Miller's Sermons

by

Luke Miller

Price 50 Cents

Firm Foundation Publishing House
Austin, Texas
Miller's Sermons

By Luke Miller

A Series of Gospel Sermons Delivered at Austin, Texas, October 21 to Nov. 1, 1940.

Stenographically Reported by Mrs. Nye Reid

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Luke Miller was born in Limestone County, near Belle Mina, Alabama, March 16, 1904. Having lost his father, his mother moved to Decatur when he was about six years old. There she reared him and sent him to school. He went as high as the eighth grade. His mother is a very religious woman, and her strict ways and manner in handling him, he says, was a blessing.

When Luke was fourteen years of age, he joined the Primitive Baptist Church, the one his mother had raised him in. In his search for light and truth, he later became a member of the church that is called "The Sanctified Church." When he was seventeen years of age, Brother Marshall Keeble came to Decatur and preached the gospel as it is written. Brother Miller heard him one night, and says that he was convinced that that was what he had been looking for. The Grant Street Church of Christ (white) had Brother Keeble to come to Decatur. Brother Miller says that he shall always be thankful that they did.

He was baptized one very cold day in borrowed clothes because his mother had forbade his being baptized. There were only three colored members, Brother Fred Hewin, Robert Lee and Luke. These three met and studied, and worshipped for about a year when, because of work, the other two had to leave town. For nearly two years Brother Miller was alone. The nearest colored church was Huntsville, Alabama. He would go there as often as possible. When nineteen years old, he married Mattie Lee Ballentine, a girl whom he had known and loved for many years. She has proved a great blessing to him. Soon after their marriage, she obeyed the gospel, and another obeyed, mak-
ing three to meet and worship. The three of them met in Luke's home, and it was there that he made his first talk with an audience of two, and he reports that was two too many. The white brethren gave him a number of good books, by such men as N. B. Hardeman, C. R. Nichol, T. B. Larimore, Joe Warlick, G. H. P. Showalter, and others. He began to study in earnest. He made up his mind to preach the gospel.

Brother Miller's first sermon to an audience of any size, was in a meeting Brother Keeble was conducting in Florence, Alabama. He declares that he had studied hard and had a sermon that would have taken thirty minutes to deliver, but when he got up the crowd excited him, and he said it in three minutes. He had forgotten the rest.

Brother Keeble encouraged him very much, and whenever Keeble was anywhere near Decatur Luke would go, so he could get to talking in front of him. Brother Miller says Keeble's continued encouragement and advice made him grow. He used to hear him preach, and then go home and try to deliver the lesson just like he did. Brother Miller says he never did get it as good as Brother Keeble, and hasn't done so yet, but Keeble is still his pattern.

During those days, when he was trying to learn to preach, he had to spend quite a bit and lose many days getting off to spend time with Brother Keeble in meetings. Not making much on the job he had, it soon was felt. His wife sacrificed very much and went without many things to help him preach the gospel.

His first local work was in Florida. Brother Keeble had established churches in Tampa, Lakeland, and St. Petersburg, Florida, and recommended Luke to preach for these three churches. Young preachers were scarce then, but encouraged by his willingness to sacrifice and suffer, many young men began to preach the gospel. Several white churches helped in his support in Florida, including Central church in Nashville, Tennessee.

Brother Miller's next local work was in Valdosta, Georgia.
He was recommended there by Brother Keeble. During the years he was with the Valdosta church, and the Florida church, he spent most of the summer months traveling with and leading songs for Brother Keeble. This was a great help to him. He learned much about preaching and evangelizing and met many people that have since called him for meetings.

He moved from Valdosta, Georgia, to Paris, Texas, in 1932. In June of 1935 he was called to Port Arthur, Texas, by the white church of Christ. He is still working with this congregation. He says Brother O. C. Lambert and the Sixth Street Church encourage him very much. Besides doing local work, he has held many meetings in new fields being called and supported by white churches. The meetings have resulted in establishing twenty-three congregations, the largest of which was in Corsicana, Texas, with two hundred eighteen baptisms, and five from the Christian Church. Altogether Brother Miller has baptized about two thousand, and of this Brother Miller says: “To God be all the praise.” He has held a number of meetings with churches already established. A splendid number of preachers have developed in the congregations he has labored with, and these are now preaching for churches. Among them are Shelton, T. W. Gibbs, Wm. Whittaker, John O. Williams, James Cooper, Laredo Brown, Jim Aldridge, Hubert Baker, Matt Murry, J. L. Goodman, Rufus Carvain, John Mitchell, John Henry Clay, Robert Simmons, L. C. Bradley, Lonnie Smith, and a number of others. These men are doing a great work. Luke takes no credit for the work they are doing. He is just happy to have been with them in the beginning of their work, and to have helped them get started off.

