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| 12-22-19    **“H0W BIG IS YOUR HEART?”**  **The Grinch stole Christmas**  **“The heart of man is \_EVIL\_ (Genesis 8:21)**  **Jonah had a Grinch heart**  **\_PREJUDICE\_ shrinks the size of our hearts**  **“God looks on (\_SEARCHES\_) the heart”**  **(1 Samuel 17:6; Jeremiah 17:10)**  **“Create in me a \_CLEAN\_ heart” (Psalm 51:10)**  **The heart of God GIVES\_ (John 3:16)**  **The angels and the shepherds told the story (Luke 2)**  **The Magi brought gifts:**  **Gold – Jesus is KING\_ of KINGS\_**  **Frankincense, symbolizing \_PRAYER\_**  **Myrrh, an ointment for \_BURIAL\_**  **The Grinch couldn’t stop Christmas**  **How big is your heart?**  **Is it the size of God’s?**  **1 Chronicles 28:9; Proverbs 17:22; Matthew 5:8**        12-15-19    **“JOY TO THE WORLD”**  **Psalm 98:1-4**    **A hymn of praise for God’s \_SALVATION\_\_**  **Luke 1:26-46, Mary’s response was a hymn of \_JOY\_**  ·        **She celebrated her \_SALVATION\_\_ (v.47)**  ·        **She surrendered to God’s \_WORD\_ and \_WAY\_**  ·        **She expressed her praise through \_SCRIPTURE\_**  ·        **She yielded to the Holy Spirit**  **APPLICATION:**  **1.     \_YEILD\_\_**  **a.     Through spiritual birth**  **“The Holy Spirit will come upon you” (Luke 1:35)**  **John 3:3, “You must be born again”**  **b.     By the filling of the Spirit**  **“The power of the most high will overshadow you”**  **Ephesians 5:18, Be filled with the Holy Spirit”**  **2.     \_ABIDE\_\_ in the Word of God**  **“Be it done to me according to Thy Word”**  **“She \_BELIEVED\_\_” (Luke 1:45)**  **Romans 10:17, “Faith comes by hearing the Word of God”**  **Psalm 119:11, “Thy word have I treasured in my heart**  **that I may not sin against Thee”**  **3.     \_SURRENDER\_\_**  **“Behold the bondservant of the Lord”**  **Romans 12:1, “Present your bodies a living sacrifice”**  **4.     \_CELEBRATE\_\_**  **“My spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior”**  **Ephesians 2:8, “By grace you have been saved through faith”**    **“Joy to the world” [Isaac Watts, 1719]**    12-8-19  **GOD HAS A PLAN**  **Luke 1:1-25**    **God is REAL and PERSONAL**  **His plan from the beginning, even before man sinned,**  **has always been RECONSILING fellowship**  **We see it unfolding with a COVERING**  **for the sin of Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:21)**  **We see and hear it through the PROPHETIC**  **words of the Old Testament**  **We realize the fullness of the plan with the angels’**  **proclamation, “We bring you good news of great joy**  **for all people…there is born a Savior,**  **who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11)**  **His plan included an interesting side-note’**  **anointing a FORERUNNER (Luke 1:5-25)**  **An angel, a MESSENGER from God,**  **shocked Zachariah with:**   1. **An ANSWER to prayer** 2. **A REVELATION of God’s plan**   **APPLICATION**   1. **Are we RIGHTEOUS before God?** 2. **Are we READY for the coming of the Lord?** 3. **Why are we SILENT? (“FAITH FREEZE?”)**           12-1-19 WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE??    1. BIBLE: "INSPIRED by GOD" (2 Timothy 3:16-17)  2.  GOD: "In the beginning GOD" (Genesis 1:1)  3. FORGIVENESS: "In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins" (Col 1:14)  4. JESUS: "Call his name Immanuel God is with us); call him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins" (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:21)  He came "that we might have life abundantly..... eternal" John 10:10  5. GOD'S WILL:  \* Be redeemed (2 Peter 3:9)  \* Be sanctified (1 Thess 4:3; Ephesians 4:12)  \* Be humble (1 Peter 5:5-6; James 4:6)  \* Pray (1 Thes 5:18)  \* Think clearly (Phil 4:8)  \* Be a Faithful Steward (Mal 3:10; 2 Chor 9:7; Matthew 25:21) \* Follow Jesus' Standard of Living (Matthew 5-7)  \* Be a Witness (Acts 1:8)  \* Make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20)  \* Keep His commandments (John 14:15)  \* Love one another (John 14:27: 13:34-35)  6. JESUS" RETURN: (Acts 1:9; Matthew 26:64: Revelations 1:8; 19:11-16)      11-24-19  “GIVE THANKS”  ***1 Thessalonians 5:18***  **Gratitude is a Command**  ***“God’s will for you in Christ Jesus”***  **Gratitude is a Gift**  ***“It is good to give thanks to the Lord”***  **Ingratitude is a Sin; it started in the garden**  **Numbers 21**  **The Israelites were released from captivity, yet they**  **ungratefully Grumbled**  **They forgot God’s Grace**  **God’s response?