(Proverbs 14:34; Psalms 9:17)**

America, you are ripe for judgment;
Your cup of sin is full and foaming over;
You are at ease in Zion, pleasure bent;
God's bitter vial of wrath you do bestir!

America, repent while you have time;
The LORD is free with grace and will forgive;
It must be real—not just a pantomime;
If not, you shall pass through God’s chastening sieve!
Beware, God’s grinding grapes of wrath await;
The land that’s sick will spew you out;
Behold, your crooked ways must be made straight,
Or by God’s wrath you will be cast about!

Approaching the Almighty and Holy One

I AM THAT I AM, the Eternal Self-Existent ONE;
The GOD of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob;
The High and Lofty ONE Who inhabits eternity;
THE LORD OF HOSTS—Whose Name is Holy and
Reverend.

Before such a ONE I fall upon my face—undone;
O wretched man I am—a man of unclean heart and lips;
The nakedness of my shame I clothe with humility;
My sins despised, yea loathed, I cry out to this ONE for
mercy.

Earth-Bound Celestial Beings

Man came from God eons of time ago
As new as morning at the break of dawn;
A spirit clothed for its terrestrial role,
Returning thus to God as fish that spawn.

Frail creatures of time (and eternity),
Earth-bound and body-clad for a season;
Therewith subject to sin and vanity,
But crown of creation for a reason.

Man must show forth splendor of the Divine
By being God like each and every day;
He is to love, restore his fallen kind,
Lest he himself should likewise go astray.

Era of Dirt—Be Gone!

Era of dirt, dissipation, and drugs—be gone!
Too long our land has been adulterated!
Too long our youth have been captivated
By the earth-bound philosophies
Of pried pipers and false prophets!
Too long the righteous have been nauseated!
And have tolerated (though exasperated)!
Our eyes burn from that which we see;
Our ears hurt from that which we hear.

Era of dirt, dissipation, and drugs—be gone!
May cleansing winds of change sweep upon us,
Removing such—reviving moral impetus!
Late-century, modern debris—
Bankrupt!—be gone now and for good!
Neither trade we open shame for secret
Trespass in which one plays the hypocrite.
Our hearts yearn for that which we need;
Our souls desire to cry, “I’m freed!”

Escape

This business of living—it’s too much for me;
Give me the woodland and give me the sea.
Away from all of it just let me get,
To find freedom from man in nature yet.

But such a thing to me is in the past;
Nature offers now no escape to last.

Faces

Some faces that we see are long,
Then not a few are round;
Some faces may convey a song,
While others only frown.
Some faces are freckle covered,
Some have a bushy top;
Some faces are in make-up smothered,
And thus would stop a clock.
Some faces harbor staring eyes,
Then some support a nose;
Some faces register their surprise,
Show smiling teeth in rows.
Some faces look like their mother's,
While others say it's dad;
Some faces have ugly brothers,
Then some are not so bad.
Some faces bear the mark of pain,
Others the guilt of sin;
But with all faces it's the same;
We must be born again.

Faith

That conviction of the vast unseen
Made closer than the touch of hand,
Alerted by the mind's eye supreme
When awakened in every man.

Few in Number

How many souls were safe in Noah's ark

When the water began to fall?

I think you know the answer,

They numbered only eight in all.

How many of them reached the promised land

When the Israelites were set free?

The multitudes were buried in the sand;

And there were only two, not three.

How many were the faithful ones of God

When Israel settled in the land?

They went a-whoring after heathen gods;

The prophet only was God's man.

How many stood by Jesus Christ the Lord

When he was tried in days of old?

There his disciples fled before the sword;

Another one his Lord had sold.

How many constitute the church today

When men in sin for wrong contend?

The gate is strait and narrow is the way,

And few the faith will they defend.

The Lord himself said many would be called,

But few would be chosen;

Of many would the fate of sin befall;

Others, heresies' confusion.

God's Temple

Stone walls do not a temple make,

Nor do cathedrals reach to God;

For they are only human made,

And are bound to earth by sod.

The Lord has no regard for stone,
Nor brick, nor glass, nor wood, nor gold;
His temple's made of flesh and blood,
Wherein he breathed a living soul.

His Church is Marching On

My ears have heard the story of the Christ upon the
cross,
How he gave himself so freely for the church at such a
cost;

How with power the church was started on the day of
Pentecost;

His church is marching on.

Praise the Lord, O hallelujah!

Praise the Lord, O hallelujah!

Praise the Lord, O hallelujah!

His church is marching on.

I have read it on the pages of the Holy Word of God
That the church that Jesus purchased under foot of
man was trod;

For the oneness of the pattern in the eyes of men is odd;

His church is marching on.

Praise the Lord, O hallelujah!

Praise the Lord, O hallelujah!

Praise the Lord, O hallelujah!

His church is marching on.

The church that Jesus started has endured the test of
time;

For the gates of hell cannot prevail against this church
divine;

And the children of this kingdom will some day the sun
outshine;

His church is marching on.

Praise the Lord, O hallelujah!
Praise the Lord, O hallelujah!
Praise the Lord, O hallelujah!
His church is marching on.

Hopelessness

There is a deadening feel of unconcern, inactivity, and lifelessness that gradually captures the soul, having been brought about by uncertain living in the absence of hope.

Life is unattractive with a hollow emptiness that echoes itself in the depths of the degenerate soul.

The reality of existence about one is questioned.

Life is meaningless.

I Am the Face of the Earth

I am the face of the earth.

I see all, hear all, know all, but I tell nothing although I am hoary with age and have much that could be said.

I know man from the most ancient of days to what he regards as the most modern of times—he has not changed.

I see and hear man miserably mistreating man because of creed, greed, and distinction known as race.

I see and hear: There is variance and hatred, plots and crimes—murders unsolved, and I know, but I do not speak.

I see and hear lovers at their trysting places, wanton libertines unrestrained, and marital infidelity for what it is.

Seething within me unexpressed, these things are so weighty and burdensome at times that I rumble in earthquake and erupt into volcanic explosion.

I Looked Back

I looked back—
I despaired at the unconcern of men;
I despaired at the fleshly love of sin.

I looked back—
I despaired at the divided religious world;
I despaired that life had been to me so cruel.

I Looked a Pagan in the Face

I looked a pagan in the face.
And there I saw reflected Adam's sin, shame, and disgrace.

His poor degenerated and unregenerated soul cried out
for something that ages before his ancestors had
lost.

In his tribal village there stood erected images of metal,
wood, and stone—all confessing his need.

Primitive men had cast themselves before these.

But this did not satisfy.

Man had lost something—I could see it in his face.

From out of a haven of nature, yet a hell, came this demon
in self-imposed ignorance.

The emptiness of his face haunted me.

I could not comprehend the significance of his speech.

Actually I did not see the face.

My eyes, searching through my mind, gazed along the
trail of humanity.

The emptiness of the ages settled around me.
Man since his fall in Eden had wandered long and far
from God.

It had been a rugged trail all the way.
At his best he had proved altogether vanity.
At his worst he was the personified product of hell, the
image of the devil.

His perverted nature was sinful.
The glory of God had been reduced to idols.
He worshipped devils.
The poor soul that stood before me was in chains—I
could see it in his face.

I looked a pagan in the face—he had been a pagan.
From the highest hill into the matted jungle and the
deepest cave the glad tidings had sounded, re-
vibrating back.

Men's hearts melted and tears flowed as they were
united once again with the God who had made them.
Superstitious souls in bondage and darkness were liber-
ated.

Man was more than a beast of the field and of the
jungle.

That something had been found!
In finding God, he found himself, made in the image of
God.

God really is! He cares! He saves!
I looked a pagan in the face!

I Saw Him Standing There (Or, The Old Gospel Preacher)

I saw him standing there, this man of God,
Erect and firm, although his hair was gray.
The passing years had come and they had gone
To leave the weaker men along the way.

I saw him standing there, his face was fixed,
And he was unafraid to preach the Word.
Although the times had changed so many things,
His message was the same for those who heard.

I saw him standing straight and heard him preach
That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
He preached against men's sins with force and might,
Then called to one and all with pleading nod.

I heard him preach salvation through the blood,
The message many need to hear today;
How sinners must believe, and then repent;
And turn to be baptized the Bible way.

I heard him preach about the church of Christ,
The precious bride for which our Savior died,
As he condemned the sects of men as sin,
And called on all to give up party pride.

I thank the Lord for this, a stalwart man,
Whose message had that old familiar ring
Of the apostles' doctrine through and through,
And this to men was such a noble thing.

I saw him standing there, this man of God,
His life as faithful as the day is long.
It gave me courage that I needed most,
And I felt inspiration to be strong.

I Stood with Book Extended High

I stood above the crazy crowd
With Book extended high;
But their blind eyes beheld it not
As vainly they went by!

I cried aloud with voice so clear,
So loud, so bold it seemed;
But their deaf ears refused to hear,
To heed and be redeemed!

I stood amid the crazy crowd
With Bible opened wide,
I vied again for their regard;
They hastened in their stride!

O world, are you so far astray
As not to notice wrong?
So much engrossed in mad pursuit
of vanity's strange song?

But still we have to preach the Word
To warn the sons of man
That none may say they haven't heard
Of God's salvation plan.

In a Lonely Churchyard

Wind whispered quietly through the swaying trees;
Spanish moss dangled in the open air.
But down untouched by summer's balmy breeze
In quietness lay this carpet green, unbare,
Because of stones that mark a resting place.
One's eyes now see a white, wooden structure;
A building sacred, filling time and space,
But its spire is pointed to the future.

Alone in this churchyard one feels tranquil,
A solitary haven from this life
(That's marred by heedless rush and selfish will);
A foretaste of the place that's free from strife.

In Style with the World, But Out of Style with God

In style with the world—yes,
But out of style with God.
You may in style be dressed,
And still to God be odd.

Fellow, your hair's too long;
Look, girl, your dress is short!
God says these things are wrong,
Although you think it's smart.

Your clothes—they are extreme;
Your nakedness you show;
Boy! You think you're so keen,
And really in the know.

Say, I have news for you—
You're out of style with God;
To Him they're not so new,
But old, passé, and odd.

In style with the world? No,
For I'm in style with God;
I want my life to show
That I am right with God.

It May Be Either Way

The weight of sin may show upon a face;
The back may bend in sin (its burden bear);
The feet may fail and falter in their pace;
The head of hair may turn to gray by care.

Or...

The glow of grace may show upon a face;
The back that's bent perhaps a cross may bear;

The feet may yet lift and with purpose pace;
The head of gray is filled with wisdom rare.

Joy Beyond Compare

Christian life is full of joy beyond compare:
To know our sins are gone henceforth forevermore!
To know for real the God of all of us through prayer!
To fall in praise before the Christ whom we adore!
To feel the thrill when we this truth with others share!
To know that this short life to life is but a door!
To know that Christ is mine brings joy beyond compare!
And praise to God henceforth and now forevermore!

Judgment's Coming

Time is passing;
Minutes fleeting.
Earth is turning;
Moon's receding.

Time is passing;
Hours are going.
Sun is shining;
Dawn is showing.

Time is passing;
Days descending.
Weeks are wasting;
Months are ending.

Time is passing;
Years are hurling.
Time is wasting
For a worldling.

Time is passing;
Judgment's coming,
All compassing
Life's shortcomings.

**“Let Him Glory in the Lord”
(I Corinthians 1:30,31)**

We are fallen children of Adam's race;
And sin in us God's image did efface;
But praise the Lord who's saved us by his grace!

*He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord;
He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord!*

Jesus died that awful death on the cross
To save our souls from sin and endless loss—
His blood has washed away all sin and dross!

*He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord;
He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord!*

It's by the grace of God we stand this hour;
He saves and keeps us by his wondrous power;
He is our strength, our help, our mighty tower!

*He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord;
He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord!*

When by and by in heaven we take our place,
And bow before the Lord to see his face,
We'll know we're saved by his amazing grace!

*He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord;
He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord!*

Let Me Cease to Be

Let light cease to shine into these perverted eyes.
Let the windows of observation of this soul be smashed
to serve purposes no more good or bad.
Let the trumpet of sound blast no more against my
heavy ears.
Let the wind howl unheard through the barren wood
and reach not my diverted sense of hearing.
Let my carnal tongue lie hidden within my head silent
as the tomb.
Let it be dumb and refuse to speak its corrupted
thoughts.
Let my body and all its members hesitate to function
and be paralyzed as stone all the days of life rather
than by the foolish desire of any I be cast into the
eternal lake of fire.