“I shall always be thankful,” he says, “to the many white brethren that have called and supported me both in local and evangelistic work. Without their aid and encouragement, I feel that I could not have done what little I have done. Also to the many colored brothers and sisters who
have helped and stood by me these years, I am thankful. Brethren, pray for me."

Brother Miller's present address is 1034 Titsingh Avenue, Port Arthur, Texas.

Austin, Texas, November 10, 1940.
Take No Chances

When Traveling, Get a Map
When Paying Debt Get Receipt
When Measuring Use Rule

To Become a Christian
Search the Scriptures
TAKE NO CHANCES

NUMBER 1.

When Traveling Get A Map.
When Paying Debt Get Receipt
When Measuring Use Rule
To Become A Christian, Search the Scriptures.

It is indeed a pleasure and a blessing to have this opportunity to speak to you on this occasion. This is our first night of the meeting and I appreciate the splendid attendance. I feel sure I am talking to honest and intelligent people who want the facts. Yes, you want the truth. I hope in my humble and feeble way to preach nothing but the things you can find in the Bible.

This is my second meeting in Austin. Several years ago, I was called here by the white churches in Austin, through Brother Showalter. This time I also corresponded with him. This meeting is sponsored by the University church of Christ.

I thank God for the white churches in Austin and throughout the country, because of the great work they are doing in bringing the gospel to my race. Many colored churches are established each year through this great missionary spirit in their hearts.

I am also thankful that some of the sermons of this meeting are to be put in book form. It is certainly a great surprise to me as I have never felt like my sermons are worthy of such honor, or that I am worthy of such a great blessing.

We have two fine books of sermons. One is by Brother M. Keeble, and the other by Brother R. N. Hogan. These books have done much good among my people and if these
little talks that are made each night shall lead some soul to Christ, I shall forever be grateful to Brother Showalter for having them printed, and for the time and means spent that some who are not Christians may some day read and possibly obey the Truth.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, my subject tonight is “Take No Chances.” The lesson is based on a passage of Scripture found in Matthew 27:65. After Christ had been crucified and placed in Joseph’s new tomb, the Chief Priests and Pharisees came unto Pilate and requested that he put some one on guard that Christ’s body might not be stolen away. They did not believe Christ would rise from the dead, so they wanted to make sure that his body was not taken and thus fool the people. While it was foolish for them to doubt the power of God to raise Christ from the dead, you must admit it was wise of them to take no chances. Pilate said to them, “Ye have a watch. Go your way. Make it as sure as you can.”

Ladies and gentlemen, this was Pilate’s way of saying, “Take no chances.” The world is careful about everything today, but their souls. They are careless and taking chances with the most precious thing man ever possessed. Jesus says, “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”

I want you to notice the diagram on the blackboard. To prove that people are careful in things pertaining to this life, I call your attention first to the fact that when you are traveling, get a map. My friends, when you are going to a place and over a road you have never seen before, you do not try to go there on feelings. You know you could never tell by your feelings that you were on the right road. My friends, you would get a map and follow instructions and drive carefully and finally land in the place you wanted to go. Another fact is this, you would think strange of any man who would lay this map aside and pat on his breast
and say, "I don't care what that man says, I know I am right because I feel it in my heart." My intelligent friends, the heart is all right but it will not guide you on the highway from city to city neither can it guide you to heaven. You must get God's Divine Road Map and follow its instructions, if you want to be a Christian, and reach that heavenly city.

The Bible tells us, "He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool," Prov. 28:26; again "the heart is deceitful," Jer. 17:9. So, friends, you had better take God's word and let it guide you.

I remember several years ago, my wife and I were coming out of St. Petersburg, Florida, going to Valdosta, Georgia. We got to where the road forked. I was driving; she was looking at the map. I took the road that had the most traffic on it. But she said, "I think you are on the wrong road." I said, "No, too much traffic on it to be wrong." My wife said, "Traffic or no traffic let's look at the map." So I stopped; we searched the map and sure enough I was on the wrong road. Many people today are wrong religiously because they were looking at the great crowd of people and not at the Bible. They are members of churches, and have obeyed a doctrine that they cannot find in the word of God. Friends, when we stand before the judgment bar we are not going to be judged by what mamma and papa said, or your own feelings, but by the word of God. John 12:48. May God help us to take the Bible as our guide.