**  **Ingratitude invites Serpents into our lives**  **The people Confess their ingratitude**  **Then God gave them the cure for ingratitude (v.9)**  **Jesus said, *“As Moses lifted the serpent in the wilderness,***  ***even so the Son of Man must be lifted up; that whoever***  ***believes may in Him have eternal life” (John 3:14-15)***  ***“Give thanks IN EVERYTHING” (1 Thessalonians 5:18)***  ***“Always giving thanks for ALL things” (Ephesians 5:20)***  ***“Enter His gates with thanksgiving” (Psalm 100)***  **1.      Because He is God (vs.1-3)**  **2.      Because He is Good (vs.4-5)**  **Have you given Jesus your thanks?**  **1.      For eternal life**  **2.      For gifts yet to be revealed (*Philippians 4:6*)**         11-17-19      **FRIENDS**  **Mark 2:1-12**  **“A friend \_LOVES\_ at all times” (Proverbs 17:17)**  **Greatest love? (John 15:13-17)**  **A crowd of \_SEEKERS\_\_, \_\_SCOFFERS\_\_ and \_SPECTATORS\_\_\_**  **Jesus “speaking the \_\_Word\_\_ to them” (v.2).**  **Four unnamed men showed up with a Friend\_ in need,**  **and \_Faith\_ in Jesus**  **Jesus surprised the scoffers when He said to the paralytic,**  **“Your sins are forgiven” (v.5). The scoffers called Him**  **a \_Blasphemer\_\_, declaring,**  **“Who can forgive sins but God alone?” (v.7).**  **The moment raises two important questions:**  **1.     Easier to rely on your own reasoning, or trust God?**  **2.     More important, healing the body or the \_Soul\_?**  **“In order that you may know that the Son of God has**  **authority on earth to forgive sins (He said to the paralytic),**  **rise, take up your pallet and go home” (vs.10-11).**  **Both cases reveal \_\_Healing\_\_ (spiritual and physical).**  **In either case, we should:**  **1.     “Arise” – show evidence of faith and fact**  **2.     “Take up pallet” – leave previous condition behind**  **3.     “Walk” – move forward**  **Friends? “What a friend we have in Jesus”**        **11-10-19  Chris Moore  - Grateful - Thankful**    **11-3-19 Tony Cleaver**   The Prodigal Son Luke 15.11-32    1. THE YOUNGER SON DECIDES TO LEAVE HOME  (15.11-12)  2. THE YOUNGER SON GOES TO THE FAR COUNTRY  (15.13-19)  3. THE YOUNGER SON CONFESSES TO HIS FATHER  (15.20-21)  4. THE FATEHR WELCOMES THE YOUNGER SON HOME (15.22-24)  5. THE OLDER SON LEARNS OF THE RETURN (15.25-27)  6. THE OLDER SON BECOMES ANGRY (15.28-30)  7. THE FATHER REASONS WITH THE OLDER SON (15.31-32)  Question –Which son was lost?    The parable of the prodigal son  is one of the greatest  love stories ever  told - a story filled  with mercy and grace.    Discover how God,  our loving Father,  is waiting for us to  repent and come to him!        10-27-19  **WHAT SHOULD I DO?**    **Who to ask? Siri, Google, FB, friends, experts…? GOD?**  **Be careful about trusting the \_WORLD\_**  **(Luke 16:8; Romans 1:18,24)**    **The world \_Deceives\_(Joshua 9)**  **The Gibeonites “acted \_craftily\_” (v.4), so he**  **“made a \_covenant\_ with them” (v.15)**  **OOPS, did he not hear God? (Exodus 23:32)**  **Problem: “The men of Israel did not “ask for the**  **\_counsel\_ (guidance) of the Lord” (Joshua 9:14)**    **How can we get guidance from God?**  **“Faith comes by hearing the \_word\_ of God”**  **(Romans 10:17)**  **1.      A \_spoken\_ Word (*rama*: “breath”)**  **2.      A \_written\_ Word (*logos*: “revealed”)**  **3.      Listening (Prayer)**    **Joshua…**  **Believed what he saw (1 Samuel 16:7)**  **Ignored his first \_impression\_ (v.7); thus,**  **He had to \_compromise\_**  **He was drawn into a \_conflict\_**    **Making a costly commitment to the world…**  **1.      Gives the enemy a point of \_attack\_ (10:3-4)**  **2.      Redirects your \_attention\_\_ (10:6)**  **3.      Diminishes valuable \_resources\_\_**    **More importantly, he did not**  **\_Obey\_\_ God’s word (Exodus 23:32)**      10-20-19    **“LIVE BY FAITH”**  **Habakkuk 2:4**    ·        **RIGHTEOUSNESS**  **Romans 1:17, “The \_\_justified\_\_ will live by faith”**  **JUSTIFIED: Just as if I’d never sinned**  **Righteousness is God’s gift in Jesus Christ**    **How do we receive righteousness? By \_Faith\_\_**  **“God is the one who justifies” (Romans 8:33)**  **“The righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ**  **Is for all who believe” (Romans 3:22)**  **“Pursue righteousness” (1 Timothy 6:11)**    **Paul, “I’m not ashamed of the gospel, because it’s the**  **\_\_power\_\_ of God for the salvation of everyone**  **who believes. It is a righteousness that is by faith**  **“The righteous will never be shaken” (Proverbs 10:30)**    ·        **FAITH**  **Hebrews 10:38, “The righteous will live by \_\_Faith\_\_”**  **Faith is believing God and \_Acting\_\_ upon that belief.**  **Hebrews 11 – heroes of faith**    ·        **LIFE**  **Galatians 3:11, “The righteous will \_Live\_\_ by faith”**  **Paul’s ministry in Galatia**    **We are “saved by \_Grace\_\_ through faith” (Ephesians 2:8)**  **Having been made righteous by God, we should**  **“live by faith”**  **Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17; Hebrews 10:38; Galatians 3:11**           10-13-19  **WHY?”