Little Men in High Places

Strange it seems, but it is true
(What is said is nothing new).
Little men in high places
When they fall make more splashes.

Monuments to Thought

Man's written words are monuments to thought
That stand and tower into today, tomorrow;
A true memorial for good or naught,
Perpetuating gladness or prolonging sorrow.

My Child

Conceived in pleasure;
Brought forth in pain;
This living treasure
That bears my name.

My Jubilee

O God, let me discern your simple Truth,
Which Jesus said would set me free;
Help me to cast aside the human myth;
Let Him declare my jubilee.

My Little Boy

Conceived in pleasure;
Brought forth in pain;
Received with joy:
This living treasure
That bears my name,
My little boy.

No Time for Prayer

Men have time for pleasure,
But no time for prayer;
They have time for leisure,
But no time to care.

O Eternal Soul

O Eternal Soul,
Ill at home in this my restless body,
Be thou always bold;
Smite me through my conscience if I'm haughty.

O Rebellious Form,
Foolish fleshly fancies lead astray,
Bringing ruinous harm;
Causing feet to stumble in the way.

Jesus, Savior, mine,
Help me reconcile these two as one,
And thus entwined,
Forming thus thy image—God's Dear Son.

O Mad World!

O Mad World!
I knew you not to be so senseless,
And so cruel,
But from now I am ever convinceless.

Thoughtless herd,
Just like the cattle that live by instinct,
You are lured
From one thing to another before you think.

Perfect dream,
Of worlds unknown with people pure and true;
O very clean
Is this universe with skies of blue.

Could but I
Be taken away and landed there, Happy Few,
And to fly
Among the blossomed trees bathed with dew.

But alas!
To awake and find myself unmoved;
Left to pass
My troubled days with the racing mob confused.
Just to hope
With sustaining strength is my desire,
And to note
The good things when they seem afar.

O Precious Truth

O precious Truth,
Thou art clear as the morning sky
And simple as a little child;
My weary spirit lingers nigh
To breathe thy freedom through a smile.

O precious Truth,
On thee my soul desires to fill;
I thirst and hunger for thy Word;
To taste the true my being thrills,
And it demands that thou be heard.

Overshadowed As By Night

In spite of our desire to master self
There is within that which enslaves and binds;
That which would steal and deal with us as pelf;
That which must run its course and let unwind.

We hardly know why we do what we do;
We want to do that which is good and right;
But our actions come forth a different hue;
Our good is overshadowed as by night.

“Preach the Word”

“Preach the Word,” they say;
“That is what we like;
Show to us the way—
Teach us all that’s right!”

Brother, you do this—
Preach it plain and true;
Show them their amiss—
And they’re through with you!

“Where the Scriptures speak,
We speak,” (so they say);
But you just try it,
And you’re on your way!

“Don’t preach on doctrine—
We know all that stuff,”
They say (with chagrin),
“We have heard enough!”

There’s one church we find
That our LORD allowed;
“But don’t you preach that—
We won’t have a crowd!”

“And on a holy life,
Don’t bear down so hard;
You’ll offend my wife!”
(WHAT ABOUT THE LORD?)

“Preach the Word,” I say;
Not with compromise,
But the Bible way,
Not as cowardly knaves!

Wield the Sword of God;
Fight the fight of faith
(Though they think you’re odd),
Doing what he saith!

This old world is lost;
Go to it in love;
Thinking not of cost;
The LORD is above!

Reflective Thoughts on the Ocean at Night (Hatteras Island, North Carolina)

I hear the mighty movement of the sea
As tidal waves come in like rolling ridges;
I smell the salty brim and the debris
As savor strong that fills the evening breezes.

I see the fullness of the glowing moon
Reflected on the miles of mounting waves;
I see them sweep the moonlit sand (a broom),
Receding back and forth, and foaming raves.

I stand in spellbound awe before it all,
Before the God who made this universe;
Let me ever realize that I am small;
Yes, weak; so unworthy—a child of earth.

Saint As A Sinner and Sinner As A Saint

A saint as a sinner
Is better than a sinner as a saint;
The sin shades ones splendor;
The other is nothing whitewashed with paint.

The righteous when he's weak
Is better than the wicked, although wrong;
Repentance one will seek
While the other continues, stubborn on.

Spring Rain

Did you ever have the sensation of being a little rain drop?

A cool and refreshing drop of rain that falls on the green garments of trees and plant life in the early and hopeful Spring?

It is a great feeling.

You are a part of the great movement in the restoration of living organisms.

You melt the frozen clod of earth to see tender plants spring up to greet the warm sun.

Then you come along and wash the dirty faces of the flowers and grass.

It is wonderful to think that you have added to the enchanting, perfume-filled atmosphere provided by the budding and blossoming trees.

You are part of the sap that runs from the trees; the bees feast on you.

In the morning the sun reflects your magnificence as you take the form of sparkling dew.

Then one day you hit the bronzed brow of the toiling farmer as he labors in the freshly turned sod of the field.

However, you are welcomed and there is a sigh of contentment and relief from the farmer.

It is you who will determine the success of his crops.

It is you who will indirectly furnish the beautiful environment of the season.

And it is the Almighty Creator and God behind the universe who controls you with His natural laws.

You do it for His glory.

Stand Firm, O Church of Christ!

Stand firm, O Church of Christ, today
When men do not that which is right;
Secure your feet within the way,
Then fast your armor for a fight!

The gospel of our Lord defend,
And swing the Sword both far and near;
The faithless ones our faith would rend,
But we are those who hold it dear!

His blood was shed for all our sins,
And may we never this forget;
Mere human ethics cannot cleanse
From guilt of sin that we commit!

Stolen Waters

(Proverbs 5:15-20; 6:27-29; 9:17,18)

The stolen waters may seem sweet
That one drinks from his neighbor's well;
Beware! The water's filled with heat,
And has been set on fire of hell!

That Grand Old Book

That grand old book—it's over on my desk,
Its pages worn from continued use;
As a youngster I studied it my best;
Its backs seem torn by slight abuse.

“With this Book you will never go astray”—
This said my mama years ago it seems;
I've searched it for the true, the living way,
Have found the Truth, and made my life its theme.

It is the Guide to heaven's gates above;
It is an Anchor in a storm tossed life.
Through it we come to know the Savior's love,
Although still in a world that's filled with strife.

The Bible, That's All We Need

In spite of all the "learned" have said
I still my firm conviction keep.
The Bible taken as it's read
Is all that we will ever need.

The Creation of Man

The restless Creative Force of the Infinite surged to and fro on purpose to strike the bulky mound of plastered mud.

A form instantaneously took shape as the Force exploded and expanded into gasping lungs reaching forth for invigorating and refreshing air.

The form became animated as a red-lump-of-a-thing pushed red and pulsating blood into the remotest part of it.

This creature moved immediately with great vigor as a tingling network of nerves raced throughout the muscled body.

A man! The first man! A prince-of-a-man! Created upright and full grown; pure and innocent, but with a mind for thought.

Adam by name, after God's eternal image; Adam, the genesis of all, the white man, the Negro, Indian, and Chinese—the human race!

The Day the Lord Hath Made (Psalms 118:22-24)

This is the day the Lord hath made;
Rejoice and in it be ye glad;
The Stone which the builders hath mislaid
Hath not the corner left unclad.

Rejoice on this the first of days;
The tomb of Christ is found ajar;
Come see where Christ the Savior lay;
Behold the empty tomb afar.

Rejoice the first day of each week
In memory of this victory great;
Around his table let us meet;
Death, resurrection, to partake.

The Half-Hearted Sinner

He said, "I am through with sin forever!"
(But Satan said, "No, never!")
He said, "Well, at least I'll give it a try."
(“That’s it...never say good-bye.”)

The High and Priestly Clergy

The high and priestly clergy
Has made a cloak for sin;
Though mouthing words of love,
They let the devil in.

While sounding forth their message
In high and holy tones,
They tell us “sweet nothings,”
But don’t denounce the wrongs.

They bless us with their presence,
Scholastic airs and all;
They dub themselves "The Reverend,"
As we stand by enthralled.

O Lord, give us insight
To not so stupid be;
Bless us to see what's right,
Lest the devil laugh with glee!

The Last Days of Autumn

It is the last days of autumn and all in the woods is silent.

The bright days of warm seasons have retreated, giving way to winter.

All the gay songsters of the woods have flown southward.

The trees stand bare seeming to look shameful, having lost all their bright leaves.

A once brisk brook flows silently, for it is now filled with leaves.

A groundhog lies in front of his den wondering when to go within and begin his long winter sleep.

A playful squirrel runs about in the dry leaves then jumps to a tree where his winter supply of nuts is stored.

The loud frogs and swamp lizards have stopped their singing by night.

The sound of gathering cows can be heard in the distance, for they flock together with the approach of winter.

A hunter's gun can be heard in the distance, killing the none too plentiful game.

Some cattle restlessly search over the drying grass.

For some this is a gay season for they have their crops
harvested and stored, and it is a time for rest.
For others it gives a strange feeling to go into the de-
serted woods and find all of their little friends gone
with the atmosphere of beauty.

The Nations That Make War

Give us your sons,
Your young and tenders ones—
Yes, young and tender from their mother's womb;
Now strong and eager in adulthood come.

Give us your sons,
Your idealistic ones—
To whom you taught respect and love for others;
Ones innocent and beloved to their mothers.

Give us your sons,
They are the wanted ones—
We will take them, remake, recreate them
For our designs are doomed to fail without them.

Give us your sons,
Behold what they become—
Ego, and values gentle and restrained—
They must be crushed and brutalized and changed.

Give us your sons,
And we'll give them guns—
Let us turn them into a tool of death
To kill, heartless and cold—to life but laugh.

Give us your sons
Until our aims are won—
To slay embodied souls in bloodiness
To send them out to God without redress.

Give us your sons,
Your young and tender ones—
To kill, to die, that death may have its prey;
The old are not enough—the young must pay!

The Snares of Satan

The Snares of Satan are many;
Be always strong on every hand;
To temptations yield not any;
In doing prove yourself a man.

Satan does not appear as sin;
As an angel of light he comes,
Enticing us to wrong again;
Beware! Look out, lest you succumb!

To overcome the wicked one
Listen to words of sound advice;
Consider what our Lord has done
In overcoming sin and vice.

The Word now hide within your heart,
And in the Spirit always walk;
Then from us Satan will depart;
For with all this he is provoked.

Sins wages still remain the same;
Lives that are shipwrecked end in death;
Sin always is a losing game;
Sin shun, resist, the Scripture saith.

The Value of a Smile

One little knows the value of a smile,
Or the exceeding greatness of some laughter,
Until he is without them for a while,
Then the joy is greater felt thereafter.

Through the Land of Memory

I traveled through the land of memory
Beholding monuments along the way,
Reminding me of my Gethsemane,
Reminding me of failures in dismay.

The quiet and ghastly glare of moonlit night
Adds melancholy to my memory,
Recalling things that need to be aright,
And being more to time than refugee.

But in the midst of feelings mingled strong,
Is warmth in the familiarity,
Which causes me to profit from the wrong,
And to the future gives the needed key.

Thy Long Journey

Ahoy! Come now, my shipmate, come!
It is time thou biddest farewell;
For this no more shall be thy home:
So lift thy anchor, set thy sail.

Why lingerest thou in the port,
As if to go slow and easy?
For thy journey will not be short,
And winds are not always breezy.

Many the days will rugged be;
The stress of storms will come on strong,
But guide thy ship on out to sea;
In courage journey on and on.

When thou hast reached the distant port
With thy journey completed well,
Thou shalt be received with escort,
Rewarded, and of more they tell.

Two Gifts from God

To think I thought this old gray head
Would take its place among the dead
To sleep the sleep of lifeless death,
To be as angels the Scriptures saith,
Without some fruitage to my name;
But things will never be the same;
Two little ones my name now bear,
Two gifts from God to love and rear!

Vastus

Sun shines;
Winds blow;
Days come;
Years go.

Time wasted;
Task undone;
Go forth;
Years come.

We Love Jesus

We love Jesus, and he loves us;
He died for us on the cross;
Took our sins away;
Turned our night to day;
We love Jesus, and he loves us.

