

# Poems and Proverbs that Preach



BY  
JAMES E. GIBBONS



# Poems and Proverbs that Preach



BY  
JAMES E. GIBBONS



This little book contains poems, proverbial sayings,  
and short (and sometimes pungent) statements of truth.



**The Sword and Staff**  
Post Office Box 147  
Mt. Airy, N.C. 27030 U.S.A.

**PERMISSION GRANTED:**

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

## Preface

This volume is a follow-up to our first little book, *Poems of the Soul and Proverbs*, following the same general approach and format. It was really a pleasant surprise to see how the first book was so favorably received (and the favorable response continues). We thought this kind of material was no longer of interest to readers but are pleased to have found out otherwise. Perhaps the brevity of expression accommodates modern man in his busy pursuit of life.

Over-all this current book takes more of a preaching tone, and thus we call it *Poems and Proverbs that Preach*. Words are written especially to drive home a point. There are not as many poems in this book as in the first one, but the “proverbs” are much greater in number (almost 1300 such sayings, about 400 more). The book is a few pages longer. If you like the truth to the point, here it is. There is no “beating around the bush.” And like the first book, the poems and sayings are arranged in alphabetical order.

If this little book in some way can be used to glorify God and to stir men’s minds in a good way about spiritual truth and their relation to God, we will be pleased. We humbly commend it to that end.

James E. Gibbons  
Mt. Airy, N. Carolina  
May, 1995

*(See Addendum on page 127 for more recent poems.)*

## **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 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.

# ❧ Poems ❧

---

## **A Claim to Worldly Fame**

Many who've made a claim to worldly fame,  
And even now it seems are in renown,  
Will yet in time to come recoil in shame  
—In infamy, but not esteem, be found.

---

## **A Problem Not External**

We hear, “Just do what’s right—that’s all I ask.”  
Oh, it sounds so simple, but what a task!  
For one who’s imperfect and fallen short  
The problem’s not external—it’s the heart.

---

## **A Promise Made in Haste**

A promise made in haste,  
And that with little thought,  
May bring with it disgrace  
When it at last is wrought.

---

## **Hold Fast! Press On!**

It has been said  
The darkest hour comes right before the dawn.  
It's likewise true  
The hardest battle's fought before the vict'ry's won.  
So don't despair if night seems dark and battle's long;  
The sun shines bright,  
And battle's din is but prelude to vict'ry's song;  
Hold fast! press on!

---

## **Hope**

Hope is the anchor of the soul  
That calms our fears and makes us bold.

---

## **Hope, A Squeak**

Hope can't be all that strong  
When faith is weak  
And supposed praise in song  
Comes out a squeak.

---

## **In Tribute to My Mom (Words in Tribute)**

Hear ye, take note, my mom was tough and strong;  
Each year she bore her load alone along  
With no complaints, or whines, of life's demand;  
So may these words to her in tribute stand.

## **Look Up (Appreciate)!**

Look up when all seems down.  
Look up, then all around.

Your lot is not that bad.  
One, two; three, four; now add.

You are among the blest.  
Your thoughts were just in jest.

Thank God for blessings great.  
Look up (appreciate)!

---

## **Monumental Words**

There are two words that stand alone  
As monumental to my Dad.  
The first is WORK, engraved in stone;  
The other is HURT, how sad.

---

## **Mr. Compromiser, That's His Name**

Mr. Compromiser; yes, that's his name;  
The art of pleasing men involves his game;  
To take a stand for truth he knows not how;  
Beliefs that are his own he won't avow.

How to decide which way he finally goes  
He checks the wind to see which way it blows;  
For him to stand alone would never do  
Lest he appear to all a varied hue.



A bone in back he doesn't seem to have,  
And that for standing strong it won't allow;  
A man of "yes" it seems he'll always be,  
For on his own he dare not try to see.

The praise of men he wants at any cost,  
Although along the way the truth is lost;  
It makes no sense to live a life like this  
And in the sight of God be found amiss.

---

### **"No Pain, No Gain"**

It has been said, "No pain, no gain;"  
'Tis likewise true: No work, no worth;  
And with no storm, expect no rain;  
Without some hurt, no birth, no mirth.

If there's no start, where is the end?  
Without a verb, 'tis but a noun;  
Without a rend, one makes no mend;  
If there's no cross, expect no crown.

---

### **Our Shame, Our Need, Our Care**

Our shame today is that we know no shame;  
It seems we have forgotten how to blush.  
We do that which is wrong and feel no blame;  
There is no trip of guilt—"why all the fuss?"

Our need is that we think we have no need;  
But all of us in sin have gone astray.  
Let us not grasp for more engrossed by greed,  
But bankrupt, turn to God and humbly pray.

Our care should be that we no longer care;  
That we no longer seek the things of God;  
Nor of our fellow man are we aware;  
To even care would seem to us as odd.

It seems that we have really missed the mark,  
And point, of what this life is all about.  
We see ourselves as light while in the dark;  
We think we're in the way though off the route.

---

## **Real Prayer**

Real prayer is more than flowery speech,  
Mere words meant for the human ear;  
It comes from hearts unseen that reach  
In faith for God alone to hear.

---

## **Take a Stand—*Be God's Man!***

If you really want to preach and be God's man  
Then God requires of you to take a stand  
For truth, for Christ, his church and right, and their  
de- fence;  
Also the wrong you are to be against.

You are to preach and teach the fullness of God's plan,  
Not tone it down so as to make it bland;  
And in the preaching of the cross take no offense;  
There's nothing like a preacher on the fence.

The world could not withstand the truth of God's command

If all would take their stand and be God's man;  
But compromise, pretense? There is a consequence!  
There's nothing like a preacher on the fence!

---

## **That Which We Cannot Pay**

If we put off until tomorrow  
That which we should have done today,  
And from the future try to borrow  
To have more time for "fun and play,"  
It will but bring regret and sorrow  
And leave our world in disarray  
When we at last are made to know  
That which we owe we cannot pay.

---

## **That Which We Have Not Done**

That which we have not done  
As well as what we do  
Can leave our world undone  
And ruin it through and through.

---

## **The Cedar Tree**

O Cedar tree, that's big,  
Indeed you're bold;  
Green throughout the winter,  
You face the cold.

Indeed you're very brave;  
Yes, I would say;  
But don't you ever crave  
A sunny day?

Just look at your foliage;  
It's in your way;  
The snow causes damage;  
It makes it stay.

And why not drop your leaves  
Each coming Fall?  
Your limbs let feel the breeze;  
In Spring enthrall.

---

### **The Gate That's Strait (Matthew 7:13,14)**

We must make entrance through the gate called strait  
And then continue in the narrow way  
If we would enter through the pearly gate  
Of Heaven's portals on the Judgment Day.

---

### **The Man Who Toots His Little Horn**

The man who struts and toots his little horn  
May live to rue the day that he was born;  
For when the trumpet of the Lord shall sound  
The man nor horn may not be heaven bound.

---

## **The Manly Modern Macho Man**

The manly modern macho man  
His hairy chest inlaid in tan  
With open shirt and chain of gold  
Is really something to behold.

His hair all sprayed and set in place  
Helps compliment his lovely face;  
As does the jewel in his ear,  
All badges of his manly gear.

Erect and tall he takes his stand,  
The manly modern macho man;  
On hands all smooth and soft and white  
His rings all glitter in the light.

---

## **Things Better Left Unsaid**

Some things are better left unsaid  
If good that comes from them are none,  
And things are better left unread  
If such would leave one's life undone.

---

## **Think of Duty, Not of Self and Pity (Dealing with Depression and Self-Pity)**

Respect the person who respects himself,  
As he accepts responsibility,  
And stands a giant, and not an elf,  
With thoughts of duty, not self and pity.

Pity the person who pities himself,  
For pitiful indeed he has become,  
Thereby reducing self to worthless pelf,  
Pitifully depressed, benumbed, and glum.

Look up! Cheer up! Do that which must be done,  
And thus take charge of self and destiny;  
Dispel the dark and gloom; bring on the sun;  
Be free, and thus declare your jubilee!

---

## **Upon Reaching the Summit**

When one has reached the summit of his life,  
He may be tired and weary from the climb;  
But from the vantage point above the strife  
His life to him now seems almost a rhyme.

He now can see each winding path he took  
To reach this high and panoramic view,  
And with each long and contemplative look  
He sees that which before he would eschew.

As varied thoughts and moods engage his mind,  
He is content, and calm, and feels tranquil;  
But he is pleased to leave it all behind,  
And there beyond the heights descend the hill.

---

## **Weak in Actions**

To be strong in words  
While weak in actions  
Is but to count the numbers  
And do the fractions.

## **What Might Have Been**

We let the futile needless thoughts engulf  
our minds about the past,  
And as we contemplate and ponder them  
we are the more harassed.

We ask,  
“What might have been? What could have been?”  
(if such had taken place back then).  
And with chagrin we ask again,  
“What would have been? What should have been?”

---

## **Worldly Womanhood (I Timothy 2:9,10)**

She has her hair put up in tiers,  
And from her ears hang chandeliers;  
Her lips are painted red as blood—  
All badges of her “womanhood.”

She drapes herself in clothing tight,  
A sexy object to the sight;  
All bright, aglitter, and aglow,  
She makes herself a “one man” show.

---

## **Wounded, Stunned, and Speechless**

O heart that’s sad, I hesitate to speak;  
O inner self, can not you cease repining?  
My brain can nothing do except to think  
Of this dreadful incident so stunning.

Yes, lo, to speak I should, but words won't come;  
O nobler self, please leave me not, not now;  
Kind sir, my heart...it hurts...it's still...it's numb;  
I need to speak, to talk, but know not how.

At last sleep came to drown my shock and shame  
And with its quietness balm my wounded heart,  
(And hope by end of night my self reclaim);  
But, lo, reprieves a thing that's very short.

I found myself awake somewhat rebuilt  
To meet, to face, that which had come to pass;  
And as I went about new strength I felt,  
Assured that things would be aright at last.

---

## **Youthful Desperation and Resolve**

I'm weak, I'm tired, I'm worn by temptations  
That war against my soul from day to day,  
And with it awful anticipations  
Of what awaits for me the Judgment Day.

Could I but live the way I wanted to  
With freedom from ensnarement of the flesh  
That traps me in the things the worldlings do  
And hinders serving God with soul afresh.

O God, forgive and help one such as I,  
One who desires to follow Thee in Truth,  
And render service true: to live, to die.  
O God above, I give to Thee my youth!







# Proverbs

## A

A “loose canon” never hits anything.

A Christian’s faith not only involves believing in Christ, but believing what Christ said.

A church made up of dysfunctional families can hardly be a functional church (in the complete New Testament sense).

A church of Christ will identify itself as such (not as some denomination).

A church that must rely on bake sales, dinners, and rummage sales to financially survive probably is as dead as the chicken, as cold as the iced tea, as worthless as the rummage, and obviously is not sold out to the Lord.

A comet makes a great display as it goes across the heavens, but that doesn’t prove anything; it has little substance, being primarily dirty ice emitting gases.

A constant diet of television will jeopardize your soul and distort your concepts of right and wrong.

A crooked person cannot get through the gate called strait, nor walk upon the straight and narrow way.

A disciple of Christ has the privilege and responsibility to learn (and know) his Master’s will, and as he learns (and knows) this will, his privileges and responsibilities are thereby increased.

A doting, smothering kind of love is not healthy.

A faith that's strong will keep you from wrong (I Peter 1:5; I John 5:4).

A game has no meaning unless played by the rules.

A generation brought up on rock 'n' rock music, when it turns to religion, thrives on Pentecostalism.

A gift makes room for the giver, so beware.

A hardened heart can best be changed by being broken.

A heart warmed by the gospel of Christ will not be cold and indifferent toward others.

A high-minded person, as such, cannot serve the most high God of Heaven.

A hope that's sure will produce a life that's pure (I John 3:1-3).

A hypocrite is an embodiment of a lie.

A job well-done is a source of contentment and a prelude to fun.

A knife must have a little "edge" on it before it will cut, and likewise indefinite preaching does not get the job done.

A liberal person finds that he is treated accordingly.

A life that is straight as an arrow is aimed in the right direction.

A lopsided ball hurled through the air veers off course (be well-rounded).

A lot of kneeling keeps us in good standing with God.

A love that's real will do more than feel (I John 3:16-18).

A man is foolish to grope in darkness when Jesus is the light of the world.

A man is foolish to remain lost when Christ is “the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6).

A man is foolish to stand in judgment of the Book that will one day judge him.

A man lost in his work has really found himself.

A man of *principles* is a *prince* of a man.

A man will not do all that he can until he tries to do more than he can.

A meaningful relationship to God will put meaning into all of your relationships.

A New Testament church must be a New Testament church, not some denominational hybrid bound by the traditions of men.

A paranoid preoccupation with prophecy amounts to witchcraft, trying to divine the future in detail rather than simply trusting the all-knowing God.

A paranoid preoccupation with sickness is not healthy.

A person all wrapped up in clothes, pardon the pun, is called a “clothes horse.”

A person all wrapped up in himself is not clothed with Christ.

A person clothed in humility (I Peter 5:5) will not be ostentatiously dressed (I Timothy 2:9).

A person convinced against his will is of the same opinion still (so use patience with people in teaching them).

A person must first be in the faith before he can be found faithful.

A person preoccupied with pornography thus indicates that he has a twisted adolescent mentality, and he needs to grow up, even though he may be older in

years; sex in the context of morality and marriage is proper, wholesome, and natural (and is not something to be reduced to a cheap and burlesque curiosity); so-called adult book stores are anything but adult, grown-up and mature.

A person right with God is a person right with his fellow man.

A person who has Christ for a companion, though he have no other, is never a loner.

A person who is “stuck up” really is in a quagmire.

A person who lies very likely will steal.

A playhouse church is not a powerhouse church for God’s purposes.

A prayerful Christian is a powerful Christian.

A preacher is a paper tiger when his writings are stronger than his preaching and practice.

A rebuke does not necessarily mean the absence of love; Jesus said, “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent” (Revelation 3:19).

A religion that is not Bible-based cannot back up Bible promises.

A religion that is not Bible-based cannot fulfill Bible promises.

A religion that is primarily concerned about making a person feel good, and feel good about himself, without first being good is not any good.

A rising tide lifts all boats, so beware of the humanism and ungodliness that engulfs our land lest we lose our moorings.

A rush to judgment can mean a miscarriage of justice (and understanding).

A sectarian attitude in presenting the truth puts one in the same category with the scribes and Pharisees.

A sharp tongue, a haughty spirit, and a stiff neck are bound to work havoc and leave one's life a wreck.

A sign of maturity is sticking with a job that we don't necessarily like, doing it and seeing it through without quitting.

A society that does not allow freedom of religion is not a free society, even though political freedom theoretically is practiced.

A society that has no respect for the source of life (GOD), and how life comes into this world (SEX), will have little respect for life itself.

A straight line is the shortest distance between two points, so why beat around the bush and take the winding back roads to get to your destination in presenting the truth?

A supposed love for the truth without a love for our fellowman can make us harsh and unfeeling.

A thankful person is a happy person.

A tightwad is an inverted materialist.

About the only thing in which some churches excel is numbers (and mediocrity), not in self-denial, moral excellence, and commitment to truth.

Abrasive preaching is not necessarily strong preaching; it may be just a weak human being venting his insecurities.

Accepting your responsibility determines whether God will accept you or not.

According to the Bible, only a fool says all that he thinks (Proverbs 29:11).

Acknowledging that we are sinners, although a step in the right direction, is no substitute for forsaking our sins.

Adornment can be the outworking of fleshly pride in two different ways: (1) as seen in inordinate worldly adorning (I Timothy 2:9,10; I Peter 3:3,4), and (2) in that which would seem to be modest religious adorning when done in self-righteousness (both being equally wrong in the sight of God).

Adverbs, in a sense, are to verbs what adjectives are to nouns (only with a little more vigor).

After we have gotten on the right road then what really matters in getting to our destination is the everyday nitty-gritty of “where the rubber hits the road” in Christian living.

AIDS is a homosexual disease that is spilling over into the promiscuous heterosexual world.

AIDS, for the most part, is a disease conceived in sin and brought forth in iniquity.

All of the commandments of Christ are fulfilled in one word, love.

All of us are different, but some of us are more different than others.

All other problems have their roots in one basic problem, sin.

All that we know is what the Bible says, which we believe and practice, and the rest we leave to the judgment of God.

All the great prophecies climaxing in the coming of Christ are like Gulf Streams in God's ocean of love.

All things come to them who wait, but then again if you wait too long the world may pass you by.

Although salvation is free, it was paid for by the precious blood of Christ, and we personally must count the cost.

Although we may not understand every detail, the purpose of prophecy has been accomplished if we are ready, living a godly life in hope, anticipation and expectancy.

Always remember that your parents brought you up, so never let them down.

Among other things, a Christian is a person who is like Christ spiritually in character (Romans 13:14; I Peter 2:21-23; I John 2:6), and because we are like him now, we shall also be like him in eternity with the new resurrected body (Philippians 3:21; I John 3:1-6).

An answer of silence will help silence the wrathful person.

An evil heart is an unbelieving heart, and an unbelieving heart is evil (Hebrews 3:12).

An open mind is of no value unless it is open to truth.

An open mind is of no value unless we know how to close it in accepting truth and rejecting error.

An open mind is of no value unless we put something of value in it.

Anticipation and hope bring stability and motivation to our lives.

Any old dead fish can float downstream, but it takes a real live one to go against the current.

Any way that you look at it, it is better to keep in shape than to have to get in shape; so, let us shape up and stay that way.

Any way you want to look at it, we don't have any *interest* in that which we have no *investment*.

Apologizing for the truth is not the kind of *apologia*, defense, that the apostle Peter had in mind in I Peter 3:15.

Apostasy is a mind-set, or a lack of one, as much as anything else; if our mind is not set on pleasing God and following His Word at any cost, we are already in a state of apostasy.