**  **Habakkuk**    **1.     Why doesn’t God deal with wickedness?**    **2.     When He does, why is it in a way I don’t like?**    **God judged His people by \_appointing\_\_ the Babylonians**    **God’s people should “live by \_faith\_\_” (2:4)**    **1.     Stop and \_think\_**    **James 1:19, “Be quick to listen, slow to speak”**    **2.     Restate You Basic \_faith\_ Principles**    **Do you believe that God is:**    **“from everlasting…Holy…a Rock” (1:12)?**    **3.     Apply the Principles to the Problem**    **Let God’s Word interpret the problem**    **Let Him reveal the \_solution\_\_**    **Romans 8:28, “God causes all things to work together**    **for good to those who love Him, for those who**    **are called according to His purpose”**    **4.     Commit the Problem to God in Faith**    **Proverbs 3:5-6, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart.**    **Do not lean to your own understanding. In all your ways,**    **acknowledge Him and He will direct your path”**      **LEARN FROM HABAKKUK**    **1.     \_Expect\_ God to answer**    **2.     Be \_persistent\_\_ in the expectation**          10-6-19    **“THE JOY OF CONTENTMENT” 10/6/19**    **Philippians 4:10-19**        **Contentment is not MEDIOCRACY; it is the state of being at PEACE**    **to enjoy and value LIFE for what it is, not what we have**        **Contentment is a LEARNED behavior (v..11)**    **Contentment is the capacity to COPE, regardless of**    **the CIRCUMSTANCES, by God’s POWER, not my own**    **“I can do everything God asks me to do with the help**    **of Christ who gives me strength and power” (TLB)**        **Jesus said, “I am the vine, you are the branches;**    **apart from Me, you can do nothing” (Jo.15:5)**    **“His strength is PERFECTED in our weakness” (2Cor.12:10)**        **Contentment frees us from disappointment of unmet expectations**    **It is the opposite of “discontent” (study: 80% discontent)**        **Contentment is possible when we really believe that God**    **can and will SUPPLY (meet, satisfy, complete, perfect) our needs,**    **Not our GREEDS**        **There is no limit to God’s SUPPLY;**    **However, “no need” – “no supply”**    **“Every good thing bestowed and perfect gift is from above”**    **(Js. 1:17)**    **God’s gifts come from His “riches in glory in Christ Jesus”,**    **who “though He was rich, yet for your sake He became**    **poor, that you, through His poverty, might become**    **RICH” (Cor.8:9)**        **“When God’s work is done God’s way, for God’s glory,**    **it will not lack God’s supply” (Hudson Taylor)**        **HOW? “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,**    **and all these other things will be added to you” (Mt.6:33)**    **THE JOY OF CONTENTMENT**          9-29-19 The Lord's Supper    **9-22-19 “RESOLVE TO LIVE A JOYOUS LIFE”**  **Philippians 4:1-9**  **Resolve Daily to:**  **1.     Live joyously (vs.1,4)**  **“My joy…beloved…stand firm”**  **Live in \_VICTORY\_\_\_and**  **claim the \_JOY\_\_ of God’s grace**  **2.     Keep a proper perspective (vs.2-3)**  **Basic truth: It’s not about me!**  **Live in \_HARMONY\_\_**  **agreeable**  **3.     Lighten up (vs. 4,5)**  **“Rejoice…let your forbearing spirit” \_SHOW\_\_**  **4.     Make prayer your first response (v.6)**  **Don’t \_WORRY\_, instead \_PRAY\_**  **“Anxious” - \_Cares, Worry\_\_ (1 Peter 5:7)**  **“Supplication” - ASK\_ God for something**  **“Thanksgiving” - \_APPRECIATION\_**  **5.     Let God’s peace protect you (v.7)**  **“Peace” \_He is our Peace\_ (Ephesians 2:14) Calming, encouraging**  **“Guard” - \_Positive Things\_ Set a protection ground**  **6.     Choose carefully what you dwell on (v.8)**  **“As you \_THINK\_, so are you” (Proverbs 23:7)**  **“Take thoughts \_CAPTIVE\_” (2 Corinthians 10:15)**  **Have the mind of Christ Philippians 2:5**  **7.     Apply what you learn (v.9)**  **“Practice” - “ DOER’S\_ the Word” (James 1:22)**  **Make prayer your 1st response**  **Don’t practive religion, practice relationship**  **When negative find something TRUE**  **A lemon was squeezed and the class was asked what will come out?**  **Lemon juice. Instead Grapefruit Juice because the Lemon was infused.**  **When squeezed what will come out of you??