Our second thought is, When Paying a Debt, get a receipt. I know everybody is careful to get a receipt because money is involved. But you should be more careful to get a receipt from your preacher for the doctrine he teaches because your soul is involved. When a preacher asks you to a mourner's bench or altar and pray for pardon, sinner friend, ask him to give you chapter and verse for it and you will come.
I remember a young lady who had learned the truth, went to a revival at the Baptist Church. The preacher called for mourners and she would not go to the mourner's bench. The preacher asked her why? She told him she could not find it in the Bible, but if he would show it to her in the Bible she would gladly come. The preacher said, "Oh, well you don't want to be saved!" She wanted proof. Yes, she wanted her receipt and the preacher could not give it.

Gentlemen, you ought to ask the preachers for proof for sinners praying for pardon, "getting religion," and many other unscriptural things they teach.

Many of you have obeyed this doctrine, and is going into Judgment claiming the old account has been settled, and have not got a receipt to show it has been settled.

Our third point is when measuring use the rule. Suppose three men get into an argument over the length of this bench. Suppose one says it is ten feet long; the other says it is eleven; another says it is twelve. Each feels like he is right. Each is honest, but somebody is wrong. Finally one suggests to get a rule. They put the rule on it, and the rule says it is twelve feet. The other men admit they were mistaken, and all agree on what the rule says. Friend, the Bible is God's divine rule. Why can't we agree on what it says.

One man may say his church is right, another says his is right. How can we settle it? Go get a Bible. Whatever church you can find there is right and all others are wrong.

Now, in conclusion, let me say if you want to become a Christian, search the Scriptures. Now, friend, many of you will admit that when you became a member of the church you are now in, that you did not look to see if it was in the Bible. Neither did you look for its doctrine. Now get your Bible down and make it as sure as you can by following its teachings. What does the word of God teach us to do to become Christians? First, Hear the Gospel, Mark 12:29; Believe, Hebrews 11:6; Repent of Our Sins, Acts
2:38; Confess the Christ, Matt. 10:32; and Be Baptized for Remission of Sins, Acts 2:38. The Lord adds all who do these things to the church of Christ. Acts 2:47, Matt. 16:18. May God help you to see it, my friends.
The People Were Mistaken

John the Baptist
ELIAS
JEREMIAS
One of the Prophets

Thou Art the
CHRIST
Son of Living God

THE CHURCH
How To Enter

C. O. C.
H. B. R. C. B.
THE PEOPLE WERE MISTAKEN

NUMBER 2.

John the Baptist
Elias, Jeremias
One of the Prophets
The Church, How to Enter

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

My friends, that time is here now when people are turning away their ears from the truth and have turned unto fables, that which is not true. I hope the day will come when honest people will lay aside the doctrines and commandments of men to go back to the Bible, the blessed book that tells us the love of our heavenly Father and what we must do to be saved. I often wondered why the apostle Paul made the statement, "Be instant in season and out of season" but after careful study I believe I understand what he meant by "in season and out of season." "In season" is when the people like it and "out of season" is when they don't like it and with many people the word of God is out of season! It is not liked very much. Nevertheless the apostle Paul said, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season." That is, give it to them when they like it
and when they don't. Preach the word when they smile and when they frown. I realize that as I stand before you now, I must also stand before the judgment bar of Christ and give an account for the things I am saying. Therefore I want to honestly and earnestly present the truth and nothing but the truth.

Many people are wondering why it is that we don't have dancing and much shouting in the church of Christ. There are many people wondering why we don't have drums, fiddles, etc. Now there is a reason why we don't have these things. One reason is because it is not authorized in the word of God for Christians to use musical instruments in the worship. Some people call their dancing, "holy dancing." Now friends, all dances are unholy dances. They call it "holy dancing" and make out like the Holy Ghost is making them dance but if you think it is the Holy Ghost, you just watch and see how quick they quit dancing after the music stops. If the Holy Ghost were inspiring them, they would keep on after the music stopped. God's Holy Ghost is intelligent and makes us conduct ourselves soberly and intelligently. I want to call your attention to a fact that is true. We have not had any testifying in this meeting. You take our dancing friends, they get up and testify how good they are and how they have lived, and even Christ, no greater character ever made footprints on the earth, and he never testified as to how good he was. He always gave the praise and honor to the Father. They say "I've been good. I have not sinned all day" but they never say what they did that night! Let me suggest that if they just must have testifying, let the wife testify for the husband and the husband testify for the wife. That being the case, that would break up the testimony! And if you want to know how both of them lived, call on the neighbors! But let us lay aside all these things and get down to the Bible for our guide. The time has come when the preacher must preach the whole counsel of God. Some may not like it and go away and criticize but nevertheless, I have got to
preach the truth and help some honest souls to see the light and be buried in baptism and rise to walk in the newness of life, in the church whose doctrine can be found in the word of Christ.