What is Sin?

Sin is black;
Sin is gruesome,
And the grave is its goal.

Sin is real;
Sin is trouble,
And it torments the soul.

Sin is hell;
Sin is Satan,
Who waits to seize the soul.

When Faith is Weak

When faith is weak and hope is gone,
Life is empty without a song.

When faith is weak and works are none,
The Christian race has not been run.

When faith is weak and life is short,
One's worth is seen right from the start.

When faith is weak and there is sin,
No power of will is found within.

When faith is weak and there is pride,
The Evil One is there to guide.

When faith is weak and one has wealth,
It is used only for himself.

When faith is weak and knowledge too,
Tradition rules and none improve.

When faith is weak and there's despair,
One's left alone with one to care.

When faith is weak and death is faced,
Where shall one be forever placed?

When Pain and Suffering Come

When pain and suffering come,
Which seem so very hard to bear,
Don't hesitate to turn, yea, "run"
To God and plead your cause in prayer.

Remember Hezekiah now—
He boldly prayed to God in tears,
When death he faced with sickness grave;
Jehovah God prolonged his life,
And blessed with fifteen extra years.

Remember now how Jesus died
That awful death on Calvary;
In full he drank that bitter cup—
As faithful priest he qualified
To sympathize with you and me.

When pain and suffering come
Which are so very hard to bear,
Don't hesitate to turn, yea, "run,"
And plead your cause to God in prayer.

Where Have All the Preachers Gone?

Say, where have all the strong and faithful preachers
gone
Who stately stood and preached the Word with
thund'rous tone?
They were stalwart and unashamed with message
sound,
And though few followed them, they knew where they
were bound.

Tell us, where have the strong and faithful preachers
gone?

Men of courage, backbone—no fear to stand alone.

God's Word is still the same—man's needs are greater
still;

Will none with boldness take a stand their place to fill?

Who Are These?

Who are these motley ones clothed in such gorgeous
robes of spotless white?

Who are these who surge forth upon the streets of gold
in wild delight?

At first it seems they're out of place, unfit, as if they
don't belong;

As angels step aside somewhat aghast, they merge—a
happy throng!

Just who are these that dare to stand before the Mighty
God of all?

To praise His Holy Name (Amen!), and then before Him
prostrate fall?

They're earthly creatures, born again, children of
Adam's fallen race;

Saved for ever by Jesus Christ, his precious blood,
through God's amazing grace!

Would You?

If you had this to think over,
Would you take time to care?

Yes, care enough to be noble
Involving God's affairs?

Are you as one ill-begotten
Who little thinks of God,
With purpose in living long forgotten?
(These words may seem as odd).

Must you remain a wayward one,
Whose thoughts of God are little
And works are none (and left undone)?
(It's hard for you to settle).

Or would you go forth ascending,
To start your life anew?
Your life can have a noble ending;
Just keep God's way in view.



Proverbs

A

A Bible preacher will preach the Bible.

A body ought to be busy, but not a busybody.

A Christian can do anything that he ought to do
through the strength of Christ.

A Christian can live life to the fullest because he is
not afraid to die.

A Christian is not primarily a person who *does*, but
is a person who *does* because he *is*.

A church built upon compromise does not comprise a
faithful church of Christ.

A church is headed for trouble when it has babes in Christ who think they are men but act like babies.

A church that is not trying to win the lost has lost its way somewhere along the way.

A cool head and a warm heart make a wonderful combination in a person.

A dead-beat Christian might as well be dead as far as his relationship (and worth) to Christ is concerned.

A good leader doesn't take sides with people; he takes sides with principle—whether a matter is right or wrong.

A good practice as a Christian: Practice frugality when dealing with yourself, but liberality when dealing with others.

A good preacher is a good man preaching the “good Book.”

A happy man is a man whose sins are forgiven and who knows it.

A hard heart and a hard head make it hard for us to get anywhere with the Lord.

A lot of people don't like straight preaching because their lives are not straight.

A man's Christianity is determined by his living, giving, and forgiving.

A man can no more be a Christian and not be a part of the church than a fish can live outside of water.

A man may appear to be holding a grudge, but actually the grudge is holding him.

A man right with God is a man right with himself and his fellowman.

A mind that is closed can become awfully stuffy.

A New Testament Christian will be concerned about following the New Testament.

A pagan has room in his heart for many gods, but a Christian only One.

A parent has a misdirected love when he tries to justify his children in their misconduct.

A person can come to church and not be a Christian, but one thing is for certain, he can't stay away from church and be a Christian (if he is able-bodied and well).

A person is really getting pretty *low* in the sight of God when he becomes *high-minded*.

A person is young only once, but one can stay immature indefinitely (some people have a hard time growing up).

A person should live so close to God that there would be no room for the devil to come between.

A practice that amounts to cultic control over another human being is not New Testament evangelism or "discipling" (regardless how zealous a person may be who is involved in this).

A prayerless Christian (if there is such a being) is a powerless Christian.

A preacher will succeed only to the extent he preaches—publicly, privately, and by example.

A prerequisite to forgiveness, whether human or divine, is repentance on the part of the offending party.

A problem is created which could lead into hypocrisy when a person grows in knowledge faster than he does in grace.

A professing Christian with a bottle of beer in one hand and a cigarette in the other is as much out of place as an alien sinner at the Lord's table.

A shallow stream reacts with agitated sounds to the sharp stones and objects that are in its course; a deep river flows calmly and smoothly above it all—and perhaps there is a parallel here to human beings.

A smile goes a long way in improving human relations.

A smile is a curve that helps keep your day straight.

A society that has no respect for life is in danger of dying out.

A sound argument must have more than sound to it.

A step backward is a step forward when we go back to the Bible.

A step backward is a step forward when we go back to the New Testament church.

A tree's root system equals the branches that are above the ground (or more); spiritually speaking, when a person has no roots, it is no wonder that nothing much spiritual can be seen in his life.

Ability plus opportunity equals responsibility.

All sunshine and no rain in life makes a spiritual desert.

All work is honorable and to be commended, regardless how menial it may seem, if it doesn't dishonor God.

Although the way of truth is straight and narrow, there are no traffic problems.

Always remember this: Problem people (including children) are people with problems, and they need help more than anything else.

An excessive show of strength is a sign of weakness.

An interesting teacher is one who is interested in what he is teaching.

An ounce of practice is worth more than a pound of preaching.

An outward display of superiority is many times a cover-up for an inward feeling of inferiority.

Anger is but one letter short of *d-anger*—beware!

Any “understanding” of any verse of Scripture that makes it contradict any other verse of Scripture is really a misunderstanding.

Anyone can get along with the devil if he never mentions the Lord.

Are men sinners because they sin, or do they sin because they are sinners?

Are we as patient with others as God is patient with us?

Are you a stumbling block or a stepping stone? There is a big difference.

Are you childlike or childish? There is a world of difference!

As a man grows wiser, he talks less, but he says more.

As a person gets older, if he is not careful, he can let negative thoughts cloud (and crowd) out the beauty of the sunset of life.

As Christians we are to “witness” to the people of the world; but if they reject us, we immediately become a witness against them.

As Christians we have a responsibility to increase our knowledge, and as we increase our knowledge our responsibility is thereby increased.

As far as its purpose is concerned, there is little point or profit in the church being multiplied if it is not therewith edified.

As we praise the Lord, it is more important that our lives be in tune than our singing.

B

Baptism is preceded by faith, but baptism also expresses faith and in a sense embodies the faith that it expresses.

Be fully clothed in righteousness—being half clothed doesn't mean that you are half righteous.

Before we can respond to the gospel we must know who we are before God in order to become what we ought to be before Him.

Before we can talk about Christian unity we must have Christians, and we must have people living Christian lives.

Before we can think in terms of Christian growth, there must be a birth—we must be born again.

Before we realize it our youth has taken wings and flown into the sunset.

Before you give your “two cents” worth it might be good to consider if it is worth it.

Being identified with the church of the New Testament and a so-called “Restoration Movement” are not necessarily the same thing.

Believe in God, not gimmicks; believe in Christ, not contests.

Beware of any religious “movement” that caters to compromisers.

Beware of that time in life when the idealism of youth gives way to compromise, conformity, and complacency of later years.

Beware of those churches that call attention to themselves rather than to the Word of God.

Beware when we become more concerned about sinners being offended than God being offended by the offense of the sinners.

Beware when we become more preoccupied with the methods of evangelism than with the message of evangelism.

Beware when you find others more concerned about the salvation of your soul than you are yourself.

Beware! To “rub shoulders” with compromisers and false teachers is to have some of it “rub off” on you!

Beware: Fast living will bring you to face God and the Judgment a lot faster!

C

Calling a person radical, or even fanatical, is no answer to the Scripture that he presents.

Cheap jokes about sex cheapen humanity which comes into this world as a result of sex.

Children who are not disciplined by their parents will have a hard time learning to discipline themselves.

Choose a date fit for a mate, and with a Christian that means it must be another Christian.

Christ came, not to save us *in* our sins, but *from* our sins (Romans 6:1; Matthew 1:21).

Christ *died* to save souls—is it asking too much of us to *live* to save souls?

Christ is the “missing link” between man and God.

Christ must be Lord of all in our lives, or he is not Lord at all in our lives.

Christ partook of our nature (the human) so that we might partake of his (the divine).

Christ said that his house would be called a house of prayer by all nations, not a house of merchandise or a playhouse.

Christ won't mean anything to you unless he means everything.

Christian parents who have a hard time saying "no" to their children will have children who have a hard time saying "no" to the world.

Christian unity is a by-product of being united with Christ and following the Word of Christ.

Christian unity is determined by whether I am united with Christ, and consequently following his Word, and not by whether I support any man's organization of any kind.

Christian works are essential, not as works of merit, but as works of faith.

Christianity has not been tried and found wanting but is wanting to be tried.

Christianity is a life of love and service; a Christian devotes his energies, abilities, and money in the service of God and others.

Christianity is a way of walking as well as a way of talking.

Christianity is not a bundle of prejudices sealed in a wrapper of emotionalism—it must be based in fact, or it is not Christianity at all!

Christianity is real and vital—is it to you (and in you)? What is your husband's or your wife's estimation of you and your religion? What would your neighbors or friends say about it? This could tell a whole lot about you (and me)!

Christianity is something that in order to keep we must make an effort to give it away.

Christianity presents a form of doctrine (Romans 6:17), but not empty formality.

Christianity teaches to do unto others as you would have them do unto you (Luke 6:31), whereas the world seems to practice doing unto others as they have done unto them (especially in revenge)—quite a difference!

Christians are admonished to be the light of the world; light comes from the sun—in our case, the Son of God.

Christians must kneel to stand, and they cannot stand unless they kneel.

Christians should be the most forgiving people in the world for they know what it is to be forgiven.

Christians will be always becoming ensnared in this world unless they fully realize that they are living in a non-Christian world.

Church attendance is determined more by desire than by distance.

Church problems are mostly produced by people who produce nothing else.

Churches should be more concerned about men's souls than numbers.

Churches use the play/contest programs to promote the work of the Lord (supposedly), then wonder why the teaching and preaching of the Word is no longer attractive to people—they have been brought there for the wrong reasons.

Cleanliness is not next to godliness, it is godliness.

Compromising the truth does not solve church problems, it only compounds them.

Consistency is a jewel of great price for which many are not willing to pay the price of being consistent.

Conversion is a prerequisite before there can be Christians (and consequently, before there can be Christian growth).

D

Daily have a time for devotions, and then devote that time to devotions daily.

Darkness is the absence of light.

Denominationalism is a sin that must be repented of like stealing or any other sin.

Denominationalism would fuss about *who* is right and try to put the treasure of truth into sectarian coffers and molds, but the New Testament Christian (the only kind) is primarily concerned about *what* is right (and the *who* will “automatically” take care of itself).

Discouragement is a situation that sets in when people have lost hope.

Discouragement takes place when a person has lost courage.

Do you care enough to care?

Do you look forward with an endless hope or to a hopeless end?

Doctrine in the head can never take the place of God in the heart and purity of life.

Don't crucify your soul between two thieves: Yesterday is gone; tomorrow may never come; “Today is the day of salvation.”

Don't give up; if we don't stick in there, we will become unglued.

Don't go steady until you are ready—ready to think in terms of the responsibility of marriage.