Apply the great truths of God's Word to your life and watch your life become filled with great meaning and purpose (and you may even become "great" in the sight of God).

Are you an assertive person, or could it be better described that you are just plain selfish and rude?

Are you steadfast or stuck fast (really in there for the Lord or in a spiritual rut and not getting anywhere)?

As a twig that remains twisted grows up into a tree that is permanently ill-shaped, a child set on doing wrong, if not corrected, will grow up into an adult who is morally distorted and crooked

As Christians gets older overt sins of commission are fewer in their lives while the less obvious sins of omission are the ones that must be dealt with.

As Christians that which we do is determined by what Christ has done.

As Christians that which we respond to, do, and aspire to is governed by that which we do not see.

As death finds you, so will the Judgment find you (Hebrews 9:27).

As God is perfect, His judgment will be perfect in that Great and Final Day; all will be amazed by the wisdom of it, and none will feel occasion to find fault with it.



As it has been said, a person convinced against his will is of the same opinion still.

As much as anything else, we need a Savior to save us from ourselves.

As people become older and become more set in their ways, it is still good to remember that Jeremiah said, “O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps” (Jeremiah 10:23).

As someone said, a chip on the shoulder indicates there is wood a little higher up.

As the rapidly moving stream is shallow, dashing on in its movement to lower levels, so there is little depth in modern man taken up in the “rat race” for material things who has little time for that which is spiritual and moves on to lower levels.

As we “prove all things” (I Thess. 5:21), we will find ourselves proved and reprov'd in all things.

As we have been blessed, God wants us to be a blessing to others.

As we travel through life, not only should we take time to smell the roses, we should pick a few along the way.

As we walk by faith and not by sight (II Cor. 5:7), it is needful to keep our eyes open spiritually.

As you get older do you find yourself more set in your ways or more steadfast in the ways of Christ?

As you go through life keep your head up high but not your nose in the sky.

Awake to righteousness and sin not if you would awaker to everlasting life.

Backtracking and backsliding are not the way you go back to the church of the New Testament.

Baptism has more to do with being baptized into Christ's death (a total experience), than simply being baptized into his burial (Romans 6:3,4).

Baptism is not antagonistic to faith, but is an embodiment and expression of it.

Baptism is not simply a ceremonial cleansing, but a real spiritual cleansing (I Peter 3:21; Acts 2:38; 22:16).

Be all you can; be God's man.

Be careful what kind of seed you sow; if you sow wild oats, don't expect to reap everlasting life (Gal. 6:7-9).

Be kind and you will find that you are treated accordingly.

Be kind for kindness begets kindness (each kind after its kind).

Be nice if you expect to be treated nice.

Be not deceived; sin by any other name is still sin.

Becoming a Christian not only involves believing in Christ, but believing (and obeying) what Christ said.

Before our lives are in the past tense and have become history, we need to make a little bit of history in behalf of that which is right.

Before the gospel is indeed the good news, it must first address and deal with the bad news, sin.

Before we can be filled with the Holy Spirit, we must be emptied of sin and self.

Before you can have an argument, you must be on the level of the antagonist.

Before you can lift someone from the mire of sin you

must be on higher and solid ground yourself.

Being a friend, and having a friend, is a two-way street.

Being a role model and being a celebrity are not necessarily the same thing.

Being contentious (II Timothy 2:24-26) is not contending for the faith (Jude 3).

Being dirt poor is no excuse for being dirty (morally or otherwise).

Being down on people all of the time is no way to build them up.

Being religious without doing God's will is to "work iniquity" (Matthew 7:21-23).

Being set in our ways can be a good thing if we are set on pleasing God.

Besides our natural endowments from God and that which we have inherited from our forefathers, we are the sum total of all our human experiences and choices.

Better reconsider if you think you are "burned out" on religion; there is another place that has not burned out and where "the fire is not quenched" (Mark 9:43-48).

Beware of any unity movement in religion instigated by compromisers of God's Word.

Beware of half-truths for the other half is a lie.

Beware of the person who says that he has nothing to lose for he is already a loser.

Beware of the preacher who toots his own horn; when the trumpet of the Lord shall sound, his little horn will no longer be around.

Beware of those churches that call attention to themselves, saying, "Look at what we are doing,"

rather than saying, “Look at what God has done” (at Calvary and elsewhere).

Beware when you are so “righteous” that you think you are sinless.

Beware when you call someone radical who is more spiritual than you are rather than facing up to your short comings and need of spiritual growth.

Beware! If you befriend the devil, you have made a friend for life that will end in death.

Beware! Television will obscure your spiritual vision.

Beware! When we find ourselves moving into the anger zone, it is the danger zone.

Beware! When you become upset, you become a setup for the devil (Ephesians 4:26,27).

Big, not the kind of God that some people worship, but the kind of church that some little people must have before they will even attend.

Blaming our faults on others does not change our faults or make us blameless.

Blessed is the man who, having nothing to say, refrains from giving us wordy evidence of the same.

Browbeating and coercion are poor and damaging substitutes for preaching the gospel of Christ.

By getting on our knees we can better ascertain where we stand with God.

By thinking big we get more done than we would otherwise; even if we fall short of our goal, the accomplishment is greater than it would have been otherwise.

Carrying a grudge is a heavy load.

Catholics have THE POPE as the head of their universal church; Protestants have THE MINISTER as the head of their local churches.

Character is what you are; reputation is what people think you are.

Cheap grace only cheapens Christianity; although salvation is free, it cost Christ everything, and we personally are to count the cost of discipleship.

Cheating and stealing are the same.

Christ died alone so that no one else need ever have to experience this.

Christ is right for whatever is wrong with you.

Christ is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end (Revelation 1:8), and he must be that in our lives if we would go to heaven.

Christ is the only way under heaven whereby we can be saved and go to heaven (Acts 4:12).

Christian *is* as Christian *does*; if you don't talk and act like a Christian, you are not a Christian (even though you may claim to be one).

Christian love is not a passive but an active virtue.

Christian unity comes as a result of being in union with Christ and consequently in union with everyone else who is in union with Christ.

Christian unity is more than association and people cordially coming together agreeing to disagree; it is conversion and commitment to Christ.

Christian unity is the by-product of following the truth of Christ in love (love of the truth, love of Christ, and love of fellow Christians).

Christian women don't have to be worried about women's LIB; they have already been fully liberated in Christ (in the true sense).

Christian, are you a reflection of Christ or a reflection on Christ?

Christianity has no greater enemies than its inconsistent friends.

Christianity is a way of life, not death; so, may we live accordingly.

Christianity is ordinary people living extraordinary lives.

Christianity is the good life any way that you look at it.

Christianity sanctifies everything that it touches.

Christianity sanctifies human bonds and makes them even stronger (if those in such bonds are truly bound together in Christ).

Christianity should not be preached in an unchristian way.

Christians should be like a rubber ball; the harder the ball comes down, the higher it bounces.

Christians should be people with beautiful feet (Romans 10:15).

Common sense is not all that common any more.

Communism could not endure the test of time; it fell under and from the weight of its own fallacy.

Complacent preaching will not arouse people from their complacency to take a stand for Christ.

Compromise may be good in politics, but in religion it is totally disastrous.

Compromise of the truth under the guise of love is a most deceptive and disarming ploy.

Compromising truth for the sake of unity and fellowship is not the kind of unity and fellowship the Scriptures teach.

Contagious disease spreads by contact, and the same is true of false teaching.

Conversion to Christ is an experience of love (Romans 5:5-8; I Peter 1:22,23; I John 3:14; 4:7).

Count it a day forever lost wherein nothing productive has been accomplished and wherein nothing new has been learned.

Courage is that quality of mind that enables us to meet advantage and adversity with the same firmness and resolve.

Creation implies purpose, purpose implies responsibility, and responsibility implies accountability (so that's why some people rather believe in evolution?).

## D

Darkness is the absence of light.

Darkness is the absence of light; light is the expulsion of darkness.

Death can be a beautiful thing when it closes the last chapter of a beautiful life, one that has been godly and lived for Christ.

Death does not make a saint out of a sinner, nor does it remove his sins from God's book of remembrance.

Deeds of kindness show what kind of person you are.

Depravity is the center of gravity in man; human nature takes the course of least resistance.

Desperate people do desperate things.

Direction is very important in getting to our destination, whether spiritually speaking or otherwise; we may be moving along at an accelerated speed, but if we are headed the wrong way, this can take us even farther away from where we wanted to go, instead of closer.

Directions to heaven: Turn right, go straight, and then go up.

Divorce is tragic evidence that someone has failed.

Do you look forward with an *endless hope*, or do you have to look forward to a *hopeless end*?

Do you need strength for the day? Then upon arising each morning, read your Bible and pray.

Do you think that in heaven there will be designated places for smokers and non-smokers (I think not)?

Do your best with zest and with God leave the rest.

Does believing there is a devil make a person a sinner? No, nor does “faith only” in Christ make a person a Christian (James 2:14-26; I Peter 1:22,23; Acts 2:37-41; Galatians 3:26,27).

Don’t “cop out” and say that the church needs to be doing more for the young people when it is really what you need to be doing with your family as a family.

Don’t be afraid to use the sword of the Spirit on sin (Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12,13), but at the same time have compassion on the sinner.

Don’t be too concerned about being with the “in” crowd; they may *end up* being cast “*into* outer darkness” and “*into* the lake of fire.”

Don’t be unduly flattered when flowers are strewn along your way; flowers wilt so soon.

Don’t become too concerned if you become very tired and weary in much working for the Lord; you will have all eternity in which to rest.



Don't crucify your today between the two thieves of yesterday and tomorrow; live this day to the fullest.

Don't die until you have learned to live.

Don't die until your time has come, and it has not come as long as you are still alive.

Don't expect the freeloader to help with another's load when he won't carry his own.

Don't fool around with sin unless you want to be made a fool of and to look very foolish in the end.

Don't go out on a limb unless you are good at climbing and are not afraid of heights (and the possibility of falling).

Don't leave this world until you know where you are going in the one to come.

Don't let cold and lukewarm people put out your flame for God.

Don't run out of spiritual gas before you have gone that extra mile, as the Lord said (Matthew 5:41).

Doubt can never help you out when you are down and out; trust is a must.

## E

Empty containers rattle.

Error, disguised as truth, is the most dangerous.

*Eschatology and the second coming of Christ simplified:* Christ said, "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself: that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:1-3; Hebrews 9:27,28; John 5:28,29; II Timothy 4:1; I Thessalonians 4:16-5:4).

Even a light load becomes heavy when we have a heavy heart.

Even as God is one, our devotion to Him should be singular (Deuteronomy 6:4,5).

Even as God is still God, truth is still the truth even if no one believes it.

Even as the Word became flesh in Jesus, in a sense it must become flesh in us before the world will believe.

Experience life as you live it to get the most out of it.

Experience, although a hard teacher, is an exact one.

## F

Facing up to and accepting your responsibility is a good way to snap out of depression.

Failure is defeat only when we give up and quit trying.

Faith that is not centered on the object of its source will soon be off course.

Faith through exercise becomes stronger.

Faithful church attendance is not determined by distance (from the assembly) but by desire (to be in the assembly, to be with Christians, and to be with Christ in eternity).

Faithful preaching must be Christ-centered in content with a continual appeal and reference made to the Word of God.

Faithfully preach the doctrine of Christ, and the question of the right church will take care of itself.

False religion thrives on ignorance, and the worst kind is educated ignorance.

False religion thrives on ignorance.

Fast living will hasten the arrival of old age.

Fear can be instrumental in alleviating fear if we fear God and keep His Commandments, fleeing to Him for mercy.

Fear of failure, and a lack of faith, makes us a loser before we enter the race.

Feet that are “shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace” (Ephesians 6:15) don’t make good dancing feet.

First, brethren admire and envy the success of the big denominational churches in their growth; then, this envy moves them to adapt the denominational tactics, trying to duplicate their success, and then with such a mind-set the next step is accepting denominational doctrine.

Footprints are not left on the sands of time by those standing still.

For a person to be grumpy and whiny at the same time is anything but inspiring to others.

For God so loved the world that He *gave*” (John 3:16) —*what distinguishes your love?*

Freedom without accompanying responsibility is self-destructive.

Freedom without responsibility is like cancerous cells that won’t stay within their proper bounds, eventually destroying the whole body.

Freedom, if it is not in the context of purpose and responsibility, has no meaning and is harmful to all concerned.

From the Christian perspective, the purpose of counseling is not accomplished unless the whole “counsel of God” is presented and accepted (Acts 20:27), not just

that people are made to feel good.

## G

Genuine “Christian unity” comes as a by-product of being united with Christ and does not have to be sought artificially.

Get the skeletons out of your closet and bury them; yes, bury that old man of sin in baptism and arise to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:1-6).

Give and take in marriage does not mean that one person does all of the giving while the other does all of the taking.

God’s grace does not set aside His laws that we should continue in sin (Matthew 1:21; Romans 6:1,2; Hebrews 10:26; I John 3:4-6).

God’s grace is the means of salvation from a life of sin, shame and disgrace, but it is a shame and a disgrace to try to use it as a cloak for sin.

God’s love is so great, although He loves everyone alike, it is as if He loved only you.

God’s plan is that we talk to a person, not talk about him, when we have a grievance (Matthew 18:15).

God’s will should be presented in the spirit of good will.

God can use little men to do big things if they will always remember that they are little and that God is big (and that which they do is done through the power of God and not themselves).

God can use little people to do big things if they stay humble, recognize that they have a big God, and look to Him for strength and guidance.

God did not intend for prozac to take the place of the Paraclet; Christian, trust the Lord.

God gave the ten commandments, not the ten suggestions.

God is as real as life and as close as death.

God is love, and the person who truly loves knows God (I John 4:8), and God knows that person (I Corinthians 8:3).

God is love; therefore, we can't hate anyone and be in communion with Him.

God is more impressed with how little you have left after giving than by how much you have given (Luke 21:1-4).

God is no respecter of persons in making the sun to shine upon the evil and upon the good, and sending the rain upon the just and upon the unjust (Matthew 5:45); He is no respecter of persons in making salvation available to all men (Acts 10:34,35; John 3:16); and in that final Day of Judgment it will be seen that He is no respecter of persons in judging all men (Romans 2:4-11; II Corinthians 5:10).

God let's man discover and see some of His great knowledge and wisdom in nature, which man calls science, but instead of seeing God in this overwhelming display of Supreme Intelligence, the little mind of man becomes inflated that he knows so much—*how strange!*

God may forgive us, and blot our sins out of His book of remembrance, but sometimes it is hard for us to forgive ourselves and forget them.

God wants restoration, but some settle for something less in a Reformation Movement; Christ wants us simply to be his church, but some settle for something less in what they call a Restoration Movement; let's go all the way back to the Lord's church.

God who made everything out of nothing, and called it good (Genesis 1:31), surely can make something worthwhile and good out of you and me.

Good advice on how to be an effective public speaker: stand up to be seen, speak up to be heard, and shut up to be appreciated.

Grace and mercy forgive, but they do not dignify sin that we should continue in it.

Grace forgives us our sins; it does not give us permission and a license to practice sin.

Grief and pain are still the same by any other name.

## H

Half-truths are more dangerous than outright lies for they are more deceptive.

Happiness happens when one is right with God.

Happiness is a way of looking at everything.

Hard work is a discipline, and if persisted in, will go a long way toward developing character.

Harsh words are like a keg of nails spilled upon a busy highway.

Have Christ in your home if you would have a home with Christ in eternity.

Have you noticed? A child has to be taught to do what is right, but he doesn't have to be taught to do what's wrong—he takes this up on his own.

Having an open mind is of little value unless we know how to close it upon hearing, and then embracing the truth.

Having an open mind is of little value unless we put something of value in it.

Having become the favored objects and recipients of God's mercy and grace, we are to be channels of this mercy and grace to others.

Having been purchased by the blood of Christ, we are to be sold out to Christ.

Having faith in people goes a long way in helping them believe in themselves and in doing what they should.

Having food and clothing we should therewith be content even if we have to live in a tent (I Timothy 6:8).

He that is lowly does not have to fear the heights of a fall (Proverbs 16:18).

He who does not love his wife despises himself.

He who finds fault with his wife finds fault with himself.

Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people, whereas hell is a prepared place for an unprepared people—*Are you prepared?*

Help others while you can because the time may come when you can't even help yourself.

Heresy has been defined as taking part of the truth and trying to make it all of the truth.

Home, where the heart is, and where we would like to be.

Homosexuals are not made by reproduction, but by seduction.

Homosexuals coming "out of the closet" does not change the enormity of their perversion; it just shows the obstinacy and audacity of their shame.

Homosexuals do not produce their kind by act of reproduction, for God only made male and female, but by act of molestation.

Honesty is the basic element in good character.

Hope and despair are not compatible.

Hope deferred makes life become a wearisome thing.

Hope gives birth to patience, and then trials nurture, cultivate, and bring patience to maturity.

Hope is the anchor of the soul (Hebrews 6:18,19), and those without it are adrift upon a troubled sea.

Hope sustains us during adversity while at the same time adversity enhances our hope and makes it more meaningful in sustaining us.

Hope that is alive produces vibrant, purposeful living.

How can we love the Creator when we despise our fellow creatures made in His image?

How can you accept your responsibility if you do not respond with your ability?

How can you take a stand for the Lord if you don't know where and how to stand?

How can you take a stand for what is right if you don't know what is right?

How that the apostles told sinners to accept Christ in the first century is found in Acts 2:38; the "altar call" and "praying through" are the product of the revival movements of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and were unknown to any Christians before that time (Paul didn't even "pray through," Acts 9:11; 22:16; 9:18; Romans 6:1-6; Read Acts 8:35-39).

How time flies! Before we know it, life has taken wings and flown into the sunset.

Human beings are indeed strange; it seems that the more we have for which to be thankful, the less thankful we become.



Humility should be the natural human response in accepting the realities of life (and death).

Hungering and thirsting are evidence of life and the need of sustaining that life (Matthew 5:6).

Hypocrites indirectly are paying a compliment to Christianity.