The subject tonight is “The People Were Mistaken.” I call your attention to the fact that many honest and intelligent people can be mistaken religiously. I hope to prove that it is possible to be honest and intelligent and yet be mistaken. My friends, if we can prove that fact I believe it would be a great benefit to many honest souls who possibly have obeyed a doctrine that they cannot find recorded in the Bible. When I refer to the doctrines, I do so with respect. I respect the preachers and consider them as gentlemen yet the fact remains that their doctrine cannot be found in the word of God. Isaiah 9:16, “The leaders of this people cause them to err” and Jesus in Matthew 15:9 says, “In vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.” There is the trouble today. People are worshipping according to the doctrines of men and Christ says their worship is in vain. Notice Matthew 16: When Christ came into Caesarea Philippi, he asked the question, “Who do men say that I the Son of man am?” (V. 13). Some said he was John the Baptist; others said, Elias; some said, Jeremias and some fellow said he was one of the prophets.

Was Jesus John the Baptist? I think you will agree that he was not John the Baptist; he was not Elias; not Jeremias and not one of the prophets of the Old Testament. They were mistaken about Christ and many are mistaken about Christ today. He asked another question, “Who say ye that I am?” Peter answered, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus said, “Upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” Christ promised to build his church. God said, “This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased” and on several occasions had proved by his mighty works that Jesus was the Son of God. Peter took what God said
and was right. Those who were mistaken took the opinions of men and were wrong. If you follow the opinions of men, you are wrong. If you take what God says about it, you are right. The majority were wrong about Christ then and the majority are wrong about Christ today. A few were right then and a few are right today. My friends, we have to take what the Bible says if we expect to be saved. As the people were mistaken then about Christ, they are mistaken today about a number of religious things.

First of all they are mistaken about the church. They think Christ built a number of churches. In Matthew 16:18 Christ said, "Upon this rock I will build my church," and he used a certain word my and "upon this rock I will build my church." Then whose church is it? It is Christ's church or the church of Christ. Christ built the church. He bought it with his own precious blood and therefore the church is his. Not only that, Christ said, "The gates of hell shall not prevail against it." It. It means one and only one. Them means more than one, so Christ built only one church. Christ built "it." Man made "them". What is going to become of "them"? Shall be rooted up. A preacher said to me after I preached a sermon, "Brother Miller, if there is just one church, why did Christ say 'other sheep I have which are not of this fold'?" He tried to make it appear there were other children of God not in his church but when Christ made that statement, "Other sheep I have which are not of this fold," the church had not been built. John 10:16 Christ said, "Other sheep I have which are not of this fold: them also must I bring and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd." Christ said there shall be one fold and one shepherd. Now we have two or three hundred folds and it would take the Lord to tell how many shepherds. "One shepherd and one fold"—let's see what Christ was talking about when he said, "Other sheep I have which are not of this fold." Matthew 15:24, "I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Christ was referring to the Gentiles which were
the Bible speaks of? In Acts 2:47, "Praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." The church is Christ's family. You are born into it—as I was born into the Miller family. They didn't wait until I was grown and open the doors and tell me to join the family. You are born of water and the Spirit—a member of the church of Christ and you don't have to join it. Any church you have to join is not the church you read about in the Bible. We must all first hear the gospel. Mark 12:29, "The first of all the commandments is, Hear O Israel," then you must believe the gospel. Hebrews 11:16, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Repent of your sins. Luke 13, "I tell you, nay: but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Just as those people had to repent, it is necessary for us today. Paul says in Acts 17:30: "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent. What is repentance? Whenever you stop doing whatever is sinful and wrong. But quitting does not settle the account. If you buy ten dollars worth at some store on credit and you quit that does not pay the bill. Quit, then pay up. In repentance you stop the account where it is and you can't say it is settled until you are baptized for the remission of your sins. After repentance, there is confession. Matthew 10:32: "Whosoever shall confess me before men; him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven." After one has confessed, he should be buried in baptism. Some teach sprinkling and pouring. Baptism is a burial in water. Paul in talking in Romans 6:4 said, "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in the newness of life."