Drifting, going the course of least resistance, is what makes churches (with no leadership), men, and rivers crooked.

E

Eating meats that had been offered to idols may have been a matter of opinion in Paul's day, but how they treated the weak brother in relation to those meats was not a matter of opinion (I Cor. 8:11-13).

Education is primarily the learning of definitions of words and relating those definitions to life in a practical way.

Efforts to be righteous without humility only result in self-righteousness.

Elders should not be dictators of Christ's church but humble directors of the work of the church (in co-operation with the church).

Emphasis upon unity and fellowship without emphasis upon truth, purity, and setting the church in order will only prove disastrous to the church of Christ.

Evangelism that is method oriented, and not message oriented, will be dependent upon the method for survival and not the message.

Even as the bright lights and glitter of this sinful world are attractive to many, so the flame ever attracts the moth—only to scorch, kill, and destroy it.

Extremism in the long run is not a true friend to the truth it embraces.

F

Failure avails us of an opportunity for a new beginning.

Failure is not necessarily defeat—it's just another wrong way of doing something eliminated; keep on trying!

Faith, repentance, confession, and baptism are not to be considered as isolated steps in becoming a Christian, but are to be understood as our response to the mercy and grace of God.

Faith, repentance, confession, and baptism are not to be considered as isolated steps in becoming a Christian, but are to be understood in the context of mercy and grace.

Faith is not only believing in God, but taking God at His Word.

Faith keeps the man who keeps his faith.

Faith without knowledge is little more than superstition.

Faith without works is dead, but works without faith and love is also dead.

Faith without works is dead (James 2:14-17), and this is likewise true of love (I John 3:16-18).

Faithful church attendance is not determined by how far you live from church, but rather how close you live to God.

Faithful church attendance is one of the marks of a faithful Christian.

Fast living will make the impact of the shipwrecked life that is to come only more disastrous.

Fast living will only bring a person to the Day of Judgment a little faster.

Fight fire with fire; people get burned, and you end up with ashes.

Fill each day with good deeds, and you will have a full day (and a full life).

Following the Bible and what a person has learned in Bible College are not always the same.

For some valuable advice on how to live, ask a man who is about to die.

For the Christian, faith cannot be separated from faithfulness.

Friend, if you are not right with God, you are not right; you are wrong, and if you die that way, you will be dead wrong.

From a high elevation, things look very small; as Christians we are now in "heavenly places" in Christ Jesus, and consequently problems on earth should appear as small.

G

Gentlemen, if they are to live up to their name, must be gentle (not harsh).

Getting people into the baptistery is not the same thing as getting them into heaven; there is a life to be lived before heaven is entered.

Getting sin out of your life is not a matter of Christian growth, but of repentance and salvation.

Getting sin out of your life is not a matter of Christian growth, but of repentance and salvation—growth involves becoming strong to overcome sin.

Gimmicks, goodies, and gumdrops can never take the place of the Great and Glorious God—what an

insult to God, and how degrading to appeal to people religiously on such a basis.

Giving book reports is not the kind of preaching God had in mind (it involves another book, THE BOOK).

God's grace extends as far as the blood of Christ goes.

God allows trials, and whether they are a temptation or not is determined by how we react to them.

God doesn't always help people who help themselves, but He will always help those who admit they are helpless and want Him (and then try to get things done).

God feeds the birds of the air, but He doesn't put the food in their nests.

God has made grace available in order that we might forsake sin and be forgiven, not that we might willfully continue in it.

God is greater than any problems that you or I have (or ever will have).

God is love, and if we do not love one another, we are not of God.

God is no respecter of persons and neither should a preacher be a respecter of persons.

God is no "respecter of persons," but He definitely respects the person who respects Him.

God is no "respecter of persons," but He is a respecter of a person's works (I Peter 1:17).

God is no respecter of sins or sinners.

God is real to those who are real Christians.

God loves a cheerful giver—does he love you?

God takes pleasure in honoring those who honor Him.

God will help those who help themselves and those who can't help themselves, but He will not help those who will not help themselves.

God will not tolerate a church that tolerates sin and false teaching.

Good manners simply involve being courteous, unselfish, and the practice of the golden rule.

Good works alone in the life of a Christian are not grounds for salvation, but the absence of them is grounds for damnation.

Grace does not nullify the commands of God—it gives forgiveness, strength, and motivation whereby we can keep them.

Grace is unmerited favor in the forgiveness of sins that enables us to live the good and godly life, not license for unrestrained behavior.

Great opportunities come to people who take advantage of the small ones.

H

Hatred is like a strong acid in a weak container, only hurting the container that holds it.

Have a mind to read good books, and the good books will make for you a good mind.

Have love for one another, then you will be loved by another.

Have you ever heard of a man getting lost on a straight road? It's only on the crooked road of sin that this takes place!

Having been blessed with *unmerited favor* (grace) from the Lord, don't think it strange to be the object of *disfavor* from the world (I Peter 2:18-24—notice grace

in verses 19 and 20, rendered “thankworthy” and “acceptable,” KJV).

“Having nothing to hide” doesn’t change the fallacy of that which is not hidden.

He, or she, who will not or cannot forgive, will not and cannot receive forgiveness from God.

He who devotes much time to being a critic cannot help but expect to be criticized.

He who does as he pleases on the Lord’s day doesn’t always please the Lord.

He who has not learned to love has not learned to live.

He who loves a little gives a little, but he who loves a lot gives a lot.

He who made the dumb to speak, and even used a donkey to speak His Word, surely can use me to speak forth His eternal Truth.

He who made the dumb to talk and the lame to walk surely will help us speak up for him and carry his message to others.

He who neglects faith may stress works all that he pleases, but he will not be pleased with the quality and kind of works that he gets.

He who prides himself in saying what he thinks should be careful what he thinks.

He who puts God first in his life need never worry about what happens to him in this life (and the life to come).

He who tries to please everybody usually ends up pleasing nobody—and especially the Lord.

He who walks with God never walks alone.

He who will not master himself will be the servant of others.

Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people—have you made your preparation and reservation yet (I Peter 1:4)?

Hope deferred makes life become a wearisome thing.

Hope is faith that is alive.

How absurd and foolish for man, who is to live forever, to choose for his life's object and purpose anything that is shorter-lived than himself.

How to invalidate grace: (1) Have a dead faith and no works and think that it will save you; (2) Think God will have to save you because of your works.

How to nullify grace: (1) Think that we can be good enough to save ourselves; (2) Think that we can be saved without being good.

Human life is passed on through sex; if we do not respect our sexuality, we will not respect what our sexuality produces, other human beings.

Humility is a garment that wears well on all Christians (I Peter 5:5), and especially on preachers and leaders in the church.

Humility wears well on anyone (and especially the young).

Humility: A virtue that some of us are blessed less with than others.

Husbands or wives, to have a good mate you must be one.

I

I believe the Lord can use me and make something of me for His name's sake for didn't He make the world out of nothing?

I don't care how much you supposedly know, if you don't know God, and the Word of God, then your knowledge is very limited.

I have found that people who are always talking about their rights many times have little respect for the rights of others.

I have noticed that people who do not attend the Sunday evening services of the church also stay away from the morning services for the least excuse.

I have noticed that some parents who have failed to give themselves to their children are always giving their children gifts (but nothing can take the place of yourself).

If a Christian is irregular in church attendance, it indicates there are other irregularities in his life also (and probably of a more serious nature).

If a man's wife is his "better half" and he has been married twice, what has happened mathematically? Has his marriage experiences gotten the best of him?

If a man comes teaching a false doctrine, he is to be corrected—if he can't be corrected, then he is to be rejected.

If a man lives with honesty, he knows what truth is.

If a matter is not serious enough to pray about, then it is not serious enough to worry about—and if it is serious enough to pray about, and we have prayed about it, then there is no need to worry about it.

If a person doesn't like what is preached, many times that is a pretty good indication that he needs it.

If a person has repented of a sin, it should not offend him to have someone preach against it.

If a person is truly drawn to Christ, he will be at the same time drawn away from sin.

If a person partaking of the Lord's supper can eat and drink *damnation* to his soul in not discerning the Lord's body (I Cor. 11:29), what about the person who is baptized, but does not discern the purpose of baptism (Acts 2:38)? From the positive perspective, has the *salvation* of his soul been accomplished?

If absence makes the heart grow fonder, a lot of people must really love the church.

If every church member were just like me, what kind of church would the Lord's church be?

If God has called you, don't spend time looking back to see who is following (or if anyone is following, or ever will be following).

If God is not first in your life, God is not in your life.

If God raised up Jesus from the dead, He can raise up men to tell about it in this hour of need (and at the same time raise their support).

If God used Balaam's dumb donkey to speak His Word, surely He can use me too.

If I meant enough to Jesus that he would die for me, he should mean enough to me that I would live for him.

If ignorance is bliss then many people must be having a gay old time as far as their knowledge of the Bible is concerned.

If it is wrong for Christians to use tobacco (and the evidence weighs heavily in that direction), then it is

wrong to grow it, to market it, and to sell it in the stores (take heed, those who really wish to please the Lord).

If it makes no difference what you believe, then it makes no difference if you believe.

If life is worth living, it is worth living right.

If one church (denomination) is as good as another, then possibly none of them are any good.

If one church is as good as another, then falsehood is as good as truth.

If people who know you the best are the hardest for you to get along with, you need to re-examine your brand of Christianity.

If some people aren't fussing about one thing, they are fussing about another; how strange to have people fussing about people who fuss (why can't we present the truth for the sake of truth, and enjoy it for what it really is rather than fussing about it?).

If some preachers were as interested in pleasing God as they are in pleasing men, we would really have a pleasing church (to God).

If something is indeed wrong, one minute is too long to hesitate in stopping doing it.

If the "Lord's day" is indeed the Lord's day, then it is not your day—use this day especially for the Lord.

If the church belongs to Christ, and you don't belong to the church, then what is your standing with Christ?

If the church is a divine institution, and it is, then what you believe and do about it are not matters of human opinion.

If the Holy Spirit does not personally dwell in the life of the Christian, then He does not indwell in him at all.

If the Jews under the law gave a tithe, and we are now under grace, it is a disgrace for us to give less than

a tithe (that should be the “basement level” of our giving).

If the leaders of the church insist that the people give liberally, they should likewise use the money liberally in the Lord’s work.

If the mentality of a lot of modern church “leaders” had been that of Noah, he would have built a gymnasium instead of an ark (and Christ would have started a bakery instead of the church).

If the practice of homosexuality is not wrong, then there is no such thing as right and wrong.

If the preaching of God’s Word offends you, then you are an offense to God.

If we accept our opportunities and make the most of them, other opportunities and even greater ones will be opened to us, but if we neglect them, even the initial opportunities will be lost.

If we are bold against sin, but are not humble with it, we appear to be self-righteous.

If we are outside of Christ, the more we succeed (in the world), the more glaringly evident our failure becomes.

If we can’t get the Lord’s work done with the simple organization of the local church which he has left, and must form other organizations to do it, maybe the work we are doing is something he did not intend for the church to do in the first place.

If we cannot or will not teach our children to work, by default we are teaching them to be thieves—first, thieves of time (which cannot be retrieved); then thieves of more tangible things.

If we do not “pray without ceasing,” we will soon cease without praying.

If we do not accept the righteousness of God that is imputed to take away our sins, in our sins we will face the righteousness of God in judgment.

If we do not take a firm stand on God's Word that means we have a spiritual infirmity.

If we don't know where we are "coming from" chances are we won't know where we are going.

If we fail to plan, then we plan to fail.

If we have no respect for how we come into this world (our sexuality), we will have no respect for how we go out of it, nor the quality of life in between.

If we have no respect for our sexuality, and the opposite sex, we will have no respect for what our sexuality produces, other human beings.

If we have stopped preaching a certain doctrine, chances are that we have stopped believing it too.

If we pray to God for help, it is altogether fitting and reasonable that we should be willing to help others too.

If we profit from our mistakes, most of us potentially have a bright future.

If we promote man-made religion in a man-made church with man-made doctrines, will we go to a man-made heaven?

If we stop growing in grace we will soon fall from grace.

If we were as vague when we went to a restaurant as many people are when they pray, we would never get waited on.

If we wish to become bigger and better than we are, we must relate our lives to something bigger and better than we are.

If we won't stand together, we will fall apart.

If you “love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind” (Luke 10:27), you will have no problem in attending all of the services of the church all of the time if at all possible.

If you are a Christian, you will increasingly think, feel, speak, and act as Christ did.

If you are born twice (born again) you will have to die only once; if you are born only once you will have to die twice.

If you are in the wrong, there is no way that you can make it right by criticizing people for talking about you being in the wrong.

If you are not kind you are the wrong kind.

If you backslide the results will be totally disastrous not only to you, but to your children; think twice before you go down that slippery trail!

If you choose to go the drug route you will find that it is a dead end street.

If you convert people on food and gimmicks to get them in church, you will have to keep feeding them and keep up the gimmicks to keep them in church.

If you do not use your knowledge you will lose your knowledge.

If you don't know where you are going, you won't know when and if you have gotten there.

If you don't like to read the Bible or good religious literature, you have a spiritual problem.

If you don't love the Lord enough to go to church, do you think that you love him enough to go to heaven?

If you don't master life, then life will master you.

If you don't talk to God in prayer, it is obvious that you don't know Him.

If you feel more "at home" (at ease) around sinners than you do with Christians, then you had better re-examine your Christianity.

If you feel more "comfortable" around sinners than you do around Christians, chances are you will have the occasion to feel uncomfortable with them throughout all eternity.

If you find life empty, try putting something into it.

If you have an open heart, and keep it open, God will set before you an open door that no man can close.

If you have no goal in life, how will you know if you succeed?

If you have received the grace of God into your heart, it will overflow in your relations to others (both spiritually and physically) in good works.

If you have the morals of an alley cat, don't be surprised if people treat you accordingly.

If you let a hypocrite stand between you and God, that means the hypocrite is closer to God than you are.

If you live wrong, and death finds you that way, then you will be dead wrong.

If you love righteousness, you will hate sin (and not be offended when it is preached against).

If you marry for puppy love (mere infatuation), then chances are that you will lead a dog's life.

If you must have a love affair, have it with your wife—this is God's plan!

If you practice partiality in your family relations, related family problems will not be impartial in coming to your door.

If you present yourself as a painted sex object (Jeremiah 4:30; Ezekiel 23:40), don't be surprised if someone takes you up on it (Proverbs 6:25; Matthew 5:28).

If you present yourself as a painted sex object (Jeremiah 4:30; Ezekiel 23:40; Proverbs 6:25), you may find it hard to let your light shine (Matthew 5:16) through a face smothered with make-up (I Timothy 2:9,10).

If you really believe and love the gospel of Christ, you will be pleased and not offended when it is preached.

If you stop coming to church because the preacher preached against your pet habit or sin, then that proves that your habit or sin means more to you than the church.

If you think that you are too big to do little things, you are probably too little to be trusted with big ones.

If you try to take an ego trip on the good old gospel ship, look out for a shipwreck of things spiritual.

If you want to die right, you have to live right.

If you want to find fault with your fellowman, you have picked a very easy job, because no one is faultless.

If you will keep God's commandments, then God will keep you.

If you will take care of your money when you are young, your money will take care of you when you are old.

If you win the rat race, what have you won? You are still a rat.

If you would give the world to go to heaven, then that is just exactly what it takes.

If you would like for your wife to treat you like a king, then treat her like a queen, and she will.

If you would live life to the full, experiencing a fulfilling life, have a heart full of faith that is set on fulfilling the teachings of Christ.

If you would train up a child in the way that he should go, you must first go that way yourself.

If your religion doesn't work it doesn't work.

Immature people with giant size egos can cause giant size problems in the church.

In attempting to learn something new, always start with that which you know, not with that which you don't know, and it will be much easier to remember it.

In covetousness our eyes are gotten off the Creator and have become unduly preoccupied with the created.

In doing the Lord's work, nothing succeeds like success and nothing fails like failure; therefore, let us emphasize the positive and with diligence get the job done.

In many cases there would have been no so-called "generation gap" if it had been spanned earlier in life with the correction rod.

In our day perhaps we need to ask the question: Is the church the meeting house or the eating house?

In our later years in confronting the realism of life (which is not necessarily the truth), beware lest we lose the idealism of youth, giving way to compromise and conformity.

In our zeal to be righteous let us not become self-righteous.

In preaching we should be preoccupied with how many people we can save rather than how many people we can declare lost.

In reference to “restoring” the church of the New Testament, we need to either *put up* or *shut up*.

In reference to being an elder, no man can oversee who does not see.

In some cases one member’s sickness may keep the whole family away from church, but at the same time it doesn’t keep them away from school or work on a week-day—why is this?

In soul winning first talk to God about lost sinners and then talk to lost sinners about God.

In that day when all wrongs are made right, many who thought they were right will be found in the wrong.

In the Bible the Christian life is sometimes presented as a battle, or a battleground, but never as a playhouse or playground.

In the church entertainment cannot take the place of attainment, nor can playing take the place of praying.

In the church entertainment cannot take the place of attainment (they are not synonymous); activity is not the same thing as action, nor can playing take the place of praying.

In the first century religious division was condemned as evil; today the preacher who speaks against religious division is condemned as evil.

In the long run you don’t help a person much unless you teach him to help himself.

In this modern world of luxury and ease many people are better off who are not better.

In too many modern churches the great commission has become the great omission.

Inferior concepts of God can only produce inferior results in our lives.

Initially people are not as impressed by what you believe as they are that you enthusiastically believe it; getting their attention by this, then you can teach them the “what” about believing (the problem: Are we enthusiastic?).

Instead of “putting others in their place,” it would be better to put ourselves in their place.

Instead of finding fault with Christianity because of hypocrites, give praise to Christianity that it is so superior that men would seek to imitate it.

Instead of the church being “the pillar and ground of the truth” (I Timothy 3:15), it has many times become the pillow and lounge of entertainment and mirth.

Interesting people are people who have a definite interest in something.

Is the Bible just a part of your library or really a part of your life?

Is your life a reflection of *Christ* or a reflection on *Christ*?

It has been said that all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy; however, all play and no work makes Jack a jerk.

It has been said that *lust* is the besetting sin of youth, *greed* that of adulthood, and *despondency* that of old age.

It is a dangerous and sick religion that feeds upon emotionalism and then calls it the Holy Spirit.

It is a false concept to think that we can be good enough to be saved from our sins, but it is equally false to think that we can be saved without being good.

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God with the guilt of sin upon our hands.

It is a mark of maturity (and security) if you can laugh with others when they laugh at you.

It is a matter of rejoicing when a gospel preacher knows that God is glorified, that truth is honored, and that man is edified by his preaching.

It is a psychological fact that we are drawn to those who share our interest—Christians will want to be with those who are spiritual and godly; beware when your best friends are those who are not interested in the Lord's church (your associates tell on you).

It is a sign of maturity when we can talk about our weaknesses without feeling insecure (and being on the defensive).

It is always nice to be nice, and it is always wrong to be wrong.

It is better to get on your knees before God, before God brings you to your knees in judgment.

It is easy for people who believe nothing to agree on anything.

It is easy for the person who has been forgiven to forgive others.

It is easy to find fault with the person who finds fault with you, but it takes a real person to face up to his own shortcomings.

It is good to have a time to play, but don't play with your time.

It is good to know all that you say, but it is not always good to say all that you know.

It is great to stand up and be counted, but it is even more important to remain standing after you have been counted (really standing for what is right and sticking in there).

It is hard, foolish, and futile to try to do the work of God without the help of God.

It is hard to respect the person who does not respect himself.

It is hard to respect the person who does not respect himself, and it is hard for the person who does not respect himself to respect others.

It is harder to be honest with yourself than with any other person.

It is impossible for two people to understand the Bible differently—one or both may misunderstand it, but only one understanding is possible; all else is misunderstanding.

It is indeed strange that in these modern times with the increase in the knowledge of the laws of God (physical laws as discovered in science) there has come a decrease in the knowledge of God (and scientists vaunt themselves in their discoveries, but not in the discovery of God).

It is never right to do wrong.

It is never smart to be a smart-aleck.

It is not enough to know the Bible; it is not enough to be Scripturally correct—we must know God and be spiritually correct.

It is not from where you come, but where you are and where you are headed that counts.

It is not God's plan that unscriptural organizations (missionary societies, evangelizing boards, men's fellowship groups, etc.) bring a Scriptural organization (the church) into being—local churches must beget other local churches.

It is not how much money you make, but how much that you save, that determines your financial well-being.

It is not possible to be in a state of forgiveness with God and in a state of unforgiveness with man.

It is not weakly giving, but giving weekly, that the Lord wants (and out of the abundance of the heart).

It is not where we are, but what we are, that makes us happy.

It is only in getting ready to die that one truly learns how to live.

It is sad to say, but people who are always damning things (in curse words) will one day find themselves among the damned (in hell).

It is the aim of faithful preaching to separate men from sin and sin from men.

It is the job of all of the church to take all of the gospel to all of the world all of the time.

It is the plan of God that those who know Him should make Him known.

It is useless to talk about "Christian" unity and "Christian" fellowship, as well as "Christian" growth, unless people are first Christians.

It is useless to talk about some "Christians" *going out* to win the lost when they are not all that serious about even *coming to church*.

It is very risky to drive in a fog, and especially in a mental or spiritual fog.

It seems that in becoming Christians too many people want to add the church to their lives whereas the Lord says we must be added to the church.

It seems that most people are more interested in getting kicks out of living rather than real satisfaction.

It seems that those who respect the Bible and are trying to follow it closely insist that it be the basis of "Christian unity," but they who are practicing questionable things are more elastic in their thinking.

It seems that we must think big in order even to get small things done for the Lord.

It takes definite preaching to bring about a definite commitment in those who respond to the gospel.

It takes more than giving birth to a child to be a mother.

It takes strong preaching to make strong Christians.

It won't do much good to be strict with our children if we are not strict with ourselves.

J

Jesus died on the cross because of the difference between right and wrong.

Jesus says (in essence): "You can't come after me until you come to me."

Joy comes from a heart that is overflowing with faith, hope, and love.

Judge not lest you be judged by the way that you judge.

K

Keep your faith when things are going smooth, then your faith will keep you when things get rough.

Killing time is murdering opportunities.

Kindness does not mean compromise, and we should be sure that we do not get the two confused.

King Saul thought Goliath was too big to fight; David thought he was too big to miss.

Knowledge is knowing facts, but wisdom is knowing how to apply those facts in a practical way to a given situation in life.

L

Lasting happiness is the by-product of an unselfish life.

Learn to control your mind, then your mind will control you.

Let us stop fooling ourselves; a half-hearted religion will not take us half-way to heaven (in fact, it won't even get us started).

Life is like money; we can spend it any way that we want to, but only once.

Life is more precious to us when we realize that it can be easily lost (and at any time).

Life is too short to be little; we won't be here for long, so make the most of it lest we come up short.

Life is worth living only if we have something that is worth dying for.

Life without Christ is as "a sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal."

Lifestyle is a new expression usually used to describe a way of life that doesn't have much style to it.

Liking others has a lot to do with whether you are liked by others or not.

Little preachers with giant-size egos can cause big problems (in little churches and big churches).

Live like you are going to die, then you can die like you are going to live (and you are).

LIVE spelled backward is “EVIL,” and LIVED spelled backward turns out to be “DEVIL” (let us live our lives as they should be lived, straight and forward).

Look up when things are down!

Loose living will get you into tight places.

Love and fear are the great motivating factors in serving God; love prompts us to do what pleases God, while fear prompts us to refrain from doing what displeases Him.

Luck is where preparation and opportunity meet.

M

Make the most of your life before most of your life is gone.

Man cannot lift himself by his own bootstraps; neither can he be saved without the applied blood of Christ.

Man did not come from the monkey, but sometimes he acts like a donkey and seems to be going to the dogs.

Man must offer worship corresponding to the *nature* and *attributes* of God (John 4:24).

Many hide behind the terms “Restoration Movement” when what they really need is to get down to business in being the Lord’s church.

Many people’s philosophy of life is “live and let live” when really it should be *live and help live*.

Many people don’t (and won’t) accept the truth because they refuse to believe there is such a thing as error (especially in religion).

Many people have a form of godliness, but they don't have God (and are not godly).

Many people would feel very much out of place in heaven, even if they could go there, because it is only for the pure and good.

Many routes that we consider to be short cuts really end up being ruts (and dead ends).

Many times immature and insecure Christians, making an effort to appear strong, come through as self-righteous.