## I

I don't "belong" to the church, but I belong to Christ and am a part of his church.

I don't care who you are; even if you are a person of renown, an old acquaintance, my dearest friend or closest relative, I am not going to defend you or offer you comfort if you compromise the Word of God and the purity of the doctrine of Christ.

I get very impatient with people who have no patience.

I had rather be an honest dead person than to be a crook who is alive and well.

I had rather be found dead right than to be found alive dead wrong.

If "God is love" (I John 4:8,16), and "in Him we live, and move, and have our being" (Acts 17:28), then the lives of Christians should be an embodiment of love engulfed in love (and all that this implies).

If a man disregards that he is made in the image of God, and starts living like an animal, he is more dangerous than an animal for he has greater intelligence.

If a person cannot see anything wrong with denominationalism, he either doesn't know much about the Bible or about denominationalism (or about either).

If a situation or something is basically wrong, no amount of praying about it will make it right.

If a workman is no better than his tools, the gospel worker should be a good workman: II Timothy 3:16,17; 2:15.

If actions speak louder than words, then our actions should come through loud and clear for that which is right if what we say is to be heard.

If actions speak louder than words, what do your actions say?

If at first you don't succeed, try, try, try again and again and again.

If birds of a feather flock together, and you find your-self comfortably in fellowship with compromisers of God's Word, what does that say about you?

If changes are made on the outward person by the presence of the Holy Spirit within, we are made to wonder if many professing Christians really have the Holy Spirit.

If Christ died to accomplish unity (Ephesians 2:16; Colossians 3:15), then it is no small matter for us to live for it (Ephesians 4:1-6).

If Christ is not Lord of all in our lives then he is not Lord at all in our lives.

If Christ is the way, we should *go*; if Christ is the truth, we should *know*; if he is the life, we should *grow* (and he is all three, John 14:6).

If Christianity cramps your style, then you are out of style with God.

If death finds you outside of Christ that will likewise be your circumstance throughout all eternity.

If God is glorified in our lives, then our lives will be glorious.

If God is not a reality to you in private prayer, public prayer is of no consequence.

If God is Spirit, and we are made in His image, that means that image is spiritual.

If God is Supreme Intelligence, and we are made in the image of God, God expects us to use our intelligence in reaching out to Him (and serving Him).

If God made me, and I am made in His image, and I did not make myself, then I am made for God, and not for myself, and should serve Him.

If illustrations are windows to a sermon, the best illustration possible would be a faithful life in the one preaching the sermon.

If in doubt, don't.

If it is easy to "get your goat," this could mean that you are not one of the Lord's sheep, spiritually speaking, but a goat.

If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it is a duck; if a person looks like the world, walks like the world and talks like the world, he is of the world (even though he may call himself a Christian).

If knowing the truth sets us free (John 8:32), what then is the condition of those in error and ignorance who only know that which is false?

If life is a vapor (James 4:14), we need to turn it into showers of blessings and solidify it into good works before we are gone from here.

If man is a product of chance (evolution), and not of purpose (creation), then there is no purpose in living.

If men do not accept the truth, they are resisting the Holy Spirit for the Spirit is truth (I John 5:6; John 15:26; 16:13).

If our judgment is to be righteous and true, the criterion of our judgment must be right, and all the facts must be in hand involving that to which we apply our criterion of judgment.

If our religion doesn't make us good, it is no good.

If our religion makes us proud, and not humble, there is something wrong with our religion (or/and us).

If our talk exceeds our walk, it makes it easy for the world to mock.

If our teaching is right, and our lives are wrong, our teaching condemns us.

If our time is spent much preoccupied with games and sports, we may miss out on the real game of life.

If out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks (Luke 6:45), and we never speak of Jesus, what does that say about us?

If people do not positively respond to the brilliance of the truth as it initially shines upon them, they eventually will become blinded by it with hardness of heart.

If people don't respect the Word of God, they will not respect the person who preaches the Word of God.

If people have not counted the cost of discipleship (Luke 14:25-33), it is hard to count on them to be a disciple.

If possessing the truth makes you want to fuss about it, there is something wrong with your concept of truth (and you may be possessed with something other than the truth).

If preachers talk about the New Testament church, and even contend for it, why can't they see the need of doing the Lord's work through the organization of the local New Testament church, and be consistent, instead of forming man-made religious organizations?

If preaching against sin offends you, there is a question mark about your repentance; if preaching against a particular sin offends you, there is a question mark involving your repentance and that sin.

If sin is just a psychological problem, then a psychological solution is the answer (but sin is not just a psychological problem).

If some people can find someone to “baby” them, they will never become self-reliant and accept responsibilities as an adult (and will remain a baby all of their lives).

If some people were as concerned about counting the cost (Luke 14:25-33) as they are in counting the numbers, we would have a better church.

If some people were as interested in counting the cost (Luke 14:25-33) as they are in counting the numbers (and the money), we would have a better church.

If something is right, or if something is wrong, that settles it once and for all for the Christian; there is no room for negotiation, compromise, “maybe,” or “I think so.”

If the nations of this world would bury their differences instead of trying to bury each other, this world would be a better place in which to live (and not die).

If the older you get the grumpier you get, you need to “get with it”—you are not moving in the right direction.

If the people today who are going at such a fast pace would slow down and be still long enough, they would probably find out that they aren’t really going anywhere anyway.

If the shoe fits, wear it (and walk in the steps of Jesus).

If the weight and burdens of life bring you to your knees, just remember that is the best position in which to pray.

If things seem to be “going against the grain,” maybe you are trying to reap the wrong harvest.

If today’s church cannot accomplish what it is trying to do through the local congregation and the individual Christian (and must resort to other means), chances are that it has gotten outside the authority and range of its commission.

If we “soft pedal” or back off from the truth and doctrines of God’s Word, people will think they are not important enough even to consider, let alone accept.

If we are ashamed of certain teachings of the Bible, or if we are apologetic for them, we might as well forget about the cause of truth prevailing through us.

If we are known by the company that we keep, then we should know the company that we keep.

If we are not afraid of work, we therewith rid ourselves of many other fears.

If we are not headed toward heaven, there is no way that we will arrive there.

If we are too much at home in this world, we can’t expect a home, nor would we even feel at home, in the world to come.

If we cannot accomplish the work of the church through the church, it is not the work of the church.

If we claim to be a New Testament church we must be like the church of the New Testament.

If we could understand everything about God, then we would have to be God; or if we could understand everything about God, God would not be God (He would be man).

If we do not believe in the wrath of God, we are not really going to appreciate the love of God regardless how much we may talk about it.

If we do not enter through the strait and narrow gate on earth, we will never enter through the pearly gates of heaven.

If we do not love, respect, and appreciate the truth, truth will not be ours for very long (II Thessalonians 2:10-12; Colossians 2:6-10; Romans 1:21,28).

If we do not study and search the Scriptures, we are in danger of becoming traditionalists and second class Christians (if indeed we are even that).

If we don't look ahead, we will fall behind.

If we don't take a clear-cut, definite stand in our preaching, how can we expect those who respond to our preaching to take such a stand?

If we don't take care of church problems, they become the source of greater care.

If we earnestly seek those things that are above (Colossians 3:1-4), eventually we will get there (II Peter 1:4-11).

If we fail to read the Bible, we will be a failure as a Christian.

If we follow the Good Book, we will not bad-mouth people.

If we have to compromise the Word of God to be successful in the work of the church, we have not succeeded.

If we have to compromise the Word of God to be successful in the work of God, we have not succeeded (nor is it God's work).

If we live like animals we can't expect God to treat us like children.

If we make a big issue out of every little thing, the things that really matter will not seem important.

If we no longer preach it, we no longer believe it; if we no longer believe it, we no longer practice it; if we no longer practice it, we have fallen away.

If we put our trust in man, we have chosen the wrong object of our faith; in God we trust.

If we really “keep the faith,” we therewith find that the faith will keep us.

If we reap what we sow (Galatians 6:7), we should be very careful what we sow, and then we should carefully cultivate and bring it to harvest.

If we search the Scriptures, and at the same time search our hearts, our search for salvation will soon be over.

If we stop preaching a Bible doctrine, it won't be long until we stop practicing it (if we haven't already).

If we take pride in saying what we think, we better think about what we say first, or we may say something very thoughtless that we won't be proud of later.

If we travel life in the straight and narrow way (Matthew 7:13,14), we won't have to worry about a “guilt trip” later.

If we will not go by the Bible, but still want to be religious, our religion amounts to little more than superstition.

If we won't accept Christ, and all of his teachings, he won't accept us at all.

If we won't give up, God won't give up on us.

If what you do speaks so loud that we can't hear what you say, it may be that you need to spend more time in prayer and less at play.



If while in Rome you do as the Romans do, you will soon become undone.

If you “baby” people too much (even with their problems), they will remain a baby, and not accept their responsibility and practice self-reliance as an adult.

If you “baby” your sickness long enough, it will grow into a full-fledged disease.

If you are a Christian you will put in a good day’s work.

If you are a Christian, Christian unity is not something you are trying to bring about, but it is something you are trying to keep (Ephesians 4:3-6).

If you are a person of ethics, you will practice the work ethic; you will work and not shirk.

If you are a selfish, brutish person, you can’t expect your wife to respond as an affectionate, loving mate.

If you are afraid to get your hands dirty, you will never get anything done.

If you are always on the receiving end and never giving, you will end up grieving more than living.

If you are an “on again, off again” type of Christian, it will prove disastrous to your children’s spiritual well-being as well as your own.

If you are an honorable person, and live that way, on that Great Day of Judgment honor will be conferred upon you.

If you are bored by the “old, old story,” chances are you won’t get to sing the “new song” in glory for it will be the “old, old story.”

If you are driving and looking back too much, you may run out of the road; the same is true in living.

If you are going the wrong way, regardless how careful you may be driving, you are not going to arrive at the right destination.

If you are going the wrong way, regardless how fast you may be traveling, you are not going to arrive at the right destination.

If you are going to be a Christian, be one.

If you are in the wrong and not in the right, there is no way you can make it right as long as you are in the wrong.

If you are not afraid of work, you will thereby not be afraid of a lot of other things either.

If you are not an honest person, you can never become or remain a Christian.

If you are not going to do the job, get out of the way and let someone else do it.

If you are not on speaking terms with fellow Christians and your fellowman, you can likewise be sure that you are not on speaking terms with God.

If you are not right with God, you are not right.

If you are on a one-way street, and it is dead end, you are in trouble.

If you are saved not because of your righteousness, but as a condemned sinner who has been forgiven (and you are), where is the room for boasting except in the mercy and grace of God?

If you aren't getting anything out of the worship service, maybe you should ask yourself if you are putting anything into it.

If you build a wall to shut others out, you at the same time are building one that shuts yourself in.

If you can't control your speech, you might as well forget about your religion; you don't have any, or at the most it is worthless (James 1:26).

If you can't see the forest for the trees, then maybe you aren't out of the woods yet.

If you continually suppress negative and hurt feelings inside of you that should be aired and shared with someone who has empathy and understanding, they will smolder and smolder and eventually engulf your life in depression (or perhaps erupt in violent behavior).

If you deliberately, habitually, and regularly decline to attend or will not take part in the Bible classes of the church, but at the same time attend the "worship services" to "get" the Lord's Supper, there is a very serious question mark as to whether indeed you do "get" the Lord's Supper (although you partake of the emblems).

If you do not enjoy the presence of Christians, you will have the "privilege" of not having to associate with them throughout all eternity.

If you do not have moral values, you cannot experience quality living, nor can you expect the quality of your life to improve.

If you do not put first things first in your life, you will end up last.

If you do not recognize that you are a sinner, you can never become a saint.

If you don't close the gate to sin, and keep it closed, you'll let the devil in.

If you don't know how to swim, don't try to change horses in the middle of the stream.

If you don't know what's right, how can you tell what's wrong?

If you don't let grass grow under your feet, you won't have to worry about the weeds either.

If you don't like yourself, you will find it hard for other people to like you; but at the same time if you like yourself too much, then no one else will like you either.

If you don't live your life by the Book, you will find that your name has been blotted out of the Book of Life.

If you don't plan ahead, you get behind.

If you drag your feet, you will get no where.

If you dress according to the standards and styles of this world, many times you will find yourself undressed.

If you find yourself in a place where there is no New Testament church, you are the New Testament church in that place (don't become a part of human denominations).

If you get too far away from your roots, you have no depth.

If you grow "weary in well doing" (Galatians 6:9), you will stop growing and will cease to do well.

If you handle truth as mere opinion, you will lose hold of it, and it will slip through your fingers.

If you have a good heart, you will not have a bad mouth (Luke 6:45).

If you have a problem understanding the Bible, very likely you are the problem and not the Bible (spend more time studying the Bible).

If you have been blessed, you should therewith be a blessing to others (Genesis 12:1-3; Matthew 10:8; Ephesians 1:3; II Corinthians 1:3-6).

If you have ever been closer to the Lord than you are now, you are backslidden.

If you have ever had problems with a wayward child, how do you think the heavenly Father must feel

about the whole human family made in His own image (Ro-mans 3:23)?

If you have had the wind taken out of your sails, it is easy to get off course.

If you have never failed, you probably have never tried to do anything (and you still are a failure).

If you have no cohesive force to hold your life together, it will come apart (if it hasn't already).

If you have one area of your life that is not right, it will poison all of the other areas of your life in one way or another.

If you have to be asked to do a job, chances are you won't be asked for long for you won't have a job.

If you know God, you should be on a talking basis with Him.

If you leave this world not right with God, you will be that way for all eternity.

If you let the devil get his foot in the door, your home will soon be a wreck.

If you let the smallest thing get the "best of you," the best of you must be a thing that's very small.

If you live for just today, what will you do when tomorrow comes (and eternity)?

If you lose your patience, you will lose your soul.

If you master self, you have won the greatest victory of all.

If you must "line up" with something, "line up" with the Bible, and then "walk the line."

If you present yourself as a painted sex object, don't be surprised if someone believes you.

If you think that you are a lone voice of one crying in the wilderness, don't be bewildered; you are not alone;

however, strait is the gate, narrow is the way, and few are they that find it.

If you think that you have “arrived” spiritually (Philippians 3:13,14), it may be that you have gotten on the wrong road (and haven’t read the road signs).

If you trim yourself to please everybody, after a while there won’t be much of you left.

If you want to die right, you have to live right, and you can’t live right until you are right with God.

If you won’t “put your money where your mouth is,” it would be better for you to keep your mouth shut.

If you won’t say that someone is in the wrong, how can you say that you are in the right (for right is distinguished as right in contrast with that which is wrong).

If you would bring “up a child in the way he should go” (Proverbs 22:6), you must first go that way yourself.

If you would enhance your image, may it only be that which is after the “image” and “likeness” of God (Genesis 1:26; Colossians 3:10).

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

If you would have friends, be a friend.

If you would know the mind of God, then you must use your mind to know the Word of God.

If your best friends are sinners and compromisers, they will compromise the best in you (I Cor. 15:33).

If your Christianity doesn’t work where you work, it doesn’t work (as far as you are concerned).

If your disposition is like a keg of nails, don’t expect smooth and harmonious relations with others.

If your life is filled full of good things, it will be fulfilling.

If your life seems empty, try putting something worthwhile into it.

If, as a professed Christian, you light up a cigarette, you thereby extinguish your light for Christ.

Immodest dress is a factor in immodest thoughts and actions.

Impression, association, and repetition are three keys to memory.

In a “dog eat dog” world we need to live on a higher plain than animals.

In a multitude of words is a multitude of trouble; therefore, speak sparingly and wisely.

In a society in which almost anything can be bought with money we need to know there still are things that are priceless.

In a society where almost anything can be bought with a price, life becomes cheap and morals almost worthless

In a society where almost everything has a price tag on it, it is good to know that there are some things which are priceless.

In a society where success is measured by bigness and numbers, some churches feel paranoid if they are small in number rather than being burdened because of the great number lost in sin.

In all of our aspirations to be righteous we should never become self-righteous for all righteousness basically is of God.

In laying aside every weight and sin (Hebrews 12:1), we will find our burdens lifted.

In life that's short, we dare not come up short; live it with depth and meaning.

In our Bible classes we need to study the Bible, the textbook of our religion, and not just study about the Bible with our little devotional applications.

In our preoccupation with developing self-esteem in our children we should beware lest we develop self-centered egotists.

In the darkest night even a small light seems very bright, so let your light shine.

In the Day of Judgment when the Books are opened, every person's life will be an open book.

In the early church physical fellowship (eating food together, etc., Acts 2:46) came about as a result of spiritual fellowship first (Acts 2:41,42,46); in the modern church physical fellowship (eating food, etc.) is used as a substitute for spiritual fellowship or to try to bring it about.

In the early church physical fellowship (eating food together, etc., Acts 2:46) came about as a result of spiritual fellowship first (Acts 2:41,42,46); in the modern church many times physical fellowship (eating food, etc.) is nothing more than an exercise in carnality because there is no initial spiritual fellowship nor appetite for that which is spiritual (notice the difference in attendance at purely spiritual gatherings).

In the house of God there is no room for compromise.

In the New Testament Jesus came to tell us about the love of God, then he sealed it with his blood.

In the New Testament Scriptures the church is called a brotherhood wherein brotherly love prevailed (I Peter 2:17), not a network for gossip and backbiting.

In the New Testament sense love is not a blind, wishy-washy sentimentalism with no backbone, but



rather knowledge is the backbone on which the body of love is built and has its being.

In the noise of battle let us realize there must be more than noise before the battle can be won.

In the past that which was covertly suggestive coming at us from the entertainment world has changed to leave nothing to the imagination, initially hitting us between the eyes as being overtly and blatantly wicked.

In the political arena, too many times so-called liberals are people who would be liberal with other people's money, and conservatives are those who would seek to conserve their own selfish interests.

In the sight of God a little is a lot when that's all you've got (Luke 21:1-4).