Sometimes people in referring to sprinkling say that Paul said in Hebrews 10:22, "Let us draw near with a true heart
LUKE MILLER
in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.” You wash your body in baptism friends, and not in sprinkling. What does it take to put a man into the church of Christ? Hear the gospel, believe, repent, confess and be buried in baptism. Won’t you become a member of that church whose doctrine and name can be found in the word of God and be buried in baptism for the remission of sins?
Correct Your Mistake

Mary
Saul
Pray For Pardon
Get Religion
Profess Religion
Tell Experience
Voted On
Saved Before Baptism

Mistaken

Hear (Gospel)
Believe (Gospel)
Repent
Confess
Baptism
Correct
Number 77 has been announced as the invitation song. I am certainly thankful and happy to see this splendid audience on this occasion. I trust you have come that you might get a clearer and better understanding of the word of God. We hope and pray that when the invitation is extended and the privilege granted that a number of honest souls will come forward, confess that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and be buried in baptism for the remission of your sins and arise to walk in the newness of life. What people need to do today is to trust God more and not put their confidence in men. I read in the third chapter of Proverbs, verses 5 and 6, “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” The great trouble today is the people are not putting their confidence in the Lord. They are trusting men and following the doctrines and commandments of men. When God led the children of Israel out from Egyptian bondage, he led them out by night with a pillar of fire and in the daytime by a pillar of clouds, which was his divine guidance, leading them as they travelled on their journeys. Today my friends, we are to be led and guided by the word of God. David said (Psalms 119: 105), “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” Many people are letting their feelings be their guide. They are trying to follow their feelings instead of the word of God. Your feelings and conscience often fool you.

Friends, I think I can find an example in the Bible of a man who followed his feelings and was misled. The man
was mistaken. In Genesis 27, we read about Isaac who was the father of two sons, Jacob and Esau. He wanted to bless Esau, the older boy, but being kind of blind, he could not see so well, and he had to trust his feelings. The mother of these boys wanted the younger boy, Jacob, to get the blessing while the father had intended to bless the older boy. So he sent Esau out to find him meat that he might bless him before he died. The Bible tells us while he was gone the mother fixed up a plan and her plan was that Jacob would get the blessing. Jacob knew that his father might catch him unless something was done so he told her, "My brother, Esau, is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man. My father might feel me and find out that I am the wrong boy." She fixed up that. I want to stop long enough to tell you men something. You think you are smart but let me tell you, when a woman makes up her mind to do something, let it be good or bad, you're not even in the race. The fact about it, this woman decided that she would have Jacob to kill a kid and take the skin and put it over the places where the father was most likely to feel. He went unto his father and Isaac suspected Jacob. He said "Come near that I may feel thee." His voice sounded like Jacob but he felt like Esau. Jacob lied when his father asked him how he had found the meat so quickly. He said, "Because the Lord thy God brought it to me." Isaac blessed the wrong boy on account of feelings. He was blind and when people are blind spiritually today, they try to feel their way to heaven. Let me tell you this. You can't feel your way. You are going to have to walk by the word of God. Why? Jesus said "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32). "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me (John 5:39). I hope that tonight you will lay aside the doctrines and commandments of men and take the Bible, the word of God as your only guide. A great many people ask why do I continue to bother the doctrines
of men. “Don’t you know you can’t stop preachers from preaching what they are preaching?” Well I can do like a man told his wife about a calf that was running away with him. He couldn’t stop the calf and his wife told him to turn him loose but he said, “I may not can stop him but I can slow him down.”

I mean to tell you that I am trying to preach the truth and call the people’s attention to the mistakes preachers are making. Many honest souls are being misled and when these honest people learn the truth, they are going to demand of the preachers that they preach the Bible as it is written. We won’t stop them but we will slow them down. You can do as a lady told me a few days ago. She said, “I realize I can’t stop the church I am a member of from teaching false doctrine, but I can stop myself and come out of it and not take part in it.” That is the way to do. If you can’t stop them, you can stop yourself.