**    **9-15-19 “THE JOY OF THE JOURNEY”**  **Philippians 3:11-21**    **\_Faith\_ is a journey; pursue \_Christlikeness\_**  ·        **PRESSS ON (vs.12, 14)**  **We are not yet not ready (mature)\_**  **“press on” - \_pursue follow after – Olympic runner**  **“lay hold” \_of by Christ (Paul Damascus road)**  ·        **PAUSE MOMENTARILY**  **Reject the \_past (v.13)forgetting behind**  **Experience God in the \_present\_**  **Reach for the \_promise\_, the \_goal\_**  ·        **PROFESS A RIGHT PERSPECTIVE (v.15)**  **Right “attitude” – “\_mind\_\_ of Christ” (2:5)**  **Wrong attitude? – God will give \_light, wisdom**  ·        **PICK YOUR FELLOW TRAVELERS**  **Examples to follow (v.17) observe, take notes**  **“standard” (v.16)…“pattern” (v.17) - \_christ in you\_\_**  **Walk- conduct walk worthy**  **Enemies to fear (vs.18-19) enemies of the cross**  ·        **PROCLAIM YOUR CITIZENSHIP (vs.20-21)**  **Destination? \_Heaven\_ - Ephesians 2:9**  **While we wait for a \_savior\_ (v.20)**  **Who will transform (change) us to the Glory.**    **9-8-19**    **“BEWARE OF JOY-STEALERS”**  **Philippians 3:1-10**  **God wants us to have consistent, abiding joy:**  **“Rejoice in the \_LORD\_” (v.1)**  **Some want to rob us of our joy: (v.2)**  ·        **\_DOGS\_**  ·        **EVIL\_ \_WORKERS\_**  ·        **FALSE\_ \_CIRCUMCISION\_**  **They have lost sight of \_JESUS\_**  **They look \_GODLY\_\_ and \_SPIRITUAL\_\_,**  **but have no \_POWER\_ in their lives**  **The “true circumcision” (v.3)**  ·        **\_WORSHIP\_ in the Spirit of God**  ·        **\_GLORY\_ in Christ Jesus**  ·        **Reject “confidence in the \_FLESH\_\_” (vs. 3-8)**  **They put confidence in Jesus (v.10)**  ·        **\_PERSONALLY\_ “To know Him”**  ·        **\_POWERFULLY\_ “Power of His resurrection”**  ·        **\_PAINFULLY\_ “Fellowship of His suffering”**  ·        **\_PRACTICALLY\_ “Being conformed to His death”**  **“Conformed” - outward expression**  **of an inner experience of faith;**  **exemplified in \_BAPTISM\_\_ (Romans 6:4)**  **Paul came to a moment in which truth of who Jesus is,**  **turned to a heart-felt, life-changing moment**  **God calls that \_JOY**      **9-1-19**    **“THE JOY OF A JESUS ATTITUDE”**  **Philippians 2:5-11**  **ATTITUDE: \_MIND\_\_\_**  **“Be of the same \_mind\_\_” (v.2); Romans 15:5;**  **2 Corinthians 13:11; Colossians 3:2**  **MIND OF CHRIST:**  **Identified (vs.2-4)**  **LOVE, UNITY, PURPOSE SELFLESS, thinking of others**  **Illustrated (vs.6-8)**  **6) He did not \_\_exploit\_\_, flaunt His Godliness; rather,**  **7) He \_\_surrendered\_\_ as a “bond-servant”**  **8) He \_submitted\_\_ to “death on a cross”**  **(Matthew 20:28)**  **A GODLY ATTITUDE REQUIRES \_WORK\_\_**  ·        **It begins with God –vs. 6, 13**  ·        **It requires \_self\_ -\_\_discipline\_\_ - v.12**  **The mind of the world declares:**  **Your rights, ways, prejudice**  **The mind of Jesus reveals**  **Submission, humility, love, \_> set self aside**  **“At the name of Jesus: BOW\_surrender...submission\_”**  **CONFESS: say the same thing GOD says**  **Romans 10:9, “Confess with your mouth”**  **Matthew 10:32, “Confess Me before men”**  **“Always ready (to declare)… hope” (1Pt. 3:15)**      8-25-19    **“THE JOY OF UNITY”**    **Philippians 1:27-2:1-4**        ·        **UNITY BEGINS WITH A CONSISTENT \_\_CONDUCT\_\_**    **“Conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel”**    **CONDUCT: \_ACTION\_\_, \_\_WALK\_. \_\_BEHAVIOR\_\_**    **Ephesians 4:1, “worthy of your calling”**        ·        **UNITY REVEALS A COMMON \_\_CAUSE\_\_\_**    **What we \_BELIEVE\_\_, determines how we \_\_BEHAVE\_\_**        ·        **UNITY IS EVIDENT IN \_TOGETHERNESS\_\_\_\_**    **STRIVING: \_Pulling as one\_\_ TOGETHER: \_\_UNIFIED\_\_\_**    **Jesus prayed that we be \_\_ONE\_\_ (John 17:20-22)**    **There is \_POWER\_\_ in unity**        ·        **THERE IS JOY IN UNITY**    **2:2, “Make my joy complete…”**        ·        **WHAT DISRUPTS UNITY?**    **1.     Threat from without**    **“Don’t be alarmed by your opponents”**    **Ephesians 6:12, “Our struggle is not against flesh and blood”**        **2.     Threat from within: (2:3-4)**    **a.     \_Self Centered not focused\_\_**    **b.     \_Pride\_\_\_**    **c.      \_Vision\_\_\_**    **Proverbs 29:18**        8-18-19    **“JOY IN SPITE OF CIRCUMSTANCES”**  **Philippians 1:11-26**  **James 1:2-3 – Happiness is a \_\_FEELING\_\_\_,**  **Joy is an \_ATTITUDE\_\_**  **Judge Joseph Carter; Matthew 11:28**  **City of NY- One day disappeared never to be seen again. Only**  **thing was a note left to his wife. “Weary”**  **When you are facing adversity, joy is available**  ·        **LOOK AT YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES**  **THROUGH GOD’S \_EYES\_\_**  **The Apostle Paul wrote Philippians from priso**  **His chains gave him:**  **1.     Contact with the \_\_\_LOST\_\_\_ (v.13)**    **2.     Courage to the \_\_\_SAVED\_\_ (v.14)**    **3.     