In times past when we thought of uncivilized people in heathen countries, the mental picture of wild people hardly clothed came to mind (and perhaps the words uncivilized, wild, and heathen accounts for the nudity in our land today).

In trying to help a drowning man, we must be careful or we will go under with him.

Indifference to doctrinal differences is devastating to the cause of truth.

Insecure people are the most likely ones to be "taken in" by the self-seeking person who uses flattery and thus would use them.

Insecure people in high places make for unpleasant circumstances for those who are under them.

Irregular church attendance indicates that there are other irregularities in a Christian's life.

Is our preaching like sowing the seed of God's Word into men's hearts, or is it more like throwing stones at them?

Is your life's work the end or the means to an end in life? In a sense, it has to be both to succeed and to keep the proper perspective.

It does little good to baptize people unless they arise to "walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4).

It doesn't *add up* with the Lord when churches are so concerned about *numbers* that they are afraid to preach the truth in trying to get *additions*.

It has been said that all men are created equal, but it is what happens after the creation that makes the difference.

It has been said that the road to hell is paved with good intentions.

It has been said that time mellows a person (even a preacher and his preaching), but sometimes mellow is the next thing to rotten.

It is best to not talk unless you have something to say.

It is better to learn from the mistakes of others than to learn from making the mistakes ourselves; it saves a lot of hurt and time.

It is better to take a good solid, evenhanded stand for truth than to be a flaming reactionary who will fizzle out in the end.

It is better to tell people than to tell them off.

It is easier to stand when you have someone standing beside you to lean upon if necessary (or to help you up when you fall).

It is easy for some so-called "Christians" to get indigestion on the Word of God when they are not used to such a solid diet.

It is God's plan that the person He blesses should be a blessing.

It is good for the ship to be in the water, but it is not good for the water to be in the ship; it is all right for the church to be in the world, for that is where we presently live and have our being, but it is not good for the world to be in the church.

It is good to be "set in your ways" if your ways are the way of Christ.

It is good to be a maverick with a message, not just a loose canon.

It is good to be frugal, but not a tightwad or stingy.

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

It is good to stand on our own two feet and be independent, but at the same time it is good to fall on our knees and be dependent upon God.

It is hard to be a soul-winner if all you are concerned about is winning an argument.

It is hard to be an effective physician when we are afflicted with the same malady of those we are trying to relieve (and it is contagious).

It is hard to build people up when we are down on them all of the time.

It is hard to get people to be good bad-mouthing them.

It is hard to go ahead looking back.

It is hard to lift people up if we are down on them all of the time.

It is hard to walk with Christ if you are caught up in the rat race.

It is harder for a moving object to be hit; so keep on the move for the Lord, and you are not as likely to be a target of the devil.

It is human to go with the crowd; it is divine to stand alone, even as God is one and stands alone.

It is impossible for people who sit around on their hands to get anything done.

It is impossible to be holy if we are not wholly committed to the Lord.

It is more important that the mate you choose for life be good than good looking.

It is never right to be entertained by that which is wrong.

It is never too soon, nor is it ever too late, to learn and be used of God.

It is no surprise that people who do not respect their own sexuality also do not respect what their sexuality produces, other human beings, and see no wrong involved in terminating human life in abortion.

It is not enough not to partake of the forbidden fruit of sin; stay out of the orchard so you won't be tempted to partake.

It is not hard for us to count the cost when we realize what a price was paid for our salvation.

It is not hard to make decisions when you are committed to the right and know the difference between right and wrong.

It is not self-righteous to hate sin and to have a righteous indignation about it.

It is not very wise to turn out the lights and then curse the dark.

It is not what you have, but what you are, that counts in life.

It is not what you have, but what you do with what you have, that really matters.

It is only in getting ready to die that we learn how to live.

It is pretty dumb not to see intelligent design in the physical world all about us (and in the human body), without which there could be no science, but such is the theory of evolution.

It is really strange that the people who wear the name Baptist (of all people) are the most vocal in denying the expressed purpose of New Testament baptism (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Galatians 3:27; Titus 3:5; I Peter 3:21).

It is strange how that some denominationalists who have the least about which to be dogmatic, Scripturally speaking, are the most dogmatic.

It is strange, but many times in physical weakness one can find spiritual strength.

It is strange, but sometimes in physical pain there can be found spiritual healing.

It is strange, but the more you help some people, the less appreciative they become (and expect the more).

It is too bad that the message of some preachers when they get old becomes like their bodies, weak.

It is wrong to show partiality when there is the whole family of God to be loved and with whom we are to share and to share ourselves.

It may be all right for a dog to lick his wounds, but for a human being to lick his wounds in self-pity is anything but wholesome.

It may be easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God (Matthew 20:16-26), but always remember that all things are possible with the Almighty God who made everything out of nothing.

It might impress our colleagues and the worldly wise to go out of our way to quote them and the “recognized” scholarly sources in our preaching, but really what is impressive to the godly person is a “thus saith the Lord” from the Word of God.

It really is a sad commentary upon Christianity when so-called Christian nations have no scruples about going to war and killing those of another so-called Christian nation, whereas Moslems have a strong aversion to bearing arms against fellow Moslems of another country.

It seems senseless to talk about restoring and getting back to the church of the New Testament then bypass that church and set up other organizations besides the church to do the work of the church.

It seems that some preachers “love” to fuss about the truth more than they “love” to preach the truth.

It seems that some preachers take more delight in arguing with other preachers about the Word of God than they do in preaching the Word of God.

It seems that when we are blessed with too many conveniences we do not find it convenient to look to God and be a blessing.

It should be hard for someone to “get your goat” if you are one of the Lord’s sheep.

It should be no surprise when it comes out that rock singers are living what they sing.

It takes backbone to stand tall and straight for the Lord.

It takes straight preaching to straighten people's lives out and to keep them that way.

It would be nice if these people who are always fascinated by something new would find a fascination in the New Testament (it is always new).

## J

Jealous and zealous represent one word in the language of the New Testament, and if we are truly zealous we will at the same time be spiritually jealous for that which is right.

Jesus came into the world to save souls and lives, not destroy them (Matthew 18:11; Luke 9:54-56; John 18:36); therefore, it is grossly wicked, wrong, and immoral for Christians to be so wrapped up in patriotism that during a time of war they rejoice and are actually pleased to hear of the death of people in other countries with the destruction of their property.

Jesus came to save us from our sins, not in our sins (Matthew 1:21; Romans 6:1,2; Titus 2:11-14).

Jesus didn't say, "He that believeth and is saved shall be baptized," but, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16).

Jesus had to die on the cross because of the difference between right and wrong.

Jesus said "him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out," so let us come to him and bring as many others as we can.

Jesus was even dying for those who were putting him to death (John 3:16; I Timothy 2:4-6; Acts 2:36-38).

John the Baptist said to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have her" (Matthew 14:4)—*is that never to be*

*said today?*

Joy and freedom from personal care are found in the hearts of those who really care.

Joy is not something that can be taught and then practiced; it can only be experienced.

Jude said to “earnestly *contend for* the faith” (Jude 3), not be *contentious about* the faith; wrangling and contending are not the same thing.

Just think, if all Christians really were the light of the world, as Jesus said (Matthew 5:14), the world would soon find its way out of darkness.

Justification is the justifying of the sinner as he becomes and remains a Christian, not the justifying of the sinner in the practice of sin.

Justification, according to the New Testament, is not justifying the practice of sin, but declaring the sinner just through the blood of Christ upon his repenting and forsaking sin.

## K

Keep the faith, but not to yourself.

Know God in your life, know peace; no God in your life, no peace.

Know thyself and know God; be thyself and serve God.

Know thyself; be thyself; give thyself.

Knowledge is proud that he knows so much; wisdom is humble that he knows so little.

Knowledge without love does not come from above.

Keep the word of God, and then God will keep you (Revelation 3:8-10).



## L

Laziness is a condition that sets in when there is a lack of purpose and motivation in living.

Leaders must indeed go before and lead by example, as well as otherwise, if they truly are to be leaders.

Leaders must lead and move on out, or they are not leaders, and no one is going anywhere.

Leaders must move on out and lead; otherwise no one can follow.

Let there be no pretense in you; be what you are, and may what you are be good.

Let us act firmly and affirmatively, instead of react, for the reactionary person eventually reacts against himself if he lives long enough.

Let us be done with sectarian wrangling and get on with the gospel of love and godly living.

Let us keep our eyes on Christ and not men; too many times yesterday's religious leaders are today's religious apostates and compromisers.

Let us not confuse being politically liberal with Christian liberality, political conservatism with being a conservative Christian, nor the political right with being right; they are not necessarily the same.

Let us not lose our validity in the cause of truth by crying "wolf" over non-issues.

Let us not mistake arrogance and pride for boldness in the Lord.

Let us not polish the sepulchers of the prophets (Matthew 23:29), but cherish and embellish the message that they preached.

Let your speech be better than silence or be silent is good advice.

Let your words be kind and benign if you want your life to be a rhyme (in harmony with God and man).

Licking your wounds with self-pity will not produce healing but only contaminate the wounds and retard the healing process.

Life becomes complicated and confusing when we get away from the simplicity of the straight and narrow way.

Life can become pretty thread bare; how we need to be clothed with Christ (Galatians 3:27; Romans 13:14)!

Life is a long hard journey without God, and then what have you got to look forward to at the end of the journey without Him?

Life is as simple and as complex as the alphabet; the ABC's are very elementary, but from the right combination of letters and words are written the most advanced books of science and learning.

Life is living for Christ.

Life is not a living room with a soft sofa and reclining chairs; it is something more rigorous (more like a workshop).

Life is not as hard when we use soft words and have gentle actions.

Life is short, the more reason it should be lived with depth.

Life is worth living only when we are living for that which is worth dying for.

Life is worth living only when we live for that which is worthy.

Light dispels darkness, and darkness is only possible because the light has gone out.

Light dispels darkness, but darkness cannot dispel light; it is simply the absence of light, the result of the light going out.

Light shines the brightest at its source.

Like a loose rolling stone, freedom if it is not in the context of purpose and responsibility has no meaning and can but be harmful to all involved.

Like it or not, God loves you and has your well-being in mind.

Like the insecure person with a background of poverty who has newly fallen into riches feels compelled to make a gaudy display of his wealth, some brethren heretofore not used to the higher echelons of learning feel that they must now make a gaudy display of their academic degrees.

Like the one who cried, "Wolf! Wolf!" was not taken seriously when the wolf finally came, the preacher who makes a big-to-do about non-issues will not be taken seriously on that which really matters.

Like the prodigal son (Luke 15:17), when we come to ourselves, we will come to God.

Like the spokes of a wagon wheel going into the hub, the closer we get to God the closer we get to one another.

Like the wind-blown tree on a bleak mountain side, the youth who continually resists correction will arrive into adulthood all twisted and snarled, morally speaking.

Little people in high places become high-minded.

Little people in high places get too big for their breeches.

Little people in high places, not used to such heights, become high-minded, and thereby show their littleness.

Live every day as if it were your last for one day it will be your last.

Live every day as if it were your last, then each new day will be your best.

Live your life according to the will of God, then accordingly you will live with God in eternity.

Loose talk will get you into tight places.

Lord, help me to know when I have outlived my usefulness (and not be a stumbling block to others).

Love for God must come first and exceed our love for man, but because we love God we will love our fellow man.

Love for the sinner without hatred for the sin in his life will not prompt us to try to separate the sinner from his sins.

Low down people will go a lot lower when the Day of Judgment comes. Lust is unlawful desire.

## M

Make sure that you are out of the denominational woods, and on the straight and narrow way, before you offer your services as a guide.

Making a big issue out of all our financial problems in front our children will inadvertently make them materialistic and decrease their faith.

Man's speech is an index to his character; Jesus said that out "of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh" (Luke 6:45) (and "as he thinketh in his heart, so is he," Proverbs 23:7; 4:23).

Man divorced from God builds beautiful temples to himself.

Man, who is made in the image of God, is one of the clearest revelations of God.

Many Christians ought to be teachers of God's Word who are not even students of it (Hebrews 5:12-14).

Many churches are more preoccupied with counting numbers than having people count the cost (Luke 14: 25-33).

Many people don't like for you to "tell it like it is" because that is the way they are.

Many people if clothed only in their righteousness would be scantily clad.

Many people stumble over the truth, then look at it as an obstacle in their way, push it aside and keep on going in the path of error.

Many people who suppose they are open-minded are really just empty-headed.

Many people who think they are "cool" are in danger of ending up where it is hot.

Many preachers, it seems, are more interested in saving face (from the viewpoint of worldly accomplishment) than in saving grace (in really saving souls and getting the Lord's work done).

Many times arrogance and pride are glorified, and even deified, in what is called patriotism.

Many times the person who has experienced "hurt" can best help bring comfort and healing to others.

Many times we cannot believe the word of people who do not believe the Word of God.

Many times when church problems start there is such a thing as a right side and a wrong side, but before it is over there are only two wrong sides.

Many times when people have finally gotten what they want, they find that they don't want what they have gotten; there is more to life than that.

Many times when professed Christians have stopped bearing the cross, they start wearing the cross as fetish and jewelry.

Many times you will find there are three sides to church problems: Your side, the other person's side, and God's side.

Marriage is a good and honorable institution set up by a righteous, holy, and benevolent God; people who do not respect or honor it, as evidenced in divorce and immorality, are dishonorable, sinners, and will have to face an angry God in Judgment.

Materialism is the besetting sin in our society today (and, sad to say, in the church).

Memory looks to the past; hope looks to the future; whereas faith bridges the gap between the past and the future, sustaining us in the present.

Men may trifle with the Word of God, but it is not a book of trifles, nor is it a trifling matter.

Mercy and grace forgive and justify the sinner, but they do not justify the sin that he should continue in it.

Might does not make right, but right makes might, spiritually speaking.

Modern man needs to realize that speed is meaningless without direction.

Modern psycho-religiosity is so preoccupied with healing that it fails to get rid of the disease first (sin).

Modern psychology and counseling can be so preoccupied with psychological "healing" that they never deal with the disease and problem, sin.

Modern religion would have man feel good, and feel good about himself, without being good.

Money cannot take the place of character.

Money is counterfeited and passed off as genuine because of the recognized value of the real thing, and there are religious hypocrites for the same reason.

More important than the length of years in a person's life is the depth and quality of the days, hours, and minutes as he lives them.

Most of us have weaknesses in our character that could destroy us if gotten out of control.

Most people are better preachers than they are practitioners.

Most professed Christians have swallowed the Christ-mas package hook, line, and sinker.

## N

Negative thoughts only produce negative results; whereas positive thoughts, if persisted in, always produce positive results.

Never forget where you have come from when you get where you are going.

No one is perfect; even roses have thorns.

No verse of Scripture can ever mean any less than what it says, but it can mean more in the light of other Scripture.

None of us are perfect, and some of us are less perfect than others.

Not the least of the benefits of honest labor is sleep that is sound and sweet.

Nothing makes a person grow up any faster than be-

ing the parents of children and seriously accepting the responsibility that goes with it.

## O

Of all sins, lying most conspicuously is of the devil since he is the father of the lie (John 8:44).

Of Christ it was said, "The zeal of thine house has eaten me up" (John 2:13-17); of his modern followers it may be said, "Up in thine house with zeal we eat."

One's personal integrity and honesty are the most important things in the world whether known by anyone else or not (God knows).

One advantage in being young is that you don't know there are certain things that can't be done, and you go ahead and do them anyway.

Only that which we give away do we get to keep for ever (Matthew 6:20; 19:21; Luke 12:33).

Only the lowly in heart will ascend on high to be with God, whereas the high-minded will be brought low in judgment.

Only when Christians are truly seeking the world to come, and are not of this world, can they be the light of the world (and be a light out of this world of darkness).

Only when we have a dead faith do the letters, words, and pages of the Scripture become dead and lifeless to us (thus irrelevant and meaningless).

Orthodoxy gone to seed is not conducive to spiritual growth.

Orthodoxy gone to seed is not the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Our conscience is the most sensitive when it has the



least to be sensitive about; in other words, when it has not been callused by much sinning.

Our cup of joy runs over when it is filled with the good things of God.

Our cup of salvation and joy can overflow because Christ drank of that bitter cup.

Our hearts must reach out to people before we can reach them for Christ.

Our mixed up modern world doesn't seem to know this, but God made Adam and *Eve*, not Adam and *Steve*; God made *Adam* and Eve, not *Ada* and Eve (Matthew 19:4,5; Romans 1:21-28).

Our modern world has such advanced means of communication to be communicating so little that is worth communicating.

Our motives must be right, or we are not right (regardless how right what we are saying or doing may be, or seem to be).

Our undivided allegiance must be only to the religious movement that we read about in the book of Acts, and not to religious movements by uninspired men, if we are ever going to get back to the church of the New Testament.

## P

Patience and persistence are interwoven.

Patience is a virtue that some of us are blessed less with than others.

Patience is a virtue that you learn from experience, not from a book.

Peace, happiness, and joy are the by-products of being right with God.

People all wrapped up in sports will find that what the Lord had in mind was the game of life and not sports.

People all wrapped up in sports, who have no time for the Lord, won't look so sporty on the Day of Judgment.

People from the mountains are many times like the mountains, rugged individualists.

People inordinately preoccupied with making a "buck" usually pass the "buck" when it comes to their responsibility in spiritual matters.

People on mind-altering drugs must go through some mind-altering to get their lives straightened out.

People on mind-altering drugs must have a mind-altering experience to get their lives straightened out.

People preoccupied with subjective religious experiences independent of the Word of God find it hard to subject themselves to the Word of God if it conflicts with their religious experience.

People say that it doesn't make any difference what you believe as long as you are honest and sincere, but this really is a contradiction; if you are honest and sincere, and read what the Bible teaches, you will believe it and want to put it into practice (not something else).

People who "eat high on the hog" will soon find it hard to "bring home the bacon" (and will be stuck in the mud).

People who are always harping on man-made issues do not harmonize with the sweet music of heaven and only produce disconcerting sectarian noise.

People who are good at rebuking others many times are not good at being rebuked.

People who are preoccupied with enhancing their image need to realize that images are idols, and their enhanced image still has feet of clay.

People who are preoccupied with enhancing their image need to realize that images are idols, and the image they wish to enhance is made of clay.

People who are preoccupied with enhancing their image need to realize that images are idols, and we are to “flee from idolatry.”

People who are reconciled to God are likewise people who are reconciled to one another.

People who are unread in the Bible and speak with an unlearned, dogmatic, know-it-all crudeness (especially on prophecy) are religious “red necks.”

People who believe the Bible do not try to justify the practice of homosexuality, but rather condemn it as the most gross and loathsome of sins (Genesis 19; Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Deuteronomy 23:17; Romans 1:24-32; I Corinthians 6:9-11; I Timothy 1:9,10).

People who do not accept the responsibilities of freedom will not be free very long; they will become enslaved by their own fleshly passions and desires.

People who do not count the cost (Luke 14:25-33) will not be “sold out” to the Lord.

People who do not know or practice the good and wholesome fear of God in their lives now will one day be confronted with and experience the terrorizing fear of God in Judgment.

People who do not value Christianity really don’t know what a price was paid to bring it into being.

People who don’t have Christian values really don’t value a lot of other things either.

People who give you a “piece of their mind” usually are the ones who can least afford to (and need to hold on to it).

People who have experienced a change in conversion will put more than change in the offering plate.

People who live it up have a hard time living it down.

People who live it up when they come down to die will go down and not up.

People who live only to make a living, and to live it up, don’t have much of a life.

People who love pleasure more than God (II Timothy 3:4) will find that God has no pleasure in them, and that the pleasures of heaven will not be theirs.

People who make much to do about nothing must have nothing to do.

People who make much to do about nothing will end up with nothing to do.

People who say that truth is subjective are not as likely to subject themselves to the truth (or even recognize it when they see it).

People who sit around on their hands usually are the ones who want a handout.

People who take pride in saying what they think need to think first or they may say something for which they won’t be very proud.

People who watch television all of the time get the mindset of this world, and it is hard for them to think like a Christian.

People who worship the god of materialism, Mammon, become high-minded whereas people who worship the most high God of heaven become humble and lowly.

People will better listen to what we say if we handle controversial subjects in an uncontroversial way.

People with contradictions in their lives are quick to try to find contradictions in the Bible.

People with no Christian values are quick to put a price tag on almost anything and everything (and probably can be bought with a price).

People with problems cause problems in the church.

Perhaps nothing can bring about spiritual poverty any faster than material prosperity and riches—*beware!* (Revelation 3:17,18)

Personality is more than superficial, external impressions projected by another; it is the total person.

Physically a point that is sharp is felt; spiritually this is likewise true.

Plan your work; then work your plan.

Portraits of great men are seen of them beside others of similar stature, sometimes astride a horse, but never astride a fence.

Poverty is as much a state of mind as it is a state of being.

Poverty is no virtue, and being rich is not necessarily a sin; both circumstances are fraught with danger and the potential for good (it is how a person handles either one that determines whether it is right or wrong).

Practice makes for perfection in that which is practiced.

Practicing “*one* Lord, *one* faith, *one* baptism” (Ephesians 4:5) doesn’t mean coming to church just one time a week.

Prayer opens the door to the throne room of Heaven and gives us an audience with the King of the universe as if we were the only one coming before Him.

Preacher, are you *up to it*? To be an effective and faithful gospel preacher you must *study up* to know what to preach, *pray up* to be prepared to preach, *stand up* to preach, *speak up* so as to be heard as you preach, *shut up* when you have finished preaching, and *follow up* to reap the results of your preaching (as well as *live up* to what you have preached).

Preacher, don't let the passing of time erode your convictions; Jesus Christ is "the same yesterday, and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8,9).

Preacher, if you love the sinner, but don't hate sin, you can't be very effective in getting the sinner to forsake his sins; both are necessary.

Preacher, if your life doesn't back up what you preach, there is not much authority in what you say, even though you may be quoting the Scriptures (I Timothy 4:11,12,16).

Preacher, people won't see the picture of what is right and wrong unless you first paint it for them.

Preacher, there must be a little fire in your preaching if you would light a spark in another's heart.

Preachers with strong Bible convictions need to realize that there is room for flexibility in dealing with people in other areas (areas that have nothing to do with the Bible).

Preaching should comfort the distressed, but at the same time it should distress those who are a little too comfortable.

Preaching the right message is determined not only by what we are for, but by what we are against.

Push yourself to the limit in getting done that which must be done, and then you will find power and resources to go even further.

Put God at the beginning of everything in your life, and He will be there at the end.

## Q

“Quench not the Spirit,” lest you put out the flame of love.

## R

Real Christianity and real Christians, not only look good off at a distance, but are even more beautiful up close.

Real Christianity should spread spontaneously.

Really what matters is that which transcends matter, the spiritual.

Really what matters is what matters for eternity (that which is for ever).

Rebuke of a fellow Christian, when it becomes necessary, should be seasoned with love and conditioned with humility.

Rebuke of a fellow Christian, when necessary, should be seasoned with love, respect, and humility.

Regardless of the advancements in technology, we will never have a better world in which to live until man is morally better.

Regardless what the compromising minister of religion may say, sin has not lost its sting, nor have the fires of hell been extinguished.

Regardless what the styles of dress may be, it is never decent for a Christian to dress immodestly.

Religion gave birth to education in this country, but now education has disowned its mother.

Religion that is not Bible-based is off base.

Religion that produces bitterness, hatred, and ill will is not the religion of Christ.

Religious controversy, without the accompaniment of the positive teaching of the Word of God, only agitates and muddies the religious stream.

Religious knowledge without spiritual zeal is not for real and is more the source of woe than weal.

Religious movements that are merely reactionary in nature will run their course and fizzle out; we must be for something, not just against, if we are to build for time and eternity.

Religious movements therewith become denominational monuments when the truth that brought them into being ceases to move them accordingly.

Religious people today seem to be more concerned about feeling good than being good.

Religious unity artificially imposed is denominational in nature, but genuine unity is the spontaneous by-product of true religion.

Religious unity based on the compromise of God's Word is not "Christian unity"; it is apostasy.

Remember, when you point your finger at another person, there are three fingers pointing back at you.

Repentance brings salvation; impenitence damnation.

Repentance is a change of mind that produces a change of life.

Retreating from Bible convictions is no way to advance the cause of Christ in truth; retreat will end in defeat.

Running water is fresh and invigorating, whereas that which has been dammed up becomes stale and



stagnant (and perhaps there is a lesson here for human beings).

## S

Salvation is very much like an insurance policy; the policy must first be taken out, and it is no good unless it is kept in force.

Saying that you “have nothing to hide” is meaningless unless your sins are hidden under the blood of Christ.

Sectarian blinders leaves one in the dark while fully convinced that he is walking in the light.

Sectarian blinders make people losers and not finders.

Sectarian husk is not bread for the soul; it only feeds the fleshly nature.

Sectarianism is a wicked thing; it makes people proud, self-righteous and blind, and they soon forget how to sing.

Sectarianism with the truth is perhaps the worst kind as it deceives those with such an attitude into thinking they are in the truth.

Seed germinates better in warm soil; how needful it is for us then to sow the seed of the gospel into hearts that have first been warmed by the love of God.

Self-reliance the Christian way: “*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*” (Philippians 4:13).

Selfishness and greed are blood brothers in the same family of sin.

Separation, sacrifice, and commitment are not in style in church circles today but compromise, conformity, and self-indulgence are.

Serving the god of this world, materialism, makes people high-minded; serving the most high God of heaven makes people humble and lowly.

Sex has no meaning or meaningful fulfillment except in the context where God placed it, marriage.

Sheep are better led than driven.

Showing partiality is a sin because the command to love your neighbor as yourself is not selective (James 2:8,9).

Sickness comes to those who look for it.

Silence is golden, but then again it sometimes is downright yellow.

Simple, but profound—that should characterize good gospel preaching.

Sin is so awful to God that one act of disobedience brings total guilt and death (Genesis 2:17; James 2:10; Galatians 3:10); God's grace is so great and wonderful that one act of accepting it brings total forgiveness and eternal life (Titus 2:11-14; 3:3-7; Acts 2:37-41,47).

Sin must be dealt with as sin before people will repent and be born again.

Since life is short, we should keep it sweet.

Sincerity cannot validate ignorance in matters of religion.

Sinner, if you don't like the presence of Christians and feel uncomfortable around them, in eternity you won't have to worry about being around them, but you still will be uncomfortable (only more so).

Small flaws really are the most dangerous because they are the least noticeable.

Smoking may be good for ham or barbecue, but not for human beings.

So-called counseling in the long run is worthless unless it involves the whole counsel of God.

Soft words and gentle actions turn away wrath and eliminate the factions.

Some “churches” represent a system of compromise wherein the truth will not thrive (nor long survive).

Some are religiously identified by what they are against; remove what they are against, and there is not much left to their convictions.

Some churches have preachers that are such smooth talkers they can get people to be baptized without even repenting of their sins.

Some people’s concept of mercy and grace involves license and licentiousness.

Some people’s problem in understanding the Scriptures is not so much a problem of understanding as it is of believing and putting the Scriptures into practice.

Some people “give in” when they “give out,” and then they “give up.”

Some people all wrapped up in clothes, when they follow the style, have a very small wrap.

Some people are afraid to stand for the right because that would imply that someone is wrong.

Some people are more expressive with their religion than they are religious.

Some people are so broad-minded that it is hard for them to get through the strait and narrow gate and then walk in the straight and narrow way (Matthew 7:13,14).

Some people are so broad-minded that it is hard for them to get through the strait and narrow gate, let alone the pearly gates.

Some people have not learned how to live because they have not learned how to trust God on a day to day basis, which makes up the whole of life, and thus are seasick throughout the whole voyage of life.

Some people must have the last word although it was the first one spoken (and need not be repeated).

Some people never have reflections unless they are standing before a mirror, and then it is only of themselves.

Some people proudly esteem themselves to be advanced Bible students when really they are only secondhand clones of sectarian schools of thought and have never actually approached the Bible independently on their own to understand it.

Some people say that Peter didn't mean what he said when he said what he said in Acts 2:38, and if we tell sinners to do what he said, and for the reason he said, we are legalists and don't believe in the grace of God (strange!!!).

Some people think that a preacher must sound like a gasping auctioneer as he presents his denominational dogma or it is not preaching, but such a primitive mentality is carried over from the backwoods of the early American frontier, not the Bible.

Some people think that having money makes them an authority on everything else.

Some people when they become religious exchange one pride for another, a worldly pride for a self-righteous, religious pride (but it is still fleshly and worldly).

Some people who claim to have an open mind really have an empty head.

Some people with a condescending attitude toward the poor forget the time when they themselves were not

so fortunate.

Some people, in reference to their religious convictions, become more firmly set in their ways as they get older while others seem to unravel at the seams.

Some people have the wind taken out of their sails before their boat gets into the water.

Some preachers' egos thrive on controversy.

Some preachers are strong on personality, their own, instead of the person of Christ.

Some preachers become so diplomatic in their preaching that they cease being an ambassador for Christ.

Some preachers who seem to be so deep, in reality, just don't know how to express themselves.

Some preachers who were once "fire eaters" are now burned out.

Some say that we should put Christ back into Christmas, but how can we do this when he never was in Christmas (CHRIST-MASS) in the first place (the early church never observed Christmas, nor do we even know when Christ was born)?

Some things for which we contend may be sectarian, artificial, non-issues as far as the Word of God is concerned; let us stand for that which really matters, that which is really basic and godly.

Some with a background of poverty, and having no external resources, are moved by it to rely upon themselves and surge ahead in life; however, others are not thus motivated, and look to the government or someone else for a handout.

Someone has said that if you want JOY in your life put **J**esus first, **O**thers second, and **Y**ourself last, which acrostically spells **J-O-Y**, JOY.

Sometimes about the only difference between the men and the boys is that the men have bigger toys than the boys.

Sometimes having just a little religion, like a shot of vaccine, will make a person immune to the real thing.

Sometimes if we would follow in the footsteps of Jesus, we must cut off a foot; if we would put our hand in the nail-scarred hand, we must sever our own; and if we would see the kingdom of heaven, we must pluck out an eye (Matthew 18:8,9)—*but we will not be maimed by doing this!*

Sometimes if you have “cold feet” it will keep you out of “hot water.”

Sometimes it is good to stop, look at the road map, and just see where we are really going.

Sometimes religious people preoccupied with institutions of higher learning become high-minded, rather than being lowly in heart, and hold in disregard and contempt the institution from on high, the Lord’s church.

Sometimes the best way to see anything is not up close, but it is to back up and from a distance to see the whole picture.

Sometimes the injunction, “Be still, and know that I am God” (Psalms 46:10), is not realized in the lives of some people until their bodies are still in death (and then it’s too late; how sad).

Sometimes there is as much faith involved, if not more, in accepting an undesirable thing in your life as in believing that God will take it away (II Corinthians 12:7-10).

Sometimes we are at a loss to know what to do because of what we have done.

Sometimes we can be so subjective in our thinking that we do not subject ourselves to the Word of God.

Sometimes we have to go out on a limb to get the best fruit.

Sometimes when Christians are not reaching out in a positive way to do the Lord's work as he commanded, the focus of their attention turns inward and becomes negative as they pick one another apart.

Sometimes when we are being tempted we tempt God.

Sometimes when we hit people too abruptly between the eyes with the truth, they cannot see the truth we speak; but then again sometimes we must get their attention before they will look.

Sorrow looks back; despair looks down, while worry looks around; but faith looks up, ahead, and beyond.

Sound doctrine (i.e., healthy, wholesome doctrine) brings health and well-being to the soul.

Sour grapes are not the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Speaking from a non-political viewpoint and perspective, there is something grossly immoral about the government (politicians) running up a staggering and astronomical national debt to artificially produce a higher standard of living now which will have to be paid for later by unborn generations (if it is ever paid at all), who themselves will have to experience a lower standard of living in the process.

Sprinkling could never take the place of baptism because sprinkling is not baptism; baptism is a burial and resurrection, both literally and spiritually (Acts 8:35-39; Romans 6:3-5).

Sprinkling is not baptism for the same reason that sprinkling is not immersion.

Strong preaching makes strong Christians, whereas weak preaching has just the other effect.

Stubbornness and steadfastness are not necessarily the same thing, but a certain amount of stubbornness can be a contributing factor to steadfastness.

Stubbornness and steadfastness are not the same thing, but if you are in the Lord, a stubborn disposition will help you to be steadfast; if you are not in the Lord, it is just the opposite.

Stubbornness sanctified by the Holy Spirit becomes steadfastness.

Stumbling blocks are not good material with which to build a church.

Stumbling blocks do not make good stepping stones.

Success is determined by getting up one more time than you fall down.

Success should be measured in terms of how far you have come on how little that you had on which to come.

Surrendering Bible convictions is no way to win victories for Christ.

## T

Take time to live because whether we like it or not one day we must take time to die.

Talk is cheap, and cheapened, when we talk too much and when our talk is not accompanied by our walk.

Talking with some people is about like stopping at a railroad crossing for an oncoming train; you have to leave your car idling until the train has gotten by, and it is a long one with boxcar after boxcar (with many of them rattling empty).



Telling people off is no way to tell them the gospel of Christ.

That which claims to be the church today is fragmented into denominations because it preaches a fragmented gospel.

That which has undergone terrific heat and pressure in its initial formation usually stands up better under heat and pressure later.

That which many brazenly speak of as their lifestyle today could be better described by the term death, or deathstyle, “for the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23).

That which we call the New Testament is primarily a book of faith expressed in actions and transactions more than a drawn out legal system.

That which we fail to use we lose.

The “sting of death is sin” (I Cor. 15:56a); modern man would try to get rid of the sting without removing the stinger.

The apostle Paul said, “Let every one of us please his neighbor for his good to edification” (Romans 15:2); notice he said “for his good to edification”—to please, and thus to confirm, someone in a sectarian position is not “for his good to edification.”

The apostle Paul speaks of the “*manifold* wisdom of God” (Ephesians 3:10), and the wise person will consider the *many folds* of this wisdom and not single out one fold and say “this only.”

The autonomous, local church is all that is found in the Scriptures, and to go beyond that is to go beyond the Scriptures.

The awful consequence of refusing to believe the truth is to believe a lie and therewith be damned (II Thessalonians 2:11).

The best part of your life should always be yet to

come (for this life and eternity); always look onward and upward as you press onward and upward.

The best translation of the Word of God is not just having it translated into everyday language, but into everyday living.

The best way to “keep” the teachings of Christ is to share them with others.

The best way to overcome and handle depression is to know and accept your responsibility in that which involves your depression.

The Bible commands “that if any would not work, neither should he eat” (II Thess. 3:10); obviously everyone must eat, so God intends that everyone should (and must) work.

The Bible does not say to “earnestly contend for the faith” until you have trouble with your children and then change your convictions.

The Bible does not say, “Be thou faithful until age 65, move to Florida, and then forget about the church.”

The Bible is a closed book to the person who has a closed mind.

The Bible is a living book to those who have a living faith, and consequently it is their guide to daily living and their assurance of living for ever.

The Bible is not just a creed; it is a rule of faith that also produces deeds as it meets all of our needs.

The biggest obstacle to learning is a negative mentality.

The book of Acts initially was not written as history, but as *a moving and ongoing report* of what was then happening.

The *careless* person couldn’t *care less*, it seems.

The carnal person even appears self-seeking, crude and arrogant in his gestures of supposed humility.

*The chain of apostasy:* Supposed New Testament churches borrow from Protestant denominational churches; Protestant denominational churches borrow from Catholicism; Catholicism borrows from Paganism in their practices.

The chastisement of God is an expression of His love to His children (Hebrews 12:6).

The Christian armor must have been intended for offensive warfare; there is no protection for the back (Ephesians 6:10-18).

The Christian race (as a race) is run on an individual basis, not as a collective effort in competition with others.

The Christian race is not won by the fast, but by the *steadfast*.

The church cannot take the place of what you need to be doing with your family as a family.

The closer Jesus got to the cross, the fewer were his followers, and many times that is the way it is today.

The closer we get to God the more is our sinfulness and unworthiness magnified by the brilliance of the glory of His holiness.

The closer we get to God the more we realize just how far away from Him the world really is.

The closer we get to God the more we realize just how far away from Him we really are.

The degree of our spiritual vigor and vitality is determined by the time we spend in God's Word and in prayer.

The devil's method is to divide and conquer whereas the Lord accomplishes His purpose through unity.

The devil does not tempt the person that he finds suitably employed for his purposes.

The devil is a liar and the father of it (John 8:44); the only reason he will tell you the truth is to get you to believe a lie.

The devil tempts the idle man, but Christ makes his appeal to the busy person.

The door of happiness opens outward.

The door of opportunity will not open to the person with a closed mind.

The emphasis of the Old Testament was, "Fear God, and keep his commandments" (Ecclesiastes 12:13), whereas the emphasis of the New Testament is, "love God, and keep his commandments" (I John 5:2).

The evidence of a Christian growing in perfection is seen in his growing consciousness of his imperfection.

The eyes of faith are not restricted by time and space as to what they can see.

The fact that we have a conscience as human beings indicates that we are accountable, moral beings.

The family that prays together has taken steps not to fall apart.

The fear of God is the beginning (Proverbs 9:10) and conclusion (Ecclesiastes 12:13) of wisdom.

The flames of lust finally will be consumed in the flames of hell.

The fruit of honest labor has the sweetest taste.

The godly person is a stranger and a pilgrim in this world (Hebrews 11:13), whereas the sinner is a fugitive and a vagabond (Genesis 4:12).

The good life is lived doing that which is good.

The good life, and all that is good, comes from following the Good Book.

The great American dream has turned into the great American nightmare in the rat race and mad pursuit of materialism.

The greater our means of doing good, the greater is our obligation.

The greater the realization of our sins, the greater will be our love for Christ, and the greater our love for Christ, the greater will be the realization of our sins.

The high-minded must become lowly in heart if they would seek those things that are above and live on high with God.

The high-minded with their nose in the air need to take care lest they trip and fall because they can't see where they are going, physically or spiritually.

The higher we progress in the Christian life the more we should realize the depths from which we have come.

The Holy Spirit does not take away our sins (Romans 5:8,9; Revelation 1:5); He comes into our lives because our sins have been taken away (Acts 2:38; Galatians 4:6).

The human mind is like concrete when once set in its ways; the only way to change set concrete is suddenly by shattering, or over a long period of time by erosion.

The human will motivated and controlled by the will of God, and all of the time being in the will of God, cannot help but prevail in doing the will of God when surrendered to the will of God.

The idea in being *kind* is treating people as if they were our *kindred*.

The impossible becomes possible when we get the imp (*im*possible) out of the way.

The imputed righteousness of Christ prompts us to be personally righteousness.

The inactive “church member” is a “sitting duck” for the devil.

The kind of love taught in the Scriptures is love with a backbone, a tough love, not a doting, wishy-washy sentimentalism that shrinks from reality and responsibility.

The kind of mentality we must have to be faithful: I am going to stand for the Bible, and that alone, even if it means standing alone.

The life that is filled with hope will also be a life that is pure (I John 3:1-3).

The longer people are in the wrong, the harder it is to get them to acknowledge it.

The longest trip must begin with the first step and likewise it must end with the last.

The LORD delights in those who delight in Him.

The lowly in heart, not the high-minded, are the ones who can approach the most High God of Heaven (and expect one day to be there).

The making of intoxicating drink is a decay process in the fermentation and breaking down of the different components (grain, grapes, etc.) involved, and the effect of drinking the by-product of this decay is likewise a breaking down (morally and physically), producing decay in society.

The man who cheats on his wife cheats himself and has destroyed the oneness of a beautiful relationship.

The man who honors God is an honorable person.

The man who tries to fool God is very foolish.

The man who uses flattery would use you.

The many professed Christians who are trying to get by with as little as they can, and at the same time with as much as they can, can never please God nor get by Him on the Day of Judgment.

The message of the gospel of Christ is best communicated as a positive presentation of truth in appreciation of its wonderful teachings, not in the fray of sectarian fighting void of love to win a point or an argument.

The messengers of God will be treated with godly respect, if we respect God.

The mind-set of a Christian must be that of a Christian or he cannot be a Christian (Colossians 3:1-3; Matthew 6:33,22).

The modern church knows much about feasting and playing, but little about fasting and praying.

The more that we attempt to become like Christ the more we realize how unlike him we really are.

The more that we know, the more we realize there is that which we do not know.

The more that we use our brain the greater the capacity becomes to use our brain.

The more that you do for some people the less they appreciate it, and the more they expect you to do.

The more that you succeed in the world the more apparent your failure becomes if you are outside of Christ.

The more we tolerate sin, the more intolerable it becomes.

The most snobbish people are those who once had nothing and now have, imagine that they have, or pretend that they have something as they condescend to

look down their nose at others they regard as being inferior to them, thus foolishly venting their insecurities.

The New Testament is not regulating how a Christian should wear gold and jewelry, but is prohibiting it (I Timothy 2:9,10; I Peter 3:3).

The OBJECT of worship must be right, the expression of worship must be right, and the worshipper must be right before the worship can be right.

The old ship of Zion cannot sail upon a troubled sea of doubt.

The old ship of Zion is not a cruise liner filled with pleasure bent people that's really going no place of consequence.

The Old Testament was a materialistic system governed by morals that anticipated a spiritual one.

The only book report that a preacher is justified in giving from the pulpit is from the Good Book.

The only people who don't make mistakes are the ones who don't do anything (and then they have made one big one).

The only reason men are written about in the Bible is not to tell about them, but to tell about the God they represented and the truth they presented.

The only religious organization the New Testament authorizes beyond the local church is another local church.

The only thing certain about life is death.

The only things that we will keep forever are those things that we give away for in doing this we are laying up treasure in heaven.

The only way to win the victory is to recognize our defeat and surrender all to Christ.



The only way you can save your soul, and not just save face, is to face up to your sins.

The outward person can be no more righteous than the inner man—*is your heart right with God?*

The people of the world respect holiness off at a distance, but up close they despise it.

The person's exposure to knowledge, who thinks that he knows it all, obviously has been very limited.

The person all wrapped up in style, and the person all wrapped up in sports, many times has a problem accepting what the Bible says about modesty.

The person all wrapped up in style, and the person all wrapped up in sports, many times has a problem even considering, let alone accepting, what the Bible has to say about modesty.

The person all wrapped up in the world will find that he cannot untangle himself from it when it goes up in flames.

The person in the body of Christ should be an embodiment of Christ.

The person right with God will be righteous.

The person who chases after money and women cannot pursue godliness.

The person who does not marry "only in the Lord" (I Cor. 7:39; II Cor. 6:14) will soon find himself outside of Christ.

The person who goes about with a chip on his shoulder must have wood a little higher up.

The person who has a paranoid preoccupation with physical adornment has a spiritual problem.

The person who has the mind of Christ will be thoughtful and considerate.

The person who is a respecter of persons, and shows partiality and preferential treatment, will receive no preferential treatment from God for God is no respecter of persons and frowns upon such behavior.

The person who is afraid to die has not learned how to live, and the person who is afraid to live has not learned how to live or die.

The person who is afraid to get his hands dirty won't get anything done.

The person who is always damning things is in danger of damnation.

The person who is always living in the past is a "has been."

The person who is wisecracking all of the time may be a little cracked but not very wise.

The person who likes other people is liked by other people.

The person who lives in the pigpen of sin is not in the sheepfold and cannot be regarded as one of the Lord's lambs.

The person who lives only for himself hasn't found out what life is all about yet.

The person who lives only for himself when it comes time to die will die accordingly, by himself.

The person who lives without God will die without God (and without hope).

The person who never travels gets no where.

The person who provides well for this life, and takes no thought for the one to come, may seem to be wise for a moment, but he will be a fool forever.

The person who puts God first in his life will never come in last.

The person who says he has nothing to hide may, in fact, be hiding behind that statement.

The person who thinks baptism is not part of God's plan of salvation is "all wet."

The person who thinks he knows it all will find out that is not all there is to know.

The person who thinks that he can't quit smoking needs to realize there is a place that never quits smoking (Revelation 14:11; Mark 9:43-48).

The person who through faith has seen the glory of heaven finds the glitter of this world cheap and boring.

The person who uses flattery wants to use you in one way or another.

The person who will never say, "I'm sorry" will live to see the day that he is sorry.

The person who worries about what other people think probably wouldn't worry if he knew how little they think.

The person whose physical vitality is at a low ebb is the one who catches all the diseases, and the church whose spiritual vitality is at a low ebb is the most subject to apostasy and false teaching.

The person with an aversion to traveling never gets anywhere.

The pleasures of sin are but for a season, and there is a reason; sin brings death.

The preacher who makes a gaudy display of his academic credentials discredits himself spiritually.

The presence of Christians should produce light (Matthew 5:14) and thereby dispel darkness in this world.

The purpose of being alive is to live.

The purpose of clothing is to cover, to conceal (Gen-

esis 3:7-11,21); not to reveal the body.

The purpose of preaching is not to hit people between their eyes, but to open their eyes.

The purpose of preaching is not to hit people between their eyes, but to open their eyes (but sometimes people must be hit before they will open their eyes).

The purpose of teaching is to teach; if you never say anything distinctive, people will never learn (nor know the difference between right and wrong).

The real Christian experiences that sense of well-being which the world artificially seeks through drugs and drink but finds illusive.

The real purpose of studying the Bible is not just to know the Word of God, but to know God.

The rebel without a cause will nonetheless have cause to be condemned at God's Judgment Seat.

The righteousness of Christ is imparted to us when we become Christians; then it is to be lived out on a daily basis as we are righteous.

The road to heaven is not only straight and narrow, but some times bumpy.

The same people who are straightforward, bold, blunt and abusive when changed by the gospel of Christ and under the influence of the Holy Spirit become straightforward, open, truthful and friendly.

The same thing that melts wax hardens clay, and the same thing that save souls, if not accepted, will the more certainly result in their damnation (Mark 16: 15,16)

The secret to happiness is not in acquiring more and more things, but in wanting less and being content with what we already have.

The sign said, “If I can’t go to heaven, let me go to Myrtle Beach,” but that is not the other option (Matthew 25:46).

The sin in having possessions occurs when they possess us.

The sin that tempts us with an alluring smile, when once committed, laughs in mockery behind our backs.

The singing of hymns is always in tune if your heart is in tune with God.

The song says, “Trust and obey for there’s no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey”—*this is likewise true of being found faithful in Jesus.*

The sting of death has been removed for modern man, not by the vicarious suffering, death and resurrection of a loving Savior (I Cor. 15:1-4,55-58), but by pseudopsychology, modern medicine, and disbelief in a personal judgment (however, the fires of hell have not lost their sting, Hebrews 9:27; Matthew 25:41,46; Luke 16:19-31).

The teacher who takes short cuts on his studying will come up short on his teaching.

The things that really matter in life are the things that don’t have to do with matter.

The tightwad who leaves out God in his giving falls short in Christian living.

The tongue is the only sharp instrument that doesn’t dull, but gets sharper, with constant use.

The trouble with many modern translations of the Bible is that they are interpretations instead of being pure translation; interpretation should be left up to the discernment of each individual.

The undenominational New Testament church is the true position that few really strive for today and

fewer still are actually attaining who claim to be striving.

The validity of our message will never be confirmed, nor even realized, until we have restored the local church.

The very existence of the church is a great witness to the message that it preaches which brought it into being, that message being the resurrection of Christ.

The walk of faith involves stepping from the seen into the unseen world.

The waters of baptism cannot put out the flames of hell if we have never repented.

The waters of baptism cannot sanctify an unrepentant heart.

The way to heaven is a “one way street” (Ephesians 4:4-6; John 10:1).

The way up is down when you are not on that straight and narrow road that leads to heaven.

The wise men did not give gifts to one another when they visited the Christ child; they gave gifts to Jesus.

The woman who is self-centered, self-indulgent and clothed with vanity, presenting herself as a goddess, does not have God.

The woman who will destroy the unborn life in her body, or allow it to be destroyed, is set on a course of eternal destruction.

The Word of God is the seed of the kingdom and does not produce tares or a denominational hybrid; consequently Jesus said, “Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up” (Matthew 15:13).

The Word of God says that a person who sits on his hands should not be given a handout (II Thess. 3:10).

The work ethic ceases to be ethical when we leave out the principles of right and wrong in striving for more and more material things.

The work ethic will not work unless you do.

The work ethic will not work without work or ethics.

The work reflects the character of the worker.

The world looks upon men as to whether they or “great” or not; God looks upon them as to whether they are good or not.

The world will overlook you being poor, but not poor and dirty.

The worldly rich must become poor in spirit and rich in good works if they would attain the riches of heaven (I Timothy 6:17-19).

The worst thing that ever happened to you could be the best thing that ever happened to you if you don’t let it get the best of you (James 1:2-8; Romans 8:28).

There are a lot of shallow Christians today because they are shallow students of God’s Word (if students at all).

There are too many preachers who are personal diplomats rather than truly being ambassadors of Christ (II Corinthians 5:20).

There is light in the valley of the shadow of death because Jesus has gone that way.

There is more to being a “New Testament” Christian than making the right interpretation of the New Testament; there must be the right living of it.

There is no such thing as a one night fling; the consequences are eternal.

There is nothing honorable about keeping a dishonorable agreement which never should have been made in the first place.

There is nothing more obnoxious than religious arrogance and pride.

There is nothing more pitiful than an old sinner (a person who has lived most of his life, yet has not learned how to live and is not ready to die).

There is nothing more reassuring than truth and sometimes nothing more disconcerting.

There is nothing quite as obnoxious as little people in high places.

There is something strangely amiss in a society that will not allow Bibles in the public schools but welcomes them in the public prisons.

There is something worse than religious division, and that is religious apostasy; beware of any religious union or “unity” based on compromising the Word of God.

There will be nothing sweet about the “sweet nothings” that some preachers preach when the Day of Judgment comes.

These words describe many in our society today: Rude, crude, nude, and lewd.

They say a rose is the same by any other name, but why would a rose want to be called a thistle?

Things that don’t matter don’t matter; so don’t make an issue out of them.

Things! Things! Things!—When everybody “does his own thing,” it seems to involve only things (Luke 12:15).



This “now” generation that thinks it must have everything now, needs to realize that “*now* is the accepted time; behold, *now* is the day of salvation” (II Cor. 6:2).

Three expressions that should often come from our lips: “Thank you,” “Please,” and “I’m sorry.”

To “baby” people with problems many times is to prolong the agony of their problems as it retards them taking the initiative on their part in solving their own problems (as they look to others to do that which they should be doing themselves), but as Christians we should be helpful in a responsible manner.

To affirm that something is right is, at the same time, to imply that something is wrong and to infer that someone is in the wrong.

To be a good and effective Bible teacher, first, study the Scripture to know what it really means; then in teaching, first, explain the meaning and, then, make practical application of it.

To be a leader, you must lead.

To be a preacher of God’s Word you must be a student of God’s Word, and to be a student of God’s Word you must apply yourself.

To be a success in that which we do, we must do that at which we succeed.

To be a writer you must write, and if you would write that which is worth reading, you must be a student and read (and most of all you must be a student and reader of the Word of God).

To be estranged from our fellow man is to be estranged from God (I John 4:20; Matthew 6:15).

To be faithful we must be full of faith.

To be frugal you don’t have to be stingy.

To be high-minded is to put yourself in low esteem with God.

To be strong on talk but weak in actions is to count the numbers but do the fractions.

To cut off your nose to spite your face falls short in wisdom as well as grace.

To escape a life of shame and disgrace accept God's amazing grace.

To fall asleep in Jesus is to awake unto eternal life.

To fall asleep in Jesus we have to be wide awake spiritually.

To fall out of the apple tree, a person would have to be in the apple tree; to fall from grace, a person would have to be in grace first (Galatians 5:4; Hebrews 12:13-15; II Peter 1:10).

To fellowship with compromise and compromisers, you must become a compromiser.

To get ahead in the Christian life, it is helpful to spend much time on our knees.

To get anywhere we have to know where we are going and how to get there.

To get anywhere you must start from where you are (so get started).

To go out into eternity not right with God is to spend eternity that way.

To go out into eternity right with God is to delight in God throughout eternity.

To have a good marriage a person must indeed *leave* father and mother and *cleave* to their mate (Genesis 2:24), and then be a separate and independent family unit.

To have a negative mental attitude is to negate the purpose and working of God in your life; faith is positive in affirmation and action.

To have psychological problems and then to experience some emotional trauma is not New Testament conversion.

To hit anything we first must aim at it.

To know God is to know happiness.

To know the “prince of peace” is to know peace.

To know the true God is to know truth.

To live in the past is not to live in the present, let alone living in the future; life is to go on, so keep pressing on.

To live only in the past is to make all accomplishments in your life past tense.

To look down on someone, a person would have to assume a position of higher elevation, and spiritually to do this it would have to be a position of arrogance and pride.

To look in on many modern churches, one would think the Scriptural injunction to “pray without ceasing” was to “play without ceasing.”

To make a difference in this world we must be different from the world.

To put on Christ (Galatians 3:27; Romans 13:14) is to put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:11-18) and to be prepared to engage the devil in combat.

To say that by doing right we produce salvation is about like saying the fruit produces the tree.

To seek only what this world has to offer and not the world to come, is to sell ourselves eternally short.

To sin is bad, and to go along with sin is bad, but to condemn in others what one practices himself is absolutely defenseless and without excuse (Romans 2:1).

To some the Great Commission is the great omission, and to others the Ten Commandments are merely ten suggestions.

To some, sins of omission don't mean knowing to do good and not doing it (James 4:17), but failing to do evil when the opportunity presented itself.

To take a stand for right we at the same time must take a stand against that which is wrong.

To you who would question the Deity of Christ, what more could we ask for, or look for, in God incarnate? His perfection in wisdom, love, and purity leaves nothing to be desired (not even considering his miracles and resurrection from the dead); truly he was (is) EM-MANUEL (God with us)—how wonderful!

Tomorrow today becomes yesterday (time gone forever); so let us use time wisely and without delay.

Too many “gospel” singing groups are characterized by superficiality rather than spirituality, and are more preoccupied with entertaining than proclaiming the gospel of Christ.

Too many people today seem to think that life is about sex whereas in reality sex is about life.

Too many people worship the unholy trinity of ME, MYSELF, and I.

Too many preachers today, instead of preaching and teaching to make people think, are more likely to be worried about what they think.

Too many times human religious institutions of “higher learning” get top heavy and look in condescension and with disdain upon the church which is God's

religious institution of higher learning (Ephesians 3:10; I Timothy 3:15).

Too many times religious debates have to do with winning arguments and the skills of those involved (and consequently, human ego), whereas preaching the gospel has to do with exalting Christ, love, and winning souls.

Too many times religious institutions of higher learning get top heavy; when things are top heavy, they are not properly balanced and are ready to topple (Proverbs 16:18).

Too many times today the government is involved with that which should be done by the private sector of society, and too many times it is thought that the church should be doing that which is purely a family function (in both cases, perhaps, because of the breakdown of the American family).

Trials become temptations only when we let them pull us down; temptations are only trials, being tried, unless we yield to them.

Troubled people cause trouble in the church and elsewhere.

True, “all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23), and “where sin abounded, grace did much more abound” (Romans 5:20), but we are not to “continue in sin” (Romans 6:1-6) or “wallow” in it (II Peter 2:20-22), thinking that grace will abound.

Truth crushed to the earth will only the more prevail as the fragments blown by the winds of opposition are scattered far and wide.

Truth does not change or erode with the passing of time.

Truth is still the truth if no one believes it, and a lie is still a lie if everyone believes it.

Truth is truth as it came from God through inspired

men; I will not detract from it by unnecessarily quoting uninspired men (except when it serves to draw attention to the inspired Word).

Trying times are not the time to quit trying.

Trying to have the last word in an argument usually puts you back to where you started.

Trying to run away from your problems when you are part of the problem will not solve your problems but only prolong them.

Two popular “cop-outs” in dealing with the problem of sin today are to deny it and (or) to minimize it; deny it by saying, “I’m O.K. You’re O.K.” (so everyone and everything is all right), or minimize it by saying, “We all are sinners” (so no one should be critical of others, as we continue with the status quo).

## U

Unbelief does not change the fact of God.

Under the guise of winning the world to Christ let us not bring the world into the church unconverted and unassimilated into Christ.

Unless our hearts go out to others we can never bridge the gap that separates us.

Unless there is within us that which is above us we will soon yield to that which is about us.

Unless there is within us that which is above us we will soon yield to that which is about us and do that which is beneath us.

## V

Victory only comes when battles have been fought and won.

## W

Wanting to be right, and then taking a stand for righteousness, is not self-righteousness.

Watch out! False teachers will use the cross of Christ to double-cross you.

Water seeks its own level, and the level that you seek shows what you are.

We always reap what we sow, only in greater proportions.

We are all brothers and sisters in the family of God; so it is wrong to form cliques in the church, and then treat the others like they were distant cousins or strangers.

We are beginning to see the big picture when we realize that we are only a small part of it.

We are not good when we let the possession of this world's goods make us think that we are better than others.

We are not justified by works of righteousness, but we are justified so that we will do works of righteousness.

We are not right until we have accepted the righteousness of Christ to take away our wrongs and make us right.

We are not to glorify our bodies (I Timothy 2:9,10), but glorify God in our bodies (I Corinthians 6:19,20).

We are not walking the line when we think that we must line up with human parties and man-made religious systems.

We are powerless because we are prayerless.

We are sinful human beings, and everything that we touch becomes contaminated.

We are tired of pop "theologians" with their jive talk,

trying to be “cool” and sound like the world.

We become like the God that we worship; what does your life say about the God that you worship?

We become like the God we worship; God is holy (I Peter 1:15-17), and as we worship Him in the “beauty of holiness” (Psalms 29:2), we will become beautiful.

We believe in equal rights, not preferential treatment.

We best “keep the faith” when we give it away—*evangelize!*

We can’t be at peace with God and hostile toward our fellow man at the same time.

We can’t live like animals and expect God to treat us like children.

We can’t run with the devil’s crowd and walk with the Lord at the same time.

We can’t spell DOCTRINE without spelling DO (DO-c-t-r-i-n-e)—*DO we get the message?*

We can be wrong without being sincere, and on the other hand we can be sincerely wrong; but one thing is for certain, we cannot be right without being sincere.

We can throw out the baby with the bath water when we are more concerned about the dirt than we are the baby.

We cannot accomplish unity talking about division.

We cannot be YOU-NITED without YOU.

We cannot expect a sick and an anemic religion to bring spiritual healing to a sin-sick, lost, and dying world.

We cannot play our way to accomplishment, nor spend our way to wealth.



We cannot preach righteousness unless we live righteousness.

We cannot sow wild oats and expect to reap everlasting life (Galatians 6:7-9).

We freely embrace and fellowship compromisers as they are without really trying to teach them the truth, and then we wonder why Christians and churches are losing their convictions and going to the dogs.

We get the impression that a church's physical building program is not always a spiritual building program, but it sometimes seems to be used as a substitute for one.

We have not arrived at New Testament Christianity when we think of our religious identity in terms of a religious movement, call it "Restoration Movement" or what-have-you, rather than simply as the church of Jesus Christ.

We have the mentality of a sect when we would try to draw attention to ourselves, as a religious group, instead of to Christ and his Word.

We have the problem today of people wanting to be a Christian without being one.

We know that our relationship to God has soured when we no longer have a sweet and gentle disposition.

We know that our relationship to God has stalled when we get in a religious rut.

We know that we have passed from death unto life when our life is filled with vigor and purpose in living (and we want to go on living).

We live in a time when the lock has been taken out of wedlock, and the door of marriage has been left ajar and open to all kinds of problems.

We live in the era of the mega-church and the mini-

Christian.

We live in times when people seem to spend more time planning their weddings than they do their marriages.

We lose that which we do not use.

We love God because He first loved us (I John 4:19); God loves us because He is God, and God is love.

We may be on the right track, but if we are just stalled there we'll get no where.

We may be on the right track, but if we just stop there we'll get run over.

We may be tempted to sin, but were not created sinners; we become that by sinning (likewise a person does not become a sodomite, homosexual, until he makes a practice of sexual perversion).

We must "cleave unto the Lord" with "purpose of heart" (Acts 11:23) if we want His purpose to be worked out in our lives.

We must accept ourselves if we want others to accept us.

We must be aflame with love and zeal if we would be a light for Jesus.

We must be driven to the Savior, as well as drawn to him, if we are to fully appreciate salvation.

We must be pure in heart before our lives can be pure.

We must bear our crosses and be crucified upon them before we can be a disciple of Christ.

We must declare our spiritual bankruptcy before we can receive the riches of the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5:3).

We must first be "rooted and grounded" in the faith,

the gospel having been implanted in our hearts, before we can brith forth fruit unto eternal life.

We must have “sound [healthy, wholesome] doctrine” (II Timothy 1:13; 4:2-5; I Timothy 1:10) before we can successfully deal with the disease of sin.

We must lift up Christ if we would lift people from the miry clay of sin.

We must lift up Christ if we would lift up people.

We must recognize ourselves for what we are before we can become what we ought to be.

We must take heed, then proceed, and exceed to excel and succeed.

We must teach the Scriptures; illustrations may be used at times to illustrate the Scriptures, but the purpose of Scripture is not to illustrate our illustrations.

We need grace to save us from a life of sin and disgrace (Ephesians 2:1-10; Titus 2:11,12).

We need to beware lest we become so subjective that we do not subject ourselves to the teachings of Christ.

We need to find Christ; not because he is lost, but because we are.

We need to rethink old truths, not to discard them, but to have a greater depth of understanding, commitment and appreciation of them.

We need true religion not only to make us godly but to keep us from being animals.

We never cease to be amazed at how fast churches can compromise and fall away from the simple New Testament position when, even for a short time, the Word of God is not preached in all of its fullness.

We only have to finish the Christian race to win; it is not run in competition with others.

We reap what we sow; if you want good things to happen, do that which is good.

We sell our children and young people short by using unspiritual motivation, tactics, and gimmicks, thinking they will not respond to that which is purely spiritual.

We sell ourselves eternally short when we buy the devil's bill of goods.

We should be preoccupied with following the New Testament, and that alone; then the question of who we should fellowship religiously will automatically take care of itself.

We should bear one another's burdens rather than being a burden for another to bear (Galatians 6:2,5).

We should fear God above all, but from another perspective there is reason to fear the person who does not fear God.

We should not put a question mark where God has placed a period, and we should not remain silent where God has spoken.

We should preach and teach not only to be understood, but so as not to be misunderstood.

We should really know and explain what a Scripture says before we try to make application of it.

We sin and are *out of favor* with God when we are a respecter of persons, showing partiality and *favoritism* (James 2:1-9; 3:17).

We think of love and hate as being opposite, but in a very real sense selfishness is the opposite of love.

We walk by faith and not by sight (II Cor. 5:7), the only way we can make it through a world that's dark as night.

We walk by faith and not by sight, but hope invigorates the steps in this walk.

We will become more alike, and our differences will vanish, when we become like Christ.

Wealth without work can be little more than pelf and can turn us into a jerk.

What good is it to know the truth if we do not put it into practice and share it with others?

What is Christianity all about? We get the impression from some that Christianity is all about debating and fussing about what Christianity is all about.

What some people call the new birth is little more than a miscarriage, if not an abortion, as far as the Word of God is concerned.

What some preachers lack in ability, charisma, diligence and hard work, they try to make up for in gimmicks, contests, and entertainment.

What the Lord commands you to do, He will give you the strength and grace to do.

What we do as the disciples of Christ points back to Christ, whether good or bad.

What will the people do who have strutted and tooted their own little horn when Gabriel blows his trumpet?

What you are determines who you are, or is it the other way around (or both)?

When a happening is no longer a current, ongoing reality, it is written as history.

When a kettle lets off a little steam, it whistles.

When a person becomes a Christian he is not getting ready to die as much as he is getting ready to live, eternally.

When a person becomes a Christian he is not getting ready to die, but getting ready to live, now and for ever.

When a person can't live with himself, it is hard for him to live with others.

When a person has problems on the inside, it is hard for him to handle those on the outside.

When a person is on fire with the message of God, but does not find suitable material for this flame to ignite, he may soon burn out.

When a religious movement has run its course, and the impetus that brought it into being has waned, the movement settles into a denominational mold and becomes a denomination.

When all is said and done, there is usually more said than done.

When an element of suspense and uncertainty overshadows our lives, it is hard to keep the focus of our attention on that which we should be doing.

When an object is melted, it flows in all directions; when the human heart is melted by Divine love, there is the outflowing of love toward all of mankind.

When anything is in a state of imbalance, it is ready to topple.

When brethren start using denominational methods and tactics, it is not surprising that they soon start using denominational terminology in talking about other religious things too (and then it is not very long until denominational theology follows).

When Christians get all wrapped up in material things, it's hard to become untangled.

When churches start losing interest in the Word of God, they start putting the emphasis upon people and human personalities rather than God's Word.

When confronting the enemy, remember there is safety in numbers, and when taking a stand for Christ, you need other Christians; don't forsake the church.

When God gives a command, everything contrary to its fulfillment is therewith understood to be forbidden (Genesis 3:1-3).

When God gives, the nature and greatness of the gift corresponds to His likeness (James 1:17).

When God is left out of our lives even the morally indifferent things that we do become wrong for we are doing them unto ourselves and not unto God (Colossians 3:23; I Cor. 10:31; Matthew 24:36-46).

When God washes our sins away (Revelation 1:5; Acts 2:38; 22:16), He doesn't want any residue and stain to remain to "sull" what He has done (I Corinthians 6:11; II Corinthians 7:1).

When in Rome do as the Romans do and you will pretty soon become undone.

When Jesus said to "watch and pray," he wasn't talking about checking your watch to see if the prayer meeting was too long.

When Jesus said to Peter, "Put up again thy sword into his place: for all that take the sword shall perish with the sword" (Matthew 26:52), it has been said that he likewise unsheathed every soldier.

When Jesus said, "All power [authority] is given to me in heaven and in earth" (Matthew 28:18), that didn't leave any for the pope, or for you or me.

When life hands you a lemon, you can either become sour like the lemon or make lemonade.

When love is thin faults become thick.

When marriage is but a one-way street, and not two-way, it will end up as a dead-end street (there must be

give and take).

When men believe that they are animals, and act like dogs, it is no wonder that the world is a jungle and going to the dogs.

When moral restraints and stops have been pulled, there is no way things will stop short of hell.

When opportunity knocks, be sure that you are at home.

When our lives are all wrapped up in ourselves we don't have much of a covering.

When our lives are all wrapped up in what we do, our lives and what we do become inseparable.

When our lives are in the center of God's will, and we are doing the will of God, it is easier to accept the things that happen to us as being in the will of God (even "bad" things); nothing is without purpose or significance.

When people are indifferent it is hard for them to see the difference between right and wrong (and be different).

When people can't get it straight on such a simple matter as followers of Christ being called Christians, and not some denominational name, we can't expect them to get it straight on more weighty matters of the gospel.

When people don't respect the Word of God, they don't respect a lot of other things either.

When people have no moral values, life is cheap (and we end up with a lot of cheap humanity).

When people see that you respect yourself, they are more inclined to respect you.

When people think they know it all, they no longer



ask questions (which is not good).

When people who have built you up let you down, it really is a letdown.

When personal rebuke is necessary, it is best done in private; whereas, praise is always appropriate in public.

When preachers follow Paul's injunction to "preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season" (II Timothy 4:2), they will not be just fair-weather preachers.

When some people are down, their true character can be seen, but when others are down, their true character is lost.

When someone is baptized, let's be sure they are a convert.

When the "dog eat dog" attitude prevails, we know that our country is going to the dogs.

When the engine in your car starts missing, you know that there are problems (and the same is true when a Christian starts missing church).

When the people of the world feel intimidated by Christians, they persecute the Christians; when Christians feel intimidated by the world, they compromise with the world.

When the sectarian shell is cracked, it is hard to tell what will be hatched; the best thing possible would be a simple, undenominational, New Testament Christian, but many times it will be an unbeliever, or a reactionary liberal who has lost his moorings and sense of direction.

When the sun shines upon the earth, the blackness of space that engulfs it is turned into the most beautiful shade of blue; and when the Son of God comes into our world, darkness is dispelled, and there are skies of blue.

When there are unconverted additions to our number, our problems are multiplied.

When there is a “dog eat dog” situation all about us, we know that our country has gone to the dogs.

When there is more heat than light, it is hard to see what’s right.

When truth is preached in a paranoid sort of way, and people respond to it accordingly, then when the paranoia begins to wear off so will the convictions involving that which they have believed.

When truth is used as a tool for sectarianism, it is tarnished.

When two people enter into marriage, they must grow together in order to grow together (to truly be one).

When we “pray without ceasing” (I Thess. 5:17), our spiritual vitality will be accordingly.

When we “prove all things” and “hold fast that which is good,” we will ourselves be proved and become good.

When we “tell it like it is,” we must tell it like it was and like it’s going to be.

When we “tell people off,” we thereafter may have a hard time telling them.

When we are genuinely attracted to the “pearl of great price” (Matthew 13:45,46), and fully recognize its great value, our attraction to such in the world is relinquished (I Timothy 2:9,10).

When we are high-minded, our thoughts are not from above but from below.

When we are not sold out to the Lord, it is easy to sell out to the devil.

When we do God’s will, good will and *good will* will prevail.

When we faithfully preach the one message of Christ, and live it, there will be one church.

When we find Jesus, we find the missing *piece* (and the missing *peace*) in our lives.

When we find Jesus, we will at the same time find ourselves and the whole purpose in living.

When we get in traditional ruts, the cause of truth becomes bogged down.

When we have counted the cost (Luke 14:25-33), we have begun to acquire Christian values.

When we have no moral values, we end up with a lot of cheap humanity.

When we live only for *self*, we do not please the God who made us in His image and for *Himself*.

When we magnify problems, they get no smaller.

When we make a practice of learning something new every day, we will find there are some things that must be unlearned.

When we make peace with the world before the battle is won, it is called compromise.

When we preach one thing and then do another, we can't expect others to do what we preach.

When we realize what a price was paid for our salvation, it makes it a lot easier for us personally to count the cost (Luke 14:25-33).

When we really get down to it, sometimes we are not up to it.

When we stand up for righteousness, we must be down on sin.

When we take liberties with other people's liberties, we are in danger of losing our own.

When we take shortcuts in what we do, many times we cut ourselves short.

When we willfully sin, our hearts are the more hardened and set in doing that which is wrong.

When you “give out” (get tired), don’t “give in” or “give up,” but give it all that you’ve got (Galatians 6:9).

When you “love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind,” the shift will be away from loving self so much.

When you are “down in the mouth,” it is time to open your mouth and lift it up in prayer to God.

When you are in the pits, you need to take a pit stop, spiritually speaking.

When you are young, you think that you have all of the answers, but as you grow older you realize that you don’t even know all of the questions (let alone have all of the answers).

When you bad mouth everybody and everything, it is hard for that mouth to praise the Lord.

When you count your blessings and name them one by one, you will find yourself breathless before the task is done.

When you do “way out” things, don’t be surprised if you find yourself “way out in left field.”

When you feel “down in the mouth,” it is time to open your mouth and lift up your voice in prayer and praise to God.

When you feel an affinity and an identity with compromisers, that means you have become one.

When you forgive a person, there is no offense left to hold against that person.

When you get where you are going, where will you be when you get there?

When you have done wrong, there is no way that you can make it right until you have done away with the wrong.

When you have little cliques in little churches, you are in for big problems.

When you help others climb the ladder of life, you can't help but go higher yourself.

When you help people too much, it is as though you helped them not at all because they become dependent upon you and not upon themselves.

When you leave God out, you really are the one who gets left out.

When you live life in the fast lane, it is hard to make the right turns at the right time.

When you live life in the fast lane, it is hard to slow down to smell the roses.

When you marry, marry someone who will help you on your way to heaven, not pull you down to hell.

When you smile, sun shines from your soul and brightens up someone else's life.

When you take a stand for Christ, you need to spend a lot of time on your knees.

When you take the line of least resistance, it is not a straight line.

When you tie the knot in marriage make sure it is not a slipknot.

When your spirit returns to the God that made it (Ecclesiastes 12:7), will it be among "the spirits of just men made perfect" (Hebrews 12:23)?

Where there is smoke there is fire, and where there is that which is ungodly there is sin.

Where you are coming from is largely determined by where you have been and where you are now.

Whether a Christian attends church or not was taken care of when he was baptized (as well as being committed to doing anything and everything that the Lord has commanded).

Whether speaking organizationally or spiritually, we should live and move and have our being religiously within the bounds of the church of Christ.

While we are known by the company that we keep, we are also known by the company we don't keep.

Why worry when you can work and pray?

Will the people who miss going to church because they don't have enough time miss going to heaven for the same reason?

Will the people who miss the meeting of the church because they have company be in the company of those who will miss that great religious meeting in heaven throughout eternity?

With the advent of television in these modern times, some of us have lived long enough to see television go from infancy to adultery.

Without faith and love what we do has no spiritual significance (Hebrews 11:6; I Corinthians 13:1-3).

Word studies in the New Testament will do us no good unless the Word becomes flesh in us in Christian living.

Words that are greater in meaning can be fewer in number in expressing truth.

Work is good therapy for the troubled soul.

Would you be willing to take the amount that you give to the church, multiply it by ten, and then try to live on nine tenths of it?

X,” represents a cross—what you get when you cross out an “I.”

<b>Y</b>
----------

Yelling at our children is no way to teach them to be polite and courteous.

Yes, the journey of a thousand miles begins with the first steps, and the journey of a thousand miles must end with the last to be finished; so press on, my friend.

You are a failure only when you have failed to try.

You are never defeated until you think that you are defeated.

You are not in the kingdom of Christ unless you have placed yourself under the reign and authority of the king.

You are proving yourself to be a responsible person when you accept responsibility for your own actions.

You can't be levelheaded with your nose in the air.

You can't be saved without good works, but good works won't save you.

You can't beat a person at his own game; so don't play around with the devil.

You can't look back; you've got to keep your eyes on the road to get where you are going.

You can't throw dirt without getting your hands dirty.

You can if you think you can.

You can kick a dead dog all that you want to, but he is not going to get up and move.

You can preach the truth loud and long, but if you don't have love in your heart, you are still in the wrong.

You can preach the truth loud and long, but if you don't live the truth, you are still in the wrong.

You can talk about the "right church" all you like, and even be against denominationalism, but if you are not right with God you are not in the right church no matter how much you say.

You cannot "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12) until you have first entered into salvation.

You cannot be a good teacher without being a good student.

You cannot be a *good teacher* without being a *good* teacher.

You cannot be a slave to nicotine and a servant of Jesus Christ at the same time.

You cannot be faithful unless you are in the faith.

You cannot build someone up with weak and watered down preaching.

You cannot do wrong and be right with God.

You cannot do wrong and get by no matter how hard you try.

You cannot put out the flames of anger by fighting fire with fire; everyone gets burned.

You cannot serve the living God with a dead faith (James 2:17-26).

You do not truly help people unless you help them to help themselves; this is true, both physically and spiritually speaking.

You have to be a good driver, spiritually speaking, to go the second mile with some people because it is a rough road to travel.



You have to get your life turned around, and headed in the direction of heaven, before you can talk about going there.

You have to want to be a Christian more than anything else in order to be one.

You know that something is wrong when you are proud of your humility.

You know that you have lost your way when you no longer pray and ask the Lord to lead you in the way.

You may be buried in the basement of the church (building) and still not get into heaven unless you are in the church of Jesus Christ.

You may feel good, but if you are not good, your religion is no good.

You may live in a stately house or mansion upon the hilltop, but it is little more than a very ordinary house foolishly built upon the sand if your life is not built upon Jesus Christ (Matthew 7:24-27).

You must be a friend to have a friend.

You must be crucified with Christ, if you would be raised with him; you must be raised with him, if you would walk in newness of life; you must walk in newness of life, if you would go to heaven (Romans 6: Colossians 2:12; 3:1-4).

You must first take a stand before you can stand tall for the Lord.

You must *want* to do right or you *won't* do right.

You never hear of women naming their little girls "Jezebel," yet they personally do not hesitate to adorn themselves like her.

You set yourself up for the devil when you set yourself before a television set.

You strike out when you leave God out.

You will have no problem in getting the last word if the last word is an apology.

You would think that the Bible said psychology and the cunning craftiness of men was the power of God unto salvation if you noticed the tactics of most modern preachers.

Young mother, you must be a homemaker before you can make and have a home.

Young preacher, it is better to be a steady flame and light for the Lord than a fire-brand; like a meteorite, a fire-brand will soon burn out.

Young preacher, set your mind on your message, and the importance of it, then the presentation of it will take care of itself.

Your disappointment could well be God's appointment leading to something better.

Your energy is uselessly spent unless it is spent on that which is useful.

Your hatred of sin and desire to "abstain from all appearance of evil" (I Thessalonians 5:22) is determined by how much you love Christ who died at the hands of evil men to save you from your sins.

Your life can be filled with many things and much activity and still be empty; take time for God.

Your life must be straight before you attempt to straighten someone else out (Matthew 7:1-5).

Your life must be straight before you can walk the straight and narrow way.

Your rights end where the end of the other fellow's nose begins.

Your worth is not determined by your income, but by your outcome (what you are, and what you do).

## Z

Zeal without knowledge is dangerous to all concerned; however, knowledge without zeal imposes no immediate threat except to the person thus encumbered.

Zeal without knowledge is like a car moving at a terrific speed with no one behind the wheel.

Zeal without knowledge is like driving a car at a terrific speed without knowing where you are going. □



### Addendum

Jim had mentioned to me several times he wanted to do a second book of Poems and Proverbs, but he had not had the time to do so. In cleaning out the computer room I found a notebook and a disc compiled in 1995 and edited again in 1997. The first section of this book is exactly as Jim had laid it out for printing. I have added poems he wrote after the 1997 edit and with a grateful heart, the ones he wrote after coming home from the hospital on March 15, 2013. My husband passed away April 10th and this project has been a labor of love to fulfill my dear husband's wishes. (Poems with an \* after the title were written in 2013.)

Freda Gibbons  
June, 2013

# ∞ Poems ∞

## **And Who are These?**

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

Who are these that 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 forever by Jesus Christ, his precious blood, through God's amazing grace!

## **Are You a Selfish Person?**

If you can see the stars aglow at night  
And all that you have seen are specks of light...

If you can live to see the light of day  
And lack for words in things that you could say...

If you can see blue skies and fields of green,  
And seeing, travel on as if unseen...

If you can travel down life's rugged road  
And never stop to bear another's load...

If you can hear God's Word of love and truth,  
And hearing, never wonder at its worth...

If you can read of Christ upon the cross,  
And reading, never contemplate the cost...

If you can live your life from day to day  
And never take the time to stop and pray...

*. . . You are a selfish person!*

---

## **Be Thus Assured**

We want to trust, to hope, but yet in grief  
That which was said by one of long ago,  
“Lord, I believe; help thou my unbelief,”  
Is said again by those who do not know.

Let every one of us be thus assured,  
As we dispel all doubt with all dismay;  
We have the revelation of God's Word,  
And Christ the Son of God to show the way.

---

## **Claim to Fame, HIS Acclaim**

Our only claim to fame, and thus acclaim,  
Is that we are God's child and wear His name;  
Christ' precious blood has washed away our sin,  
And by His love and grace we're born again.

---

## **From High to Low**

If you talk fast, but find your thoughts are slow,  
You need to switch your gears from high to low.

---

## **God's Domain \***

Behold the moon, the sun, the universe  
That fills the sky beyond the fringe of earth  
Where galaxies extend to endless space  
With all encased effulgent in their place.

Each star shines forth the truth that's clear and plain,  
There is a God and this is His domain,  
We see His power and might put on display  
As we in awe behold all in grand array.

I pause to praise His high and holy name,  
Almighty God, now-forever the same,  
To Him I yield my life in servitude  
With power supreme I live a life subdued.

---

## **Hope, Anchor of the Soul \***

Hope is the anchor of the soul  
That calms our fears and makes us bold.  
Let come what may we know who'll win  
With hope eternal we will transcend.

---

## **If I Knew You and You Knew Me**

If I knew you and you knew me  
As I know me and you knew you,  
Perhaps we less would disagree  
And paths alike we would ensue.

If I knew you and you knew me,  
What's in your heart and what's in mine,  
Then both of us would likely see  
Our thoughts our aims are much in line.

If I knew you and you knew me,  
And why we do the things we do,  
We might more tolerating be  
While right we do and wrong eschew.

If I knew you and you knew me,  
And knowing what each has been through,  
Our thoughts would less judgmental be,  
And we'd forgive and start anew.

There is so much concealed from sight  
That we know not, nor can we see,  
But we would not in haste indict  
If I knew you and you knew me.

---

## **If Money Talked**

If money talked, what would it say?  
Serve me, and I will be your pay;  
There's nothing money cannot buy;  
So let your heart aspire and sigh.  
Become my slave by day and night;  
I'll make you cheat and steal and fight;  
To get ahead, that is your goal;  
Just reach and grasp to get it all.  
And more than that, I'll be your god;  
But this may seem a little odd  
For one that's short in deity;  
But that is what you've made of me.

---

## **In Jesus Christ We Find**

In Jesus Christ the Lord we find  
Salvation, joy, and peace of mind;  
All that was lost because of sin  
Is ours once more when born again.

---

## **Jehovah Elohim**

Jehovah Elohim, that is His Holy Name;  
The God of all most High from age to age the same;  
The El Shaddai, Almighty in Eternal Power,  
By Whom we live and are sustained with life each hour.

---



## **Just Who are These?**

Just who are these I now behold  
With garments purged and white as snow  
Who look refreshed, renewed, and bold;  
With shining faces all aglow?

These are the ones who know the Lord;  
His blood has washed away their sin;  
Their lives are now in sweet accord,  
With love of God and peace within.

---

## **Mercy, Love and Grace \***

Behold what mercy, love and grace  
That One would die and take my place  
On Calvary's hill so far away  
My debt for sin He died to pay.

The sinless One became our sin  
That life anew we might begin,  
Now cleansed and made before Him whole  
We look ahead to heaven's goal.

We live so when that day has come  
We'll stand and hear Him say "well done."  
With Him above we'll take our place  
Because of mercy, love and grace.

Let us praise Him forever more  
For on that cross our sins bore  
That we could stand before Him whole  
While life eternal waits our soul.

---

## **Mister Compromiser**

Mister Compromiser, that is his name;  
The art of pleasing men involves his game;  
To take a stand for truth he knows not how;  
Beliefs that are his own he won't avow.

Then to decide which way he finally goes  
He checks the wind to see which way it blows;  
For him to stand alone would never do  
Lest he appear to all a varied hue.

A bone in back he does not seem to have,  
And thus to take a stand it won't allow;  
A man of "yes" it seems he'll always be,  
For on his own he dare not try to see.

The praise of men he wants at any cost,  
Although in seeking such the truth is lost;  
It makes no sense to think and act like this  
And in the sight of God be found amiss.

---

## **More Life He Gives to Live**

I thank the Lord for little aches and pains  
As in my senior years I now arrive.  
To hear these words may sound a little strange,  
But saying them says that I am alive.

And one who is alive has life to live,  
And with this life to live comes work to do.  
More life God gives so we can likewise give,  
So give and live and work until life's through.

---

## **Oh Church, Shape Up! Stand Up! Speak Up!**

A church once stood for truth and right;  
To have it preached was its delight;  
But things today aren't quite the same;  
Alas! Has all gone down the drain?

That church now seems an empty shell;  
Poured out is truth it would not tell;  
Its message now has lost its ring,  
As with the world it has its fling.

O church, shape up! And be yourself;  
Stand up, speak up, for we're not deaf;  
Again herald forth the gospel sound;  
The word of truth and right expound.

---

## **Precious Truth**

O Precious Truth,  
Thou art as clear as morning sky  
And simple as a little child;  
My weary spirit lingers nigh  
To breath thy freedom with a sigh.

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.

---

## **Right is Right and Wrong is Wrong**

Now right is right and wrong is wrong.  
Nor will the two have a chance to meet  
Except it be in conflict strong  
As right assails with no retreat.

“Let’s compromise; why all the fuss?  
Why wrangle over right and wrong?  
What’s more, what is there to discuss?  
Just live, and love and go along.”

But right is right and wrong is wrong  
And compromise we won’t allow  
Whereby the wrong is made more strong  
When men the wrong as right avow.

---

## **Thank You for Being You \***

O, Lord, my God, Thank You for being You.  
Omniscient, Almighty, (I ensue)  
You are there when skies are dark or gray  
Loving, caring to help me on my way.

In You I find mercy and grace combined;  
In you that “God is love,” as John defined.  
My sins are gone – I stand before You whole;  
I have with peace and calm within my soul.

---

## **The Attitude of Many**

“Please don’t disturb me with the facts  
When I’m content in being lax  
I won’t take time to think, you see;  
If wrong, that’s good enough for me.

---

## **The Image of His Son**

When we present ourselves to God subdued,  
We are ready then to find ourselves renewed;  
A life laid out by wise design awaits,  
All which God takes and now facilitates;  
He forms in us the image of His Son,  
And living now for Him we are as one.

## **The Kind of Life to Live**

Trust in the Lord and do that which is good,  
And live a life of love and brotherhood;  
A better way to live one will not find,  
A life that’s right with God and all mankind.

---

## **The Light unto Eternal Day**

Trust in the Lord and do that which is right  
And you will pass from darkness into light.  
This light that shines unto eternal day  
Will light your path and show to you the way.

---

## **The Sun will soon Shine Through**

Dear one, look up when all seems down.  
It's time to smile instead of frown.  
Take heart and know that God loves you.  
Look up! The sun will soon shine through.

---

## **This Love Imbibe, Imbue**

Pity the person who pities himself  
For pitiful indeed he has become;  
Thereby reducing self to less than pelf;  
Pitifully depressed, benumbed and glum.

Dear one, look up and know that God is love;  
Then there beyond your blinded, clouded view  
Brothers await, so give yourself a hefty shove;  
Cheer up, reach out, their love imbibe, imbue.

This love imbibed is shared with one and all;  
Becoming now a blessing, you are blessed;  
Enslaving thoughts of self do not enthrall,  
As needs and cares of others are addressed.

---

## **This Person You Know as Me (Aspirations and Anticipations)**

Look not on this person you know as me  
And what you thought he was of yesterday;  
Look now through eyes of faith so you can see  
What he with time will be on down the way.

He is a work of God not finished yet;  
He is the sculptured stone still in the rough  
And molded clay whose form takes time to set,  
Or leather in the raw that needs some buff.

But now you look and see one like God's son,  
Transformed, renewed, and changed from day to day;  
For more and more like Christ he has become,  
A sculptured work in living stone and clay.

---

## **Trust in God**

There is so much that we don't understand;  
So wisely let us leave it in God's hand,  
The One who knows the ending from the start  
And what resides in each and every heart.

God can take that which seems so very bad  
And make it be in time with goodness clad;  
That which was bad had only seemed that way,  
And that which we thought was night brought on the day.

So never let a child of God despair,  
But simply trust and leave it in His care;  
God sees it all, eternal in its scope;  
So trust in Him and live each day in hope.

---

## Up With It!

Get up when you are feeling down;  
Don't just lie there to sulk and frown;  
Take charge as master of your fate;  
With God you're more than second rate.

Up with a smile and greet the sun;  
Look up, take hold, and get things done;  
Each day awaits its use for good;  
Up, up with it; do what you should!

---

## We Have Messed Up

At first a spotless gift, life comes from God  
Unsoiled, unlivd, a path with steps not trod,  
It is a book of life not written yet  
With pages blank and bare, and type unset.

Naively we explore what lies ahead,  
And thrill to taste of life as one unwed.  
A world awaits where everything is new—  
So many things to see, to learn, to do!

The gift of life has hardly been entrapped  
Until, alas, we have become unwrapped  
The path that seemed to us at first not trod  
Was not that upward way that leads to God.

And now as then man's fall takes place again;  
Beguiled, deceived, ensnared—we fall to sin.  
Once more the Garden home is man's no more;  
The spotless book of life is blurred and tore.

“For all have sinned” speaks ill of all of us;  
We've marred our spotless gift and stand nonplused;  
That which was pure and good we have messed up;  
O LORD, to you we bring this empty cup.



## **What Might Have Been**

We may let many futile thoughts engulf our  
minds about the past,  
And as we contemplate and ponder them,  
we are the more harassed.

We see the things as they are now and  
wonder how they might have been  
If everything had stayed the same, unchanged,  
continuing on as then.

---

## **When We Fuss and Wrangle**

When we fuss and wrangle  
About that which is right,  
We may lose the battle  
Although we win the fight.

---

## **You are Uniquely You**

Behold, you are uniquely you—  
Someone special, distinct, and new.  
Therefore, your self do not disparage;  
Shine through, and be just what you are.

God made of you one of a kind;  
Aspire, press on, with this in mind.  
Always through life to self be true,  
And thus fulfill God's will as you.

---