Tonight our subject is “Correct Your Mistake.” The reason I want to call your attention to this lesson is because many honest people have made a mistake religiously and are going into judgment. Many of them are stubborn and will not correct their mistake. Even though they might see their mistake, they are going ahead like they started, caring not what the Bible has said. That is not honest and if you are honest and learn your mistake, you will correct it. I read a piece in a paper once that said there was a business firm that had signs all through the building and those signs said, “Correct your Mistake Before you Leave This Building.” That was a wonderful sign and I would like to make this statement: We are living in this house of clay. These bodies of ours are nothing but houses of clay and I would like to say to everyone—if you made a mistake religiously, correct that mistake before you leave this building. If you do this my friend, you are going to be glad but if you fail to correct it before death, you are going to be sorry, and be driven from the presence of God. In Matthew 7:22-23 Jesus
Christ said many will come unto him in that day and say they had prophesied. They had cast out devils and had done many wonderful works but they were told to depart. Many good people have lived good lives but they have made a mistake religiously and failed to correct it. We ought to correct our mistake before we pass out of this life. I want to call your attention to some examples of people in the Bible that made mistakes and corrected them. First of all, Luke 2, we read about the mother of Jesus, who was named Mary. She and her husband, Joseph, according to their custom went up to Jerusalem to worship and they carried Jesus with them who at that time was about twelve years old. The Bible tells us, when they fulfilled their time and were returning home, the young child, Jesus, tarried behind. What was the mistake Mary made? This mistake was supposing that Christ was with her, failing to make investigation, failing to examine and see whether or not he was there. She went on supposing he was with her but she had left Jesus behind. Many honest people today have left Jesus behind. They are going on their way, feeling and supposing they are right with Jesus, when Jesus has been left behind. Here is one thing about Mary. When she searched and could not find him, she went back to Jerusalem where she left him and found Jesus, then she rejoiced. If you have made a mistake religiously and accepted a doctrine not in the Bible, you have left Jesus behind. If you ever hope to see his face in peace, you might as well go back and find him. You don't need to get mad at me. You left him behind. Some preacher deceived you and misled you and instead, you are getting mad at me for trying to help you. If somebody runs into you and breaks your leg, you don't get mad at the doctor for trying to set it in place. He is trying to help you. There is no need to get mad at me for I am trying to help you. Mary had to go back to Jerusalem and correct her mistake and today you need to correct your mistake and get right in the sight of God.
Christ said many will come unto him in that day and say they had prophesied. They had cast out devils and had done many wonderful works but they were told to depart. Many good people have lived good lives but they have made a mistake religiously and failed to correct it. We ought to correct our mistake before we pass out of this life. I want to call your attention to some examples of people in the Bible that made mistakes and corrected them. First of all, Luke 2, we read about the mother of Jesus, who was named Mary. She and her husband, Joseph, according to their custom went up to Jerusalem to worship and they carried Jesus with them who at that time was about twelve years old. The Bible tells us, when they fulfilled their time and were returning home, the young child, Jesus, tarried behind. What was the mistake Mary made? This mistake was supposing that Christ was with her, failing to make investigation, failing to examine and see whether or not he was there. She went on supposing he was with her but she had left Jesus behind. Many honest people today have left Jesus behind. They are going on their way, feeling and supposing they are right with Jesus, when Jesus has been left behind. Here is one thing about Mary. When she searched and could not find him, she went back to Jerusalem where she left him and found Jesus, then she rejoiced. If you have made a mistake religiously and accepted a doctrine not in the Bible, you have left Jesus behind. If you ever hope to see his face in peace, you might as well go back and find him. You don't need to get mad at me. You left him behind. Some preacher deceived you and misled you and instead, you are getting mad at me for trying to help you. If somebody runs into you and breaks your leg, you don't get mad at the doctor for trying to set it in place. He is trying to help you. There is no need to get mad at me for I am trying to help you. Mary had to go back to Jerusalem and correct her mistake and today you need to correct your mistake and get right in the sight of God.
Here is another man that made a mistake. Saul of Tar-sus was a sinner, a man who had a good conscience and thought he was doing right. Many people follow their conscience and think they are doing right. Saul's conscience caused him to kill Christians and to persecute the church. He meant well but he had been deceived. Your conscience will lead you wrong if it has been taught wrong. The Bible tells us that as Saul neared Damascus, about noon one day he saw a light and, he heard a voice. Many people say they have heard a voice, too, but let me ask you what did that voice tell you? The voice said to Saul as he neared Damascus, “Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?” Saul said, “Who art thou, Lord?” And he said “I am Jesus whom thou persecutest.” Jesus said, “It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.” Saul said “Lord, what will you have me to do?” Here is the point. Christ did not tell Saul of Tarsus what to do to be saved. He did not tell him because there are preachers sent to tell men what to do to be saved. If Christ was in the telling business, he would have told Saul of Tarsus what to do but he didn't tell him. Christ gave the keys into the hands of men. If he had told Saul what to do, he would have broken his own plan. Some man had to tell Saul what to do to be saved. He went on down to Damascus and began to pray. God has never authorized a sinner to pray for a single thing. I am therefore contending that any sinner that is taught to pray for pardon is misled and anyone that does it has made a mistake, and will have to correct it. Saul prayed and he quit eating and drinking and this proved he was in earnest. Think of it! Here is a man that quits eating and drinking and still doesn't come through or get religion, yet many people keep on eating and drinking and claim they got it. There is something wrong somewhere. Let us notice when he found out he was mistaken in persecuting the church, found out he was mistaken in praying for pardon and when Ananias told him what to do, he arose and was baptized and his
sins were washed away (Acts 22:16). It is in every Bible in town, if it has not been cut out.