Confidence (v.12)**  ·        **SURRENDER YOURSELF TO GOD’S \_PURPOSE\_\_\_**  **Romans 8:28; Philippians 1:6 Ephesians 2 8-9**  ·        **\_ACT\_\_ RATHER THAN \_REACT\_**  **You have \_\_PURPOSE\_\_\_ in the trial**  **See it in the life of Jesus**  ·        **BE \_SECURE\_\_\_ IN GOD**  **2 Timothy 1:12; Philippians 1:21; 2 Timothy 4:6-7**  ·        **WALK IN THE \_\_GRACE\_\_ GOD PROVIDES**  **2 Corinthians 9:8; 12:9; Galatians 2:20**  **2 Timothy 2:21 In spite of circumstances**    8-11-19    **“THE JOY OF SPIRITUAL VITALITY”**  **Philippians 1:9-11**    **Would you say that your life is like:**  **A beautiful artificial silk plant, or**  **A fresh-cut flower in a vase**  **Jesus said, “I am the vine, you are the branches.**  **He who ABIDES in Me and I in him,**  **he will bear much fruit, for apart from Me**  **you can do nothing” (John 15:5)**  **To maintain spiritual growth:**   ·        **PRAY PURPOSEFULLY**  ***“Lord, teach us to pray” (Luke 11:1)***  **Paul *- “And this I pray” (Philippians 1:9)***  ·        **CHOOSE TO GROW**  ***“That your love may abound…still more and more”***  ·        **LET YOUR LOVE ABOUND**  ***“Abound”* – filled with ENERGY**  ***“To approve the things that are EXCELLENT***  ·        **BE FILLED WITH THE FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**  ***“In Jesus…bear much fruit”***  **Col 3:2 Set Your Mind on things ABOVE.**   ·        **BE SINCERE AND BLAMELESS**  ***“be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ”***  **James 3:18**  **Choice: Be satisfied with plastic and artificial,**  **or be living and growing**        8-4-19    **“THE JOY OF FRIENDSHIP” 8/4/19**    **Philippians 1:1-8**        **Philippians – a letter of grace, peace, joy – to friends**    **“To have a friend you must BE a friend”**    **Friendships are more than AQUAINTANCES**    **“There is a friend that sticks closer than a BROTHER”**    **(Prv.18:24)**    **FRIENDS ARE:**    ·        **PEOPLE YOU REMEMBER**    ***“I thank my God for in all my remembrances” (v.3)***    ·        **PEOPLE FOR WHOM YOU PRAY**    ***“Always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer***    ***for you”* (v.4), because…1. You SHARE the gospel (v.4)**    **2.     God is at work PERFECTING (maturing) you (v.6)**    **His Work: for, in, through you:**    **salvation, sanctification, service**    ·        **PEOPLE WITH WHOM YOU SHARE**    **LIFE’S GREATEST EXPERIENCES**    ***“You are partakers of GRACE with me” (v.7)***    ***Partakers: (koinonia)* FELLOWSHIP**    ***“Timothy, bondservant” (v.1)***    ·        **PEOPLE YOU LOVE**    ***“I long for you with the AFFECTION of Christ Jesus” (v.8)***    **“A friend LOVES at all times” (Prv.7:17)**    **“Greater love has no one than this, that one LAY DOWN**    **his life for his friends” (Jo.15:13)**    7-28-19  **“CHRISTIAN CHARACTERISTICS”**  **Colossians 3:1-11**  **A Christian has DIED to self,**  **and is “hidden with Christ in God…He is our LIFE**  **A Christian is “RAISED UP with Christ”,**  **illustrated by BAPTISM: “Resurrected to walk**  **in newness of life” (Romans 6:4)**  **A Christian should constantly PERSUE**  **“things above”, by FOCUSING on “things above,**  **not on things on earth”, by “seeking FIRST**  **the kingdom of God” (Matthew 6:33)**  **A Christian should DISGARD garments of evil,**  **while being “RENEWED”**  **When “Christ is REVEALED”,**  **so shall we be with Him in “GLORY” (1 John 3:2)**          7-21-19  **JESUS: LIGHT OF THE WORLD**  **John 9**  **Imagine…**  **Jesus’ disciples saw the man as a Sinner**  **The neighbors saw him as a Beggar**  **The Pharisees saw him as a way to Trap Jesus**  **Jesus saw him as one who needed Help**  **The Pharisees saw Jesus as a Sinner**    **The disciples asked, “Why?”**   ·       **Punishment for sin?**  **1.    God? His punishment for sin is Death**  **2.    Personal? – all personal suffering is related**  **to original sin (Genesis 3)**  **Personal suffering can be related to**  **personal sin – worry, anger…**  **3.    Parents? Sometimes it is…abuse, poor care…**  ·       **Opportunity?**  **1.    For God to Work? (John 9:3)**  **2.    For us to Testify? (John 9:25, 38)**  **Jesus is the light of the world (John 9:5; John 8:12)**  **John 8:12, "He who follows Me will not walk in the darkness,**  **but shall have the light of life."**        7-14-19    7-7-19    **“DECISIONS, DECISIONS”**        ·        **A SELF-EXAMINATION                       [Psalm 37]**    **Do I…**    **1.     \_TRUST\_\_\_the Lord?**    **2.     Do good, dwell in the land, cultivate faithfulness”?**    **a.     Look to the \_\_SAVIOR\_\_ (Hebrews 12:2)**    **b.     Live in the \_\_\_SCRIPTURE\_\_\_ (Romans 10:17)**    **c.      Lean on the \_\_SPIRIT\_\_\_ (John 16:13)**    **3.     \_\_DELIGHT\_ in the Lord? (Matthew 6:33)**    **4.     