Many times it is a problem of insecurity, as well as fleshly vanity, when a woman thinks that she must be bedecked in jewelry, cosmetics, and expensive clothing to be presentable.

Many times little people show their littleness by making a big fuss over little things.

Many times people try to act big because they feel little (have an inferiority complex).

Many times people who cannot face their own faults try to make others the scapegoat for them.

Many times people whose lives are not straight do not like straight preaching.

Many times self-consciousness is inverted pride.

Many times they who fail to fall in line with faithful preaching fall out with the preacher.

Many times those who are supposed to be leading the church are only following the crowd.

Many times when one takes a strong stand for the Lord he is not invited to take the speaker's stand as much.

Marriage is not a game we play until someone else comes along that we think would be a better playmate.

Men are made elders in the Lord's church by *selection* rather than *election*.

Men can become sons of God because the Son of God became a man.

Modern churches can be so preoccupied with gimmicks, props, and aids to teaching that they never get around to doing much real teaching.

Modern man seems more interested in speed than in direction.

Modern preachers seem to be more preoccupied with *how* they preach than with *what* they preach, and consequently *what* they preach suffers as a result.

More than we realize, we are what we think.

Much enjoyment is to be found in employment (so stay busy, and you will be happy).

Much of modern religion is like a jellyfish—there is little substance or body to it; but when it makes contact with that which does have substance or body, it will sting in a reactionary way.

N

Need a helping hand? Look on the end of your arm.

Never be afraid to trust the unknown future to the all-knowing God.

No day is so long and unsatisfying as that day that accomplishes nothing specific.

No denomination can be a New Testament church for there are no denominations in the New Testament (just the undenominational church of Christ).

No man can teach others what he does not understand himself.

No matter how much we may seem to succeed at what we are doing, if we don't have God in our lives we are a failure.

No where in the New Testament do we read of missionaries starting missions, but we do read of evangelists winning souls and establishing churches.

Not only are the Scriptures inspired by the Holy Spirit, they are spiritually inspiring to the one who prayerfully reads them.

Not only should we believe that God answers prayer, we should pray.

Nothing is too small to make a matter of prayer before the throne of grace to an all-knowing God.

Nothing succeeds like success, as they say, and nothing fails like failure (so stick in there).

Nothing works like work when it comes to getting anything done.

Nothing works like work when it comes to getting the Lord's work done.

Nothing works like work when it comes to getting the Lord's work done (no gimmicks, please).

Nothing works like work when it comes to getting the Lord's work done; short cut methods only result in short cut results.

O

One cannot be loyal to Christ without being loyal to his church (which is his body).

One could easily think that Paul had said, "Play without ceasing" instead of "pray without ceasing" if he looked in on many modern churches.

One is made to wonder if the disconcerted noise that is called music today doesn't reflect the disconcerted lives of the musicians and those who like to listen to it.

One man and God make a majority although the rest of the world be marshaled on the other side.

One may think that he is through with the Bible, and may disregard what it teaches, but the Bible is not through with him—he will have to face every word of it in the Day of Judgment!

One must have the resolve to stand on the Word of God, and that alone, even if it means standing alone.

One person's definition of a nice sermon: A nice sermon is one that is preached by a nice preacher on a nice Sunday morning in a nice church, telling nice people how nice it is to be nice.

One person's gain is not another's loss as far as God's love is concerned (there is plenty for all).

Only a few people get brainstorm while most of the others fall into the category of the brainwashed.

Only fools will fool around with sin (and only fools will try to fool God).

Only those who have question marks about their manhood must prove that they are a man.

Orthodoxy is not orthodox if it omits and excludes love and compassion.

Our country is full of people making good livings but leading poor lives.

Our religion is life now as it is lived in relation to death and life hereafter.

P

Parents, if you talk about church problems in front of your children, and are always finding fault with the church, don't be surprised if your children grow up with no respect for the church.

Patience should not be confused with procrastination and indecision (they are not the same).

Paul was set for the defense of the gospel (Philippians 1:17)—defending one's opinions, and faults, is not the same thing as defending the gospel.

People all wrapped up in themselves make mighty small packages (and preachers even smaller ones).

People are peculiar; they want the front of the bus, the back of the church, and the middle of the road it seems (they don't want to attend church, but they want to go to heaven).

People don't care what you believe until they believe that you care.

People need to say what they mean, or mean what they say.

People respond better to warm truths than they do to cold facts.

People sometimes change churches because they don't like what is preached, but changing churches won't change the Word of God (and really what needs to be changed is their lives).

People who are strict with their children, but not with themselves, make poor parents.

People who are the most unhappy are the people who are unhappy with themselves.

People who are wed to this present world will find it hard (yea, impossible) to be the bride of Christ.

People who don't have a reason can become very unreasonable at times.

People who have been wronged, not people who are in the wrong, have a right to talk about their rights.

People who have short fuses should never play with matches.

People who plan for the future don't have to live in the past.

People who talk about others when they are with you will talk about you when they are with others.

People will overlook you being poor, but they will never forgive you for being poor and dirty.

Perhaps the greatest wrong, and consequent tragedy, of the religious hypocrite is not that he has deceived others into believing that he is something that he is not, but rather that he has deceived himself into believing this (and that he is acceptable with God, which he is not).

Pills and "pot" will make your life go to pot (and send your soul to hell).

Poverty is a state of mind as well as a state of being.

Practice makes for perfection in that which is practiced.

Prayer knits up the raveled sleeve of care.

Prayer must mean something to us personally if it is to mean anything to God.

Preacher, in preaching remember that the apostle Paul said "we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord" (II Cor. 4:5)—*get yourself out of the picture!*

Preacher, are you more interested in fleecing the sheep (getting a good income and support for yourself) than in feeding the flock of God (really teaching the

whole counsel of God, and actually setting the church in order); God wants more than a hireling!

Preachers should not try to impress people with how much they know, but rather that they should know God (before whom our knowledge is as nothing) and Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Problem people are simply people with problems.

Q

Quality is what counts, not numbers (in God's book).

R

Rather than teaching children to "say" their prayers, it is better to teach them to pray.

Rebuke a wise man, and he will be even wiser; rebuke a fool, and he will despise you.

Religion and salvation are not necessarily the same thing.

Religion should not be preached in an irreligious way.

Religious "movements" that put the emphasis upon the personalities of men (rather than exclusively upon the Word of God) are destined for trouble (men change, but the Word of God never); today's "reformers" may be tomorrow's apostates.

Religious indifference is worse than religious difference.

Religious unity that is based upon compromise, and not upon the Word of God, does not comprise "Christian unity."

Respect for how man comes into this world has a bearing upon the quality of life and the dignity of death.

Right is right if nobody is right, and wrong is still wrong if everybody is wrong.

Righteousness exalts the nation that exalts righteousness (Proverbs 14:34).

Road sign to heaven: Turn right and go straight.

Rock and roll “music” is to the drug scene what hymns are to the church.

S

Salvation is like a life insurance policy—it is no good unless you keep it in force.

Salvation is not based on our feelings, but on how God feels about us.

Salvation is not based on our feelings, but rather our feelings should be based on salvation.

Sectarianism is a situation where men take part of the truth and treat it as if it were all of the truth.

Self-consciousness is a complex combination of humility and pride, humility in feeling inferior and pride in being self-conscious about it.

Self-esteem without self-respect is disastrous to the character.

Selfishness and jealousy are sins that are brothers.

Setting churches in order doesn't necessarily mean ordaining elders; sometimes it may mean just the opposite, having unqualified men, who are called elders, to step down.

Sick and anemic religion cannot change a sin-sick and dying world.

Sin is of such a nature that one act of sin nullifies all righteousness (as far as guilt is concerned), but one act of righteousness does not nullify sin (the grace and forgiveness of God are needed).

Sin must be blotted out of our lives or our names will be blotted out of the Lamb's book of life.

Since God and Christ have been banished from our public school systems, does that mean the systems are ungodly and anti-Christian? (You know the answer!).

Social drinking really is not sociable as it works havoc in society and can render man unfit for society.

Some "take offense" at many things, but we should never "give offense" in any thing (be a stumbling block).

Some people, if they are not in the driver's seat, will not even go along for the ride.

Some people's concept of Christian liberty is to believe in Christ and do as they please.

Some people's weakness (among other things) is to think that they have no weakness.

Some people are about as interested in religion as an old cow, yet they claim "membership" in somebody's church, and think they are going to heaven.

Some people are more interested in the applause of men than they are in the approval of God.

Some people are very dogmatic in their opposition to what they call dogmatism.

Some people have more interest and respect for old furniture (antiques) than they do for old people.

Some people say to "live and let live," but the trouble with that kind of philosophy is that by the same token it teaches to "die and let die" (which is not Christianity).

Some people tolerate, and even like strong preaching, but it won't do them any good unless they start putting it into practice.

Some people trade their Lord for a husband or a wife (a non-Christian) and then stop coming to church.

Some people who are the most defensive have the least to defend (that is why they are defensive; they feel inadequate and inferior, and are trying to shield themselves; to cover up).

Some people who pride themselves in "using psychology" many times are really only "using" people.

Some preachers try to cloak their compromise in "love" and "scholarship."

Some Scriptures are hard to understand only because we have a hard heart; accept what they say, and they will no longer be hard.

Someone has said that God has made us with two ears so that we can hear both sides of a story.

Someone has said that Ph.D. (as in the said degree) means, "*Push, here, Dummy.*"

Someone has said that the reason some poor souls don't mind their own business is that they have neither mind nor business.

Someone has said: If we talk Christianity by the yard and live it by the inch, we should be dealt with by the foot.

Sometimes in preaching, what some preachers lack in being a student of God's Word, they try to make up for in stories, wit, humor, and flattery.

Sometimes the preaching we like the least is what we need the most.

Sometimes we get some so-called Christians to quit smoking while others only quit.

Sometimes we hear people say that what we need is a little more tolerance and understanding; however, when (and if) we understand some things, we can't tolerate them.

Sometimes we think the water is deep when it is only muddy; we just can't see how shallow it really is (and the same can be said about some preaching).

Sometimes when the going gets "tuff" we find that our "tuff" is gone.

Sound preaching must have more than sound to it.

Sound preaching must have more than sound to it, and abrasive preaching is not necessarily strong preaching.

Sound preaching must have more than sound to it (and abrasive preaching is not necessarily strong preaching; it may be just a weak human venting his insecurities).

Still water runs deep, but rivers are noisiest when they are shallow.

Storms reveal the quality of the work of the builder.

Strong preaching (which is strong in a paranoid sort of way) will draw weak people (who are weak in a paranoid sort of way) to take their stand religiously in a paranoid sort of way.

Stubbornness is not necessarily a virtue, but steadfastness surely is.

Success is finding a definite, legitimate, and worthy need and then filling it (and especially when you do it for the glory of God).

Successful Christians are ordinary people living extraordinary lives.

Supposedly “belonging” to the right church can never take the place of belonging to God (and being right with Him).

T

Take care of your character, and your reputation will take care of itself.

Take *Christ* out of Christian, and you have *I-A-N* left —*I Am Nothing*.

Take time to play, but don't play with your time.

Temper gets us into trouble, and then pride keeps us there.

That which preachers do not speak out about, they soon lose their convictions about.

The amount that we should give is not determined by how much we give as much as it is by how much we have left over after we give.

The average modern “church member” stands for so little and falls for so much that it can hardly be said that he is walking “in the truth” (III John 3), let alone contending for “the faith” (Jude 3).

The best evidence in favor of Christianity is Christianity.

The best way to get anything done is to do it.

The best way to get rid of an enemy is to make a friend out of him.

The Bible promises no loaves for the loafer (Genesis 3:19; Proverbs 6:6-11; II Thessalonians 3:10).

The choice of the right number of fitting words will explain a matter, but the excessive use of words will bury it where none can find it.

The Christian in a swimming suit at the public beach or a swimming pool is as much out of place as if he were in a bar room or on the dance floor.

The Christian is a stranger and a pilgrim in this world while the sinner is a fugitive and a vagabond.

The church can be no stronger, or spiritual, than the homes of its members.

The church is a saving institution (of souls, not money).

The church is not a forum for different ideas, but it is "the pillar and ground of the truth" (I Timothy 3:15).

The church is to be on the lookout for wolves in sheep's clothing, and at the same time not tolerate supposed sheep that act like wolves.