Now friends, I want to appeal to you and ask you some questions. Did you pray for pardon as a sinner? If you did, you made a mistake. Why do I say that? Any sinner makes a mistake in praying for pardon because God has never promised to hear and answer a sinner's prayer. I made a statement once that God would not hear an alien sinner's prayer and somebody grabbed this Publican and Pharisee. Luke 18:13 says the Publican was a sinner, but here is one thing that you overlooked in that case. This Publican, even though he confessed that he was a sinner, he was not an alien sinner, but an erring child of God. None but God's children could go into the Temple (Ezek. 4:9). God has promised to hear his children's prayer, but not the alien sinner's prayer. 2 Chron. 7:14, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

God promised to hear his children which are called by his name. This Publican and Pharisee were both erring children of God, one confessed his guilt and the other tried to cover his up. Like many today in the church, they have erred and won't confess their faults. If they confess and pray to God, they could be forgiven because they are God's children, and he promised to hear and answer his children's prayers. But the alien sinner unbaptized, was never told to pray (John 9:31). "Now we know that God heareth not sinners." The Bible is right, and you are going to have to obey what it says if you want God to hear you.

Another mistake, they say they "got religion." Even the preachers are patting themselves on the chest and saying, "they got religion." The leaders of the people cause them to err. Matthew 15:14, "If the blind lead the blind both shall fall into the ditch." You are ditch bound
unless you quit following blind leaders and any preacher that preaches that you must get religion is blind, and the Bible says if the blind lead the blind, they both shall fall into the ditch. Religion is mentioned five times in the New Testament and not a single time in the old. There is not a place that says “get it.” What is religion? James 1:27, “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this: To visit the fatherless, and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.” You know what the trouble is, God said to do religion, and man preaches get it, and if you follow what man says, you will miss the gospel of the Son of God. You made a mistake and you have to correct it. Correct your mistake before it is too late.

After a man gets religion, they require you to profess it. You must tell what you saw and heard. One man told me at Lake Charles, Louisiana, that when he got religion, he saw and talked to God, and said God talked to him like a natural man. Now friends, he was honest and sincere as he could be, but I told him that he was mistaken. I hated to hurt him, but sometimes you have to hurt a man to help him, and so I told him that he was mistaken. He said, “How do you know?” Because Jesus said in John 5:37, “And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape.” The Bible is right. You have not heard his voice nor seen him. Some preachers say they had a little talk with him. Something wrong somewhere. In 1 Cor. 15:8, Paul said, “Last of all he was seen by me.” Paul said he was the last one to see him. (Christ). Correct your mistake for you have not seen Jesus.

After professing religion many churches require you to tell your experience and they vote on you, and see if they want you or not. If they don’t like your testimony, they tell you to go back, and try it again. They used to send them back, but now they have so many rallies, so
much taxation, they don't care what you tell, they take you in. They have you in this club and another club. Do you think I could come to your house if there was somebody at every door and window with a club? First thing you know, these churches are going to club Jesus out, if he was ever in there. May God help you to quit "clubbing." Vote on a candidate and open the doors to take him in; tax them and turn them out because they don't pay. All of this is a mistake. It is a man-made doctrine. Many honest people have been misled, and I pray God they will correct their mistake and accept and obey the truth.

Another sad mistake people are making, is claiming they are saved before baptism. Baptists require you to say you are saved before they baptize you. Methodists say you are saved by faith only, but the Bible says we are not justified by faith only. James 2:24, "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only." Now friends, listen to Mark 16:16. Jesus says, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." This was after he conquered hell, death, and the grave; after he arose from the grave; victorious with all power. He said, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." No preacher will say that is not in the Bible. If any preacher in this town, thinks he can prove that baptism is not essential, let him take this pulpit and I will sit down. When he's through, I will get up and show him his mistake. If we are not correct, we want to be corrected. Tell your pastor to come down and straighten us out, if we are wrong. He will tell you "Stay 'way from there before they confuse your mind." He says that because he cannot prove his doctrine.

Jesus said, "He that believes and is baptized shall be saved." But man says, "He that believes is saved, and may be baptized."