Believe that He will “give me the DESIRES\_**    **Seek first his kingdom (Mt 6:33)       of my heart”?**    **Serve the Lord with Gladness (Ps 100:2)**    ·        **A NATIONAL EXAMINATION        [1 Samuel 16;**    **2 Chronicles 7:14]**    **Do we…**    **1.     \_Worship\_\_**    **a.     \_Consecration (humble, purify)\_\_**    **b.     \_\_Sacrifice (give, serve)\_\_**    **2.     Use \_Human\_\_ perspective or \_Divine\_\_**    **3.     Watch God \_Work   David, harp, Goliath, Jonathon\_\_**    **4.     Follow God’s steps to see His \_Promise\_\_**    **a.     \_Humble ourselves\_\_\_**    **b.     \_Pray\_\_**    **c.      \_Seek His Face\_\_**    **d.     \_Turn from our wicked ways\_\_**      **His Promise: “I will forgive sins, hear from heaven, Heal Land”**    **6-30-19 The Lord's Supper**      6-23-19  WHAT IS YOUR SOURCE OF JOY    **John 10:10**        **Happiness and joy are not the same**    **Joy comes from \_\_within\_\_**        **Jesus said the thief comes to \_steal\_\_ your joy**    **The “thief” (devil) “prowls about like a roaring lion**    **seeking someone to devour” (1Peter 5:8)**    **Joy in Jesus is something he can never steal**        **PROTECT YOUR JOY**    **1.     Avoid Prolonged \_Anger\_\_\_**    **“Don’t give the devil an \_opportunity\_\_\_” (Ephesians 4:27)**    **“\_Submit\_\_ to God” (James 4:7)**        **2.     Avoid \_\_Religious\_\_ \_Rules\_\_**    **Disguised as \_\_Bible\_\_ \_\_Truths\_\_**        **3.     Accept only the \_True\_\_\_ Source of Joy**    **Jesus came that we might have life…abundantly**        **ABUNDANT:  \_Overflowing\_\_\_\_                  (Mark 12:33)**    **ABUNDANT LIFE: “Life of \_Contentment\_\_” (J.M. Boyce)**        **Before we can know “abundant life”,**    **we must first know \_Life\_\_\_        (John 14:6)**        **“We are made \_\_alive\_\_\_\_ together with Christ”**  **(Ephesians 2:5)**    6-16-19      **FATHERS: How Are You Doing?  6/16/19**    **A Tragedy in Shunem [2Ki.4:8-32]**    **A Question for each of us: How are you doing?  [2Ki.4:26]**    ·        **As a PARENT? “Is it well with your children?”**    **Focus – Prv.22:6, “train up a child…”**    **1Thes.2:11, exhort, encourage, implore**    **2Tim.1:5, Biblical influence**    ·        **As a PARTNER?**    **Eph.5:2, Love your wife, just as Christ also loved**    **the church and gave Himself up for her”**    **Eph.5:1, “Be imitators of God”**    **5:21, “Be subject to one another”**    ·        **As a PERSON?**    **1.     Priorities**    **Lk.10:27, “Love God totally”**    **Mt.6:33, “Seek first the kingdom of God”**    **2.     Purity**    **Mt.5:8, “Be blessed”**    **1Tim.5:22, Keep yourself pure”**    **2Pt.3:14, “Be blameless…at peace with God”**    **Ps.24:4, “clean hands and pure heart”**    **3.     Prayer**    **“Pray without ceasing” (1The.5:17)**    **“Pray and not lose heart” (Lk.18:11)**    **“Devote yourself to prayer” (1Cor.7:5)**  **“Train up a child in the way he should go” (Prv. 22:6)**      6-9-19  **ETERNAL LIFE**  **Matthew 19:16-17**    **Jesus said, “If you \_love\_ Me, keep My commandments”**  **(John 14:15)**  **His commandments are not burdensome\_ (1 John 5:3)**    **Which commandments?**   * **Ten Commandments? (Exodus 20:1-26)** * **\_Greatest\_ commandment? (Matthew 22:36-40)**     **God calls failure to “keep His commandments” \_sin\_**  **(Romans 3:23),**  **which results in \_death\_ (Romans 6:23);**  **But because God \_loved\_ you and gave His Son**  **to die for our sins - whoever \_believes\_ in Him**  **should not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:16);**  **which is the free  gifts\_ of God**  **in Christ Jesus our Lord” (romans 6:23)**    **Life in Jesus involves choices:**   1. **Obey His commands** 2. **Not disobey His commands** 3. **Discover His will when no clear command is evident**     **A PATTERN FOR CHOOSING:**  **1 Corinthians 6:12; 8:9; 10:23; 10:31**   * **Don’t be \_mastered\_ by anything you are free to do** * **Don’t let freedom make you a**   **\_\_stumbling\_\_ \_block\_\_ to the weak**   * **Choose things that \_edify\_\_\_** * **Do all to the \_glory\_\_ of God**     **6-2-19**    **“WATCH YOUR STEP”**    **Ephesians 4:1-6**    **WALK: \_\_\_\_Conduct, behavior\_\_\_\_**    **CALLING:  We are called into God’s \_Kingdom\_  (1 Thessalonians 2:12)**    **We are called to God’s \_glory\_\_ (1 Peter 5:10)**    **WALK IN…**  ·        **Humility - \_dependence, attitude, mind of Jesus\_\_ on God (Philippians 2:5-8)**    ·        **Gentleness - \_strength \_ under control**    **Jesus was “gentle and humble in heart”**    ·        **Patience - \_slow\_ to anger (James 1:19)**    ·        **Forbearance - \_enduring, not exasperated\_\_**    ·        **Unity – “of the Spirit in the bond of peace”**    **“Dwell together in unity” (Psalm 133:1)**    **“Be \_perfected\_\_ in unity” (John 17:23)**    **“Strive to attain to the unity of the \_faith\_” (Ephesians 4:13)**    **“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling” (v.4)**    **ONENESS:**    ·        **Body:  \_church, the Body of Christ\_**    ·        **Spirit:  Holy Spirit\_\_  \_”walk by the spirit”\_\_**    ·        **Hope : future promise\_\_**    ·        **Lord: Jesus Christ**    ·        **Faith: personal \_faith\_ in Jesus**    ·        **Baptism:**    **1.     Water – outward expression of faith**    **2.     Spirit – which brings us into unity**  ·        **God: \_sovereign\_,“over all, through all, in all” (v.6)**    **5-26-19**    **“BE GOOD”**    **1 Timothy 6:17-19; Mathew 6:21**        **GOOD? \_\_\_beneficial, right, profitable, useful\_\_\_\_\_**    **“Good news of great joy for all people” (Luke 2:10)**        **GOOD LOOKS LIKE…**    ·        **\_\_GOD\_\_ (Psalm 106:1; Romans 8:28; Genesis 50:20)**    ·        **Jesus, the good \_\_shepherd\_\_ (John 10:14)**    ·        **\_\_You\_\_, when I do what I know is right;**    **otherwise it’s \_\_sin\_\_ (James 4:17)**    **“\_\_Overcome\_\_\_ evil (sin) with good” (Romans 12:21)**        **“\_\_Learn\_\_ to do good: (Isaiah 1:17)**    **Seek \_\_justice\_\_                 Reprove the \_\_ruthless\_\_\_**    **Defend the \_\_\_orphan\_\_\_**    **Plead for the \_widow\_\_\_”**    **“Do good while you have the \_\_opportunity\_\_\_”**    **(Galatians 6:10)**        **WHAT GOOD IS THERE IN “DOING GOOD”?**    **1.     Godly people \_\_rejoice\_\_\_ (2 Chronicles 6:41)**    **2.     Doing what God \_\_prepares\_\_\_ for us to do**    **(Ephesians 2:10)**    **3.     \_Trust\_\_\_ God (Psalm 37:3)**    **4.     A good \_\_conscience\_\_\_\_ before God” (Acts 21:1)**        **WILL “DOING GOOD” GET YOU TO HEAVEN?**    **1.     Ask the Rich Young Ruler (Matthew 19:16)**    **2.     Ask the Apostle Paul (Ephesians 2:8-9)**  **GOOD?**    **5-19-19**    **“A PROPHETIC WORD”**  **Haggai**  **THEN…NOW?**  **“We are the temple of the \_living\_\_ God”; in which the**  **\_spirit\_\_\_ dwells (1 Corinthians 6:16,19; 3:16);**  **“Built together as \_living\_\_ stones, on Jesus,**  **the \_\_cornerstone\_\_”1 Peter 2:5; Ephesians 2:22)**  **Spiritual \_laziness\_\_ can cause the spiritual temple**  **to “\_lie\_ \_desolate\_\_” (Haggai 1:4)**  **How can we “rebuild” the temple in which God resides?**  **Haggai 1:8, “Go up to the mountains, bring wood and**  **rebuild the temple that I may be \_pleased\_\_ with it**  **and \_glorified\_\_”**  **Mountains symbolize the presence of God**  **who is our \_help\_ (Psalm 121:1-2)**    ·         **\_SINCERITY\_\_ (Hebrews 10:22; James 4:8)**    ·         **\_FOCUS\_\_\_ (Hebrews 12:2)**    ·         **\_OBEY\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 119:105; Proverbs 3:5-6)**    ·         **\_CONFESS\_\_\_\_\_ (1 John 1:9)**    ·         **\_WITNESS\_\_ (Acts 1:8; 1 Peter 3:15)**    ·         **\_PRAY\_ (1 Thessalonians 5:17)**    ·         **\_LOVE\_\_ (1 John 4:7)**          **May 12, 2019**  **GOD’S MODEL MOTHER**  **Matthew 1:1-18**    **Proverbs 31 – Wonder Woman**  **Two “imperfect” women**    ·          **RAHAB, “a \_\_harlot\_\_” (Joshua 2:1), hid the**  **Israelite \_spies\_ (v.6), professed her \_faith\_**  **in God (2:11), and was \_\_protected\_ by the symbol**  **of a \_scarlet\_ \_cord\_ when Jericho fell (6:17)**  **Rahab married a Jewish man named Salmon.**  **They had a son named \_Boaz\_\_**   ·          **RUTH, from Moab, married a Jewish man.**  **Her commitment to her mother-in-law is one of the most**  **cherished phrases in all of literature (Ruth 1:16).**    **Ruth married \_Boaz\_\_.**  **They had a son named \_Obed\_, the grandfather of**  **\_\_\_David\_\_, the forefather of Jesus.**  **Model Mothers: a \_\_Harlot\_\_ and a \_Pagen\_\_?**  **God can use \_\_imperfect\_\_ people because of**  **“His great love with which He loves us;**  **He made us \_alive\_\_ together with Christ.**  **By \_grace\_\_ we are \_saved\_\_**  **through \_faith\_\_” (Ephesians 2:4-5).**  **God makes us \_new\_\_ (2 Corinthians 5:17)**  **“A woman who \_fears\_\_ the Lord,**  **shall be praised” (Proverbs 31:30)**            “**WHAT’S YOUR TROUBLE?” 5-5-19**    **James 1:2, “various \_trials\_\_\_”**    **1 Peter 1:6, “\_distressed\_\_\_\_ by various trials”**  **John 16:33, “In this world you will have \_\_tribulations\_\_\_”**  **14:1, “Let not your hearts be \_\_troubled\_\_”**    **Jesus knew that troubles are real; in fact,**      **He once was “troubled in \_\_spirit\_\_\_” (John 13:21)**  **" Don’t be troubled by \_\_troubles\_\_\_”**    **Dealing with troublesome testing times?**    **1.     \_\_\_Denial\_\_\_\_ - hope it will go away**      **2.     \_\_\_Distress\_\_\_\_ - be agitated, “troubled”**      **3.     \_\_\_Discernment\_\_\_ - discover the source,**    **deal with it by relying on God’s Word (Psalm 119:105)**    **James 1:3, “Testing of your faith produces \_endurance\_\_”**      **1 Peter 1:7, “proof of your \_faith\_\_\_”**      **John 16:33, Jesus has “\_\_\_overcome\_\_ the world”**      **and we “overwhelmingly \_\_\_conquer\_\_ through Him**  **who loved us (because) nothing can separate us**    **from the love of God” (Romans 8:35-39)**      **John 14:1, “Believe” \_\_faith\_ in a:**      **1.     \_\_Person\_\_\_ - Jesus, “Believe in Me”**      **2.     \_\_\_Place\_\_ - Heaven, “prepare a place”**      **3.     \_\_Promise\_\_\_ - Eternal life,**  **“ "Where I am, there you may be”**    **God promises, “I know the \_\_plans\_\_\_ I have for you…**      **for welfare, not calamity (\_help\_\_ and not \_harm\_\_)**    **to give you a future and a hope” (Jeremiah 29:11)**          **HE IS RISEN – ARE YOU?    4-28-19**  **Colossians 1:10**    **What does your walk reveal?**      ·        **\_CHOICE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**      **1.     Accepting Jesus as Savior**      **a.     Confessing sin**      **b.     Believing that Jesus died to cover my sin**      **c.      Believing that my sins are forgiven (1 John 1:9)**      **Galatians 2:20   crucified with Christ**      **2.     Daily choosing to \_\_SERVE\_\_\_\_ God? (Joshua 24:15)**    ·        **\_CHANGE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**    **A new \_\_CREATION\_\_\_\_\_ (2 Corinthians 5:17),**      **with a new \_\_MIND\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Philippians 2:15)**      **and a \_\_\_HOLY\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ behavior (1 Peter 1:14-15);**      **by being \_\_TRANSFORMED\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 12:2),**      **and letting my \_\_MIND\_\_\_ dwell on things**      **“worthy of praise” (Philippians 4:8)**          ·        **\_CHALLENGE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **Matthew 16:24, “Follow Jesus:   \_DENY\_\_\_ self,**    **take up my cross and follow Him” -“Set my mind**      **on things \_\_\_ABOVE\_\_\_\_\_” (Colossians 3:2) by**    **“seeking   \_\_FIRST\_\_\_\_\_ the kingdom of God”**  **(Matthew 6:33)**    **1.     Process: 1 Thessalonians 5:17 - \_\_PRAY\_\_\_\_\_\_**      **2.     Proof: Galatians 5:22-24**      **a.     Revealing the \_\_FRUIT\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_SPIRIT\_\_\_**      **b.     Crucifying the \_\_FLESH\_\_\_**      **c.      Living…walking by the \_\_SPIRIT\_\_\_**      **HE IS RISEN – ARE YOU?**      **“WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE”  4-21-19**  **John 11:25-26**    ***“I am the resurrection and the life, whoever believes***    ***in Me shall live even if he dies, and everyone who lives***    ***and believes in Me, shall never die. Do you believe this?”***      **The Easter question: *“Do you believe this?”***      ·        **Do YOU believe this? Faith is \_\_Personal\_\_**      ·        **Do you BELIEVE this?**    **BELIEVE: \_Faith, Confidence, Trust- not intellectual assent\_**  **It is not a question of intellectual assent.**  **Critics said they would believe in Him,**  ***“if He came down” (Matthew 27:42)***  **James declared, *“The demons believe and tremble”***    **Belief is \_Trusting\_\_\_\_\_ that He is true,**    **and having \_\_Confidence\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the grace-gift of**  **salvation (*Ephesians 2:8*)**    ·        **Do you believe THIS?**      ***1.* His claim about His \_DIETY\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**      **2.     His claim about \_\_\_\_DEATH\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**      **3.     His claim about \_\_\_\_DESTINY\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**      **4.     His claim about \_\_\_\_DELIVERANCE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**      **What do you believe?**      **Lazarus died. Jesus called him from death to life; and**      ***“Because of Lazarus many were believing in Jesus”***    ***(John 12:11)***        **WHOEVER LIVES AND BELIEVES IN ME SHALL NEVER DIE**    **Eternal salvation is through faith (belief) in Jesus alone.**      **In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness**    **of sins. According to the riches of His grace (Eph. 1:7)**    [Home](http://lifewayfellowshiponline.org/default.asp?id=19751) » [Pastor's Message](http://lifewayfellowshiponline.org/PASTORSMESSAGE23718) |  |

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