The church that has no concern for anything beyond its own neighborhood will very soon feel no concern for its own neighborhood either.

The church that is wed to the spirit of this world will find itself a widow in the next generation.

The church was born in a prayer meeting and has always thrived in an atmosphere of prayer.

The closer we get to Christ, the closer we are to one another.

The closer we get to God the more sinful we realize that we are, and consequently the more we see the need for cleansing.

The cobwebs in a lazy mind make a barrier that is hard for the truth to get through.

The command for the wife to be under submission to her husband (Ephesians 5:22) is to be understood and conditioned by the larger context of all of us being

commanded to be under submission to one another (Ephesians 5:21).

The compromising preachers with big followings will be followed into hell.

The cross of Christ is to be borne (spiritually), not worn (literally, as in jewelry or fetish).

The danger we face in being too tolerant of the wrongs in others is that we will become too tolerant of the wrongs in ourselves.

The day is lost wherein no good thing is done or no new thing is learned.

The devil tempts the idle (an idle mind is the devil's workshop), but Christ calls the man already employed to follow him (note the disciples).

The difference between success and failure is a job well done.

The door of happiness opens outward.

The double tragedy of a dishonest person is that not only is he dishonest with other people, he cannot be honest with himself.

The empty tomb of Christ and a heart full of faith are a great combination producing salvation.

The faith that moves mountains doesn't amount to much unless (and until) it first moves me.

The fearful person is always on the defensive.

The fruit derived from honest labor always has the sweetest taste.

The gospel, through grace (Ephesians 2:8-10) and the law of love (Romans 13:8-10; Galatians 5:13,14), accomplishes what the law of sin and death (the O.T.) could never attain (Romans 3:19-23; Galatians 2:16;

3:10; Hebrews 7:19); namely, salvation (Romans 6:23; 8:1-4) and obedience (Galatians 5:16).

The grace of God does not remove the necessity of obedience but gives greater motivation and inspiration for the realization of it.

The harder you work for God the harder the devil works against you, it seems.

The Holy Spirit is the Power, Person, and Providence of God at work in the life of the Christian.

The house of God can't be built with stumbling blocks.

The house of God is no place for playhouse religion (if you must play, don't mix it with religion).

The impulsive person is often a repulsive person.

The individual Christian and the local church are central in carrying out God's will in the world.

The interesting person is the one who is interested.

The jealous person is an insecure person.

The kind of times in which we live today either make men or break them.

The law convicts sinners, but only the gospel can convert them (in the real sense).

The lazy person is the next of kin to him who is a thief.

The *Living God* is more of a Person of *Dynamic Will* than of static Intelligence.

The local church is the only base of operation and organization found in the New Testament for getting the Lord's work done.

The Lord's church cannot be joined; men are born into it (John 3:5), and are added to it by the Lord (Acts 2:38-47).

The Lord gave each of us two ears and one mouth; that should tell us something (and our ears work better when our mouth is shut).

The Lord has an over-all plan for our lives, and the more we trust and surrender to Him, the more He will work it out in detail.

The Lord has given us a brain and the Bible, and He expects us to use both.

The Lord has promised to supply a Christian's needs, but not his greed.

The man who does not believe in the wrath of God will find it difficult to appreciate the grace of God regardless of how much he may talk about the love of God.

The man who merely lives for himself will eventually die by himself.

The man who uses flattery is self-seeking in more ways than one and would like a little flattery in return.

The man without enough religion to take him to church can be sure that he doesn't have enough to take him to heaven.

The mercy and grace of God are really the opposite sides of the same coin: In mercy punishment is deserved, but has been withheld; in grace favor (merit) has been bestowed, but it is not deserved.

The mission of the church is to save souls, not money.

The more saintly we become the more we realize our sins.

The more that we use our minds, greater the capacity becomes to use them.

The more the Lord means to you, the more you will want to share him with others.

The more we love the greater our capacity to love becomes.

The more we succeed at what we are doing the more we fail if we are doing the wrong thing or the thing wrong.

The most dangerous people are weak people trying to prove (to themselves and others) that they are strong.

The most you can say for a lot of modern music is that it is noise pollution (as well as moral pollution).

The much preoccupation with counseling today has come into being with the decline of good solid Bible preaching (which helps make such counseling unnecessary).

The New Testament does not mention missionaries, but it does speak of evangelists whose work involves establishing churches, not starting missions.

The non-sectarian attitude demands that we ask *what* is right rather than *who* is right.

The only *ism* needed today is evangelism.

The only thing that truth has to fear is fear itself (on the part of its weak-kneed adherents and proponents who are afraid to speak up and stand behind it).

The only way we can acceptably serve the all-wise, all-knowing, all-holy, Almighty God is with our all.

The organization of the Lord's church consists of nothing larger nor smaller than the local church.

The ownership of a television set will not arbitrarily keep you out of heaven, but it may well send your soul to hell—*beware!*

The path of righteousness does not have a question mark at its entrance.

The people who succeed in life are people who know what they want in life.

The person who cheats really cheats himself.

The person who flatters you really wants to “use” you (he has some selfish motive in mind).

The person who gives us the impression that he knows it all is really telling us that he has a lot to learn.

The person who honors God will find that God will honor him.

The person who is always “running” someone down usually doesn’t think too highly of himself either.

The person who is always preoccupied with being “cool” is in danger of ending up where it is hot.

The person who is least lovable needs love the most.

The person who lives it up will find that he has a hard time living it down.

The person who must be always proving to himself that he is a man must not be very much of a man.

The person with a loose tongue will get himself into a lot of tight places.

The political right and being right are not necessarily the same thing (patriotism, politics, and religion should not be “wed” as if they were the same; a Christian’s allegiance is to something higher, God and the kingdom of heaven).

The preacher who “waters down” the Word of God does not faithfully “plant” and “water” the work of God.

The preacher who uses flattery is a false teacher, even if his message is true; there is something false about his life, and he is seeking to cover up or use you in some way.

The preacher who is afraid to “rock the boat” doesn’t get much rowing done.

The preaching of God’s Word is pleasing to God’s people.

The problem of a lot of Christians being used of the Lord does not involve ability but availability.

The proof of Christianity is in the resurrection, and if professed Christians are not living the resurrected life we might as well forget about convincing the world.

The proof of the pudding is in the eating—try some!

The “pulpit” is no place to preach our doubts and question marks but that which we assuredly know to be the truth of God.

The purpose of faithful gospel preaching is to produce faith and faithfulness.

The purpose of preaching is not necessarily to tell people off, but to tell people.

The reality of your conversion is evidenced by your desire to share your conversion with others.

The reason many people backslide so easily is that they really didn’t “front slide” in the first place.

The reason many professing Christians don’t have much of an appetite for spiritual things is that they are already filled (filled with the things of the world).

The reason that some people backslide is that they joined a “church,” a preacher, or someone instead of being added to the church by the Lord (and joined to Christ).

The religion of Christ is the only thing that can truly save men from being beasts.

The right way to start living right is right away.

The secret of being a good “boss” is to do your job without being “bossy” (people detest this).

The secret of getting things done is to do them.

The sermon you enjoy the most is not always the one that you need the most.

The servant nearest to the throne of God must the more humbly bow himself.

The sin that God cannot and will not forgive: The one that you will not forsake (it is unpardonable).

The sin that God cannot and will not forgive: The one that you will not forsake (it is unpardonable, and no one can go to heaven with unforgiven sin).

The so-called “unity in diversity” that does not seriously take into consideration doctrine is but a slight modification of the old “it matters not what you believe just so you are sincere” line.

The student who takes short-cuts in his study usually cuts himself short; he short-changes himself.

The trouble in too many churches today is that we have people who supposedly hold convictions but their lives are not very convincing.

The trouble with people saying what they think is that usually thinking is not one of their most outstanding abilities.

The trouble with religious movements (and “isms”) is that they tend to emphasize certain distinctive doctrines or points that prompted them to come into being rather than all of the Word of God.

The trouble with religious movements is that they have become denominational monuments.

The way the world looks at it, you are being manly if you assert yourself and dominate (control) others; the way the Christian looks at it, you are being manly when you are meek (restrained) and exercise self-control (control yourself).

The way to get something done is to do it.

The whole counsel of God preached wholeheartedly makes Christians wholly committed to Christ.

The Word of God is no more the Holy Spirit than my words are me and your words are you.

The world will not hate you if you are a part of it because the world does not hate itself.

There are no short cuts on the road to heaven, but there are many side tracks.

There are two things I have found it hard for people to see, their own faults and the faults of their children.

There is a difference in being paranoid over numbers and having a genuine love and compassion for the lost that makes us real soul winners.

There is a motto of life that really works: If you want something done, do it.

There is a world of difference between knowing the Word of God and knowing the God of the Word (the devil quoted Scripture).

There is no hardness of heart like that of an unsaved religious person who thinks that he is saved.

There is no man any more foolish than the man who has fooled himself.

There is no man who has so much to learn as the man who thinks that he knows it all (evidently his exposure to knowledge has been rather limited).

There is no record anywhere of Christ teaching his disciples how to preach, but there is of him teaching them how to pray—*this should tell us something!*

There is no right way to do a wrong thing.

There is no room for worldly pride and arrogance in accepting Christ, getting our sins forgiven, and living the Christian life.

There is nothing more contradictory, false, repulsive, or deceptive than religious pride.

There is nothing more pitiful (and disgusting) than a reactionary reacting against himself and other reactionaries.

There is nothing petty about Christianity, and there should be nothing petty about Christians.

There is nothing you can do to merit salvation, but there is something you can do to accept and keep it.

There is something fishy going on when churches aren't fishing for men.

There is something wrong with your brand of religion if it doesn't make you clean up your life in every way.

There will soon be nothing left of the man who trims himself to please everybody.

They who preach much about God's love and grace (and how great it is!), and at the same time never mention the awfulness of sin and its consequence, have really missed the whole point of what love and grace are all about.

They who try to discredit the Bible end up discrediting themselves.

They who will not receive God's love will experience His wrath.

Things are not always what they seem, but they are what they are seen in the sight of God.

Those who use all kinds of gimmicks and sensationalism to get peoples' attention religiously many times don't have much to say to them after they have gotten their attention.

Time does not erase sin, and death does not make a sinner a saint (in the sight of God).

Time does not wash away sin, nor does it turn a lie into the truth (nor authenticate a false religion) in the sight of God.

To "get even" with someone, you have to get down on their level.

To a person who is "weak" and "watered down," anyone having convictions stronger than he is naturally considered to be radical.

To be especially blessed materially many times makes the man of the world proud, but it makes the truly Christian person even more humble.

To be *full* of faith (in the New Testament sense) involves more than believing; it involves *faith-fulness*.

To be happy make others happy.

To be holy one must be wholly surrendered to God.

To be meek one does not have to be weak.

To be successful, accept your lot in life—then dig it up, plant something in it, and watch it grow!

To belittle is to be little (people who belittle really show how little they really are).

To belittle is usually to be little.

To cloak our religious compromise with love and scholarship is an affront to love and scholarship.

To develop self-esteem in a child without it being related to right or wrong, is to develop an amoral, self-centered egotist.

To err is human, and to forgive is divine; but to continue in sin is devilish.

To follow the Bible alone is to be the Lord's church, but the Bible plus the names, traditions, and organizations of men equal denominationalism (let us follow the Bible and that alone!).

To forsake the assembly (Hebrews 10:25) is to forsake Christ for the church is the body of Christ (Colossians 1:18).

To get anywhere with God, the way up is down (down on your knees).

To get the most out of life, stay alive as long as you live.

To get things accomplished, plan your work and then work your plan.

To grow tobacco for human consumption is to prostitute the soil of God's good earth.

To live a happy, useful, and successful life, stay alive as long as you live.

To live a useful life, stay alive as long as you live.

To live the Christian life at least two things are necessary, desire and surrender.

To many the so-called "ministry" is just another profession rather than an obsession.

To most people today their religion is more of a matter of convenience than it is of conviction.

To not make a decision at all in reference to Christ is to decide against him (consider Pilate).

To not make a decision in reference to Christ is to make a decision against him—you can't be neutral!

To practice frugality one does not have to be stingy.

To preach a false doctrine is to be doubly guilty of preaching two: (1) The denial of the true one (saying in essence that it is false), and (2) the declaration of the false one.

To put on Christ (Galatians 3:27) is to put on a coat of many beautiful colors (Galatians 5:22,23).

To sin against the light is to bring upon oneself the darkest night.

To stand for something, you must at the same time stand against something (i.e., if you are really for the right, you will be against the wrong).

To succeed in your work, plan your work, and then work your plan.

To suggest that Christ is head over the many denominational bodies is to suggest an abnormal freak of nature that does not occur (one head with many individual bodies attached to it).

To the Christian, God's every wish (His will) is His Command.

To the victor belongs the "spoils" (not to the loser); so press on!

To use television as a baby sitter is as bad as enlisting a dirty-minded old man to take care of your children.

Too many "pastors" today rather have a big herd of goats to tend than a small flock of sheep.

Too many Christians (and preachers) have made peace with the world before the war has been won (and before the hostilities have ceased).

Too many of us regard God as we do the preacher—someone we respect somewhat, but someone not to be taken too seriously.

Too many people are more concerned about filling their belly with food (over-indulgence and pleasure) than they are in filling their souls with the love and Word of God.

Too many people are too busy making a living to build a life, and in the Day of Judgment they are going to come up wanting.

Too many people today want to “belong” to some church without even being religious.

Too many preachers “beat around the bush” a lot but never “tree” anything.

Too many preachers are more concerned about getting churches to *help* them (\$) than they are concerned about *helping* the churches (really to get set in order Scripturally).

Too many preachers know the art of controlling people through flattery rather than really changing their lives through straight gospel preaching.

Too many times today the modern church seems to be a mere religious or social club with a chaplain instead of the living body of Christ, or the army of the Lord on the move.

Truth is not just a monument but a movement (a living, vibrant verity, having to do with every facet of life).

Two rights don’t make a wrong (ever!).

U

Unless salvation is the greatest thing in the world to you, you will not give up the world for it.

Unless we truly repent of our sins, and forsake them, our baptism is a farce.

Unspoken action is more impressive in convincing another than in unperformed talk.

Until a Christian has prayed, the most important thing that a Christian can do is to pray.

Usually the person who excuses himself thereby accuses himself.

V

Verily I say unto you, he who comes to church to win a pin or beat a contest has his reward.

W

Water seeks its own level and likewise we know what kind of person you are by the company you keep.

Watered down religion has no power to quench the fires of lust or to put out the flames of hell.

Watered down religion will not quench the flames of hell.

We are beginning to mature when we begin to recognize the fact that we are very immature and unworthy.

We are limited by the terms of the gospel, but we are not to limit the terms of the gospel.

We are living in a society where young women, mothers, and grandmothers vie to present themselves as painted, semi-clothed, alluring sex symbols rather than what is evidently considered to be outdated and old fashioned; namely, innocence, purity, and godliness.

We believe that everything the church is supposed to accomplish in the world it can accomplish without the aid of man-made religious organizations.

We best “keep” the Word of God when we give it away; share it with others—evangelize!

We cannot be too personal in talking to God, but we can be too intimate (too much of modern religion tends to put God on the same level with man, but let us come before Him with the utmost respect and awe in dignity; He is the King of the universe).

We cannot permanently help people unless we are able to help them help themselves.

We cannot teach what we do not know, nor lead where we have not been or will not go.

We cannot understand how some people can talk so much about the Holy Spirit and then at the same time pay so little attention to what He says in the Bible.

We find the early church fasting and praying, but, in contrast, it seems the modern church is feasting and playing.

We have to get up to bat before there is the possibility of getting on the base, let alone knocking a home run.

We have to get up to bat before we can knock a home run or even get on the base.

We have too many preachers today who are diplomats instead of really being ambassadors for Christ.

We live in a time when people actually claim to be Christians without being a Christian and want to be a Christian without being Christian.

We must control and discipline our children until they learn to control and discipline themselves.

We must empty our lives of sin and self before our lives can be filled with God and the Holy Spirit.

We must never preach our question marks or doubts, but that which we assuredly know to be the truth, for that alone will save and edify.

We need preachers who are more interested in feeding the sheep than in fleecing them.

We need the kind of preaching that will bring us face to face with ourselves, our sins, and our God.

We need to be careful lest we become so involved in the mechanics of the Scriptures that we miss the message of the Scriptures.

We need to exercise some flexibility in dealing with sinners, but not in dealing with sin.

We need to put life into the church and the church into life.

We never cease to be amazed that man divorced from the concept and premise of God can believe anything and everything except the right thing.

We oppose smoking for the same reason that we oppose abortion—human life is sacred.

We should be “Christians only” because that is the only kind of Christians found in the New Testament.

We should be concerned about the pious un-immersed and disturbed by the impious immersed.

We should know where we stand and stand where we know.

We should not pray for God to do for us what we can do for ourselves, but will not; nor should we pray for what we will not do for others.

We want to be reactionary (react, be against sin), but not reactionary to those who are against sin.

We won't get accepted by others until we learn to accept ourselves.

Weak and anemic preaching will not produce strong and vigorous Christians.

Weak people tell lies to get out of hard situations, rather than facing up to them.

Weak people need strong government; strong people need little government, as they will govern themselves.

What any verse of the Bible means, it means in the light of the rest of the Bible (in other words, the Bible does not contradict itself, and other verses serve to clarify and illuminate).

What God commands us to do, by His power He will enable us to do.

What have you done today that you would not have done if you were not a Christian?

What have you done today that you would not have done if you were not a Christian, and what have you refrained from doing that you would not have refrained from doing if you were not a Christian?

What man believes about his origin will determine what he considers to be his destiny.

What many people call being "born again" is really a miscarriage as far as the Word of God is concerned.

What some denominations lack in religion they try to make up for in cathedrals, elaborate church buildings, ecclesiastical garb, robes, and crosses.

What some people call "contending for the faith" could really be called "being contentious about the faith" (or, more exactly, about their own opinions).

What the church offers should be that which cannot be found or duplicated in any other organization.

What we stand for has a bearing on which people we stand with, and those we stand with reflects what we stand for.

What you *do* speaks “louder” than what you *say*.

What you do with Christ now determines what he will do with you in the hereafter.

When a people cease preaching a subject, they will soon cease practicing it, and when they cease practicing it, they have surely ceased believing it.

When a person is too busy to go to church, he is too busy.

When bad things happen in your life, let it be just so much water that has passed under the bridge; don’t dam it up to make a pool of lingering stagnation in your life.

When faithful gospel preaching and writing stirs honest minds and emotions, good comes from it; but when minds are not thus stirred, only the emotions, it causes negative commotions.

When family ties, friendship ties, and worldly ties are stronger than ties in the Lord, it ties a lot of knots in the Lord’s work.

When God is left out of the picture, it seems that man becomes unduly preoccupied with *getting* and *begetting* (the act of begetting, but not necessarily the begetting).

When it comes to “witnessing” for the Lord, too many of us are like the Arctic River—frozen at the mouth!

When it is the hardest to pray that is when we need to pray the hardest.

When men no longer fear God there is reason that we should fear men for the restraining influence of God will no longer be upon their lives.

When men say that God is dead, we know for sure that the devil is still alive.

When one becomes a Christian, he is doing more than getting ready to die; he is getting ready to live, eternally!

When people act unusual and irregular, there is something unusual and irregular going on in their lives.

When people become preoccupied with methods rather than the all-important message, look out! There is trouble in store for the church.

When *reformers* become *conformers*, all their noble efforts become *deformed* and nullified.

When some preachers are too personal in their sermon illustrations involving people, it makes you wonder if you will be the person in one of their illustrations when they preach somewhere else (or if you should confide in them).

When someone teaches an unchristian doctrine, we are not justified in using unchristian tactics in dealing with them.

When something is wrong, it is wrong, and for a person to continue in the wrong is to be in the wrong.

When the Holy Spirit controls us, we will practice self-control.

When the preacher “hits” sin, some people stop sinning and others stop attending.

When we are zealous and outspoken on a religious subject, which subject really is not Scriptural, that which appears to be contending for the faith is merely being contentious (being sectarian).

When we cease to respect our sexuality, giving way to immorality and perversion, we cease to respect what our sexuality produces—other human beings.

When we determine what is right, at precisely the same time we learn what is wrong.

When we draw near to God, we are made to realize how far away from Him we really are.

When we give fair treatment, we are more likely to receive fair treatment in return.

When we have stopped being compassionate, we have stopped being a human being and started being an animal.

When we take a decided stand for that which is right, we will have no problem in deciding what is wrong.

When we take a decided stand for the Lord, we have no problem in deciding what is right and wrong.

When we take a decided stand for the Lord, we need to spend much time on our knees.

When we take a decided stand for the Lord many times there are those who will take a decided stand against us.

When you are supported by people (\$), you can end up supporting those people (what they stand for or don't stand for)—beware lest you become a hireling (and a compromiser)!

When you come out of denominationalism, make sure that denominationalism has come out of you.

When you get to the bottom, the only way that you can look is up; sinner, turn to God!

When you have personally experienced and know God's grace, grace will govern your relationships with others.

When you live a lie, the truth really hurts when it is found out.

When you study the Bible, study as if you had never studied it before, and you will continue to learn like you have never learned before.

When you throw a stick into a bunch of dogs, the one that is hit will “yelp” first.

When your religion becomes a source of pride, rather than producing humility, then there is something wrong with you and your religion.

Where our treasure is our hearts will be also (Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 6:19-21), and consequently we will be there some day.

Where there is life there is hope, but even more so where there is hope there is life—vital, exuberant life!

Whether wealth is sinful or not is determined by how we get it, what we do with it after we get it, and what it does with us.

Whether you are in the right church or not will be taken care of when you make sure that you are personally right with God and that you are really following the right teachings as found in the Bible.

Wisdom gives us the “knack” to do common things in an uncommon way.

With many people who have no problem in talking, talking is their problem.

Woe unto them who love entertainment and not truth, for truth will not be theirs for long.

Women’s swim wear has changed from immodest to indecent to just plain vulgar.

Words are vehicles of thought, and to understand the meaning of words is to understand the thought.

X

X-rated entertainment paves the way for X-rated living (they go together).

Y

Yelling at children is a poor substitute for discipline.

Yesterday is gone; tomorrow is uncertain; today is here—use it!

You can't *riot* a wrong, but wrongs need to be *righted*.

You can drive around in a limousine, but if you don't know where you are going, it doesn't mean a thing—do you have a purpose in living?

You can have a new beginning in life; today is the beginning of the rest of your life—how will it end?

You can mark it down that the church member who is inconsistent in his church attendance will be inconsistent in his living (or is it the other way around, or is it both ways?).

You can never be saved until you get to the place that you really believe you are lost.

You can search the world for happiness and never find it; you've got to look elsewhere.

You can straighten out some kids by bending them (over your knee).

You can teach your children to be courteous and polite, but in the final sense you can't teach them to be thankful; that comes through experience.

You cannot take it with you, but you can send it on ahead (Matthew 6:19-21; I Timothy 6:17-19; II Timothy 1:12; Colossians 3:23,24).

Your disposition, not your position, determines your happiness.

You do not hear complaints of “cramming it down their throats” from people who are hungering and thirsting after righteousness.

You don’t hear complaints of “cramming it down their throats” from people who are hungering and thirsting after righteousness (only from those who are already filled with something else, like worldliness, tradition, and self).

You get a better response from people by telling them rather than telling them off.

You go to college and get your B.A. degree; the world says, “Come on out, and learn the rest of the alphabet.”

You may be on the right track, but if you just sit there you’ll be run over.

You may be teaching sound doctrine, but it will amount to little more than sound unless you are backing it by example, consistently living a righteous and holy life coupled with benevolent deeds of kindness.

You may give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.

You may go to college and get a B.A. degree, but out in the world is where you learn the rest of the alphabet.

You must come to yourself (Luke 15:17) before you can come to God (Luke 15:20).

You must have a personal encounter with yourself and God before you can have a personal relationship with Him.

You will never go wrong doing right.

Young people who look with disdain upon older people are very foolish indeed for it is only a matter of time until all of us will be old.

Young person, if you marry for puppy love, you will probably lead a dog's life.

Young person, if you throw your life away, you better watch out where it lands.

Your Christianity could well be measured by what you regard as your treasure and by what you enjoy as your pleasure.

Your life must be related to something greater than you are, or you will become a less person than you are.

Z

Zeal without knowledge is the sister of folly. ☐