If you got up and told the church you were saved before
you were baptized, you have to correct it or else you will stand in the judgment condemned. I don't want to hurt your feelings, but I have to tell the truth. In the language of Paul, "Am I become your enemy because I tell you the truth?" Anybody who tells you the truth and tries to help you correct your mistakes is your friend. But one that lets you go on and doesn't tell you any better, he is the worst enemy you have. If you accepted the doctrine of men, it is like a man who took poison. Now take a good dose of the gospel of Christ, and purge all this doctrine out of your system. The gospel will save you, but false doctrine will cause you to be lost. There are five things a sinner must do to be saved, five things to correct his mistake. You say, "I am already a member of a church, do I have to do the same thing that a person who never was a member of the church would have to do, to be saved?" Suppose we both decided to go to town. I get on the wrong road to town, and you don't make a start. You just stand where you are. I travel for several blocks in the wrong direction to town. My friend, would I be any nearer to town than you? You are just as close, for I went in the wrong direction, and now I would have to come back and go just as far as you to get to town. The alien sinner has not started to heaven. Many religious people have made a start but took the wrong road. They will have to come back and correct their mistake. Friends you must Hear the gospel (Mark 12:29); Believe (Heb. 11:6); Repent (Luke 13:3) Confess the Son of God. Matt. 10:42, "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven." Be buried in baptism for the remission of sins. Acts 2:38, Peter said, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Somebody says, "I have been baptized once." Yes, but what were you baptized for? Did you profess religion,
and tell your experiences? Were you voted on? Did you say you were saved before baptism? If you told that, you were mistaken and you were not scripturally baptized. It is like a lady making a cake. If the ingredients are not fresh and good, the cake will not be good. I don't care how good the icing looks, there is something wrong on the inside! Even though you may have been buried in baptism my friends, the doctrines, the things you obeyed before you were baptized caused you to be unscripturally baptized. It takes the right teaching to make the right baptism. You can't be taught wrong and be baptized right. But you say where is an example of somebody being baptized again? In Acts 19, Paul took twelve men that had been baptized under John's baptisms. My Baptist friends tell you John's baptism made Baptists. If that is true, Paul takes those twelve Baptists and baptizes them over again. If those twelve needed another baptism, then men today need another, if they have never been baptized for remission of sins.

So friends, don't be afraid or ashamed to accept the gospel of Christ. I would not be afraid to confess Christ before ten thousand men. Will you come tonight while we stand and sing that sweet invitation song?
Foolishness of God

Naaman Healed
2 Kings 5

Brass Serpent
Numbers 21

Blind Eyes Opened
John 9

Baptism
For Remission of Sins
FOOLISHNESS OF GOD

NUMBER 4.

My friends, we are present tonight, and we trust our coming together is pleasing to our heavenly Father. It is my desire to please him in all things, and to lead men and women to Christ. This meeting is not pitched as mere entertainment or to make fun, but it is an honest and sincere effort to teach those things that make Christians and to uproot those things that will not make Christians.

On last night we talked on the subject, “Take No Chances”. We pointed out the fact that people should read the word of God and learn what to do to be saved. Many people do not believe that we must obey the written word to be saved. They expect some “better felt than told” feeling, and condemn what they call a “book” religion. But my friends, all we know about God’s plan of salvation, we must get from the written word.

We pray that you will take what God says and not follow the teachings of men. I appreciate the words of David when he said: “It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in men” (Ps. 118:8). So let us enter into this study with open hearts. Now let us notice the lesson before us for tonight.

N. H. (Naaman Healed)
B. S. (Brass Serpent)
B. E. O. (Blind Eyes Opened)
B. Re. S. (Baptism for Remission of Sins)

My subject this evening is the “Foolishness of God.” We trust and pray that the subject will be carefully and earnestly considered. The reason I selected this lesson is because the plan of salvation today is looked upon as foolishness, and the average man considers the doctrine
of Christ a big piece of foolishness and those that accept it are sometimes called "fools." But friends, I am contending that the word of God and the doctrine of Christ that some preachers call foolishness is the one thing that it takes to save us from our sins. I want to go farther than that. There have always been some people who looked upon God's way and good things as foolishness. Even in the days of the apostle Paul, he wrote in 1 Cor. 1:25: "For the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men." So Paul in his day found some that would call God's plan foolish, but not only that, we have some examples in the Old Testament where the people considered God's plan as a foolish plan, but later had to accept it in order to receive the benefits which God has promised.

1. Naaman Healed. I call your attention first to "Naaman Healed from Leprosy" (2 Kings 5:1). We have here the record of a man, a great, outstanding man so far as accomplishments are concerned; in fighting, he was a soldier and did wonderful things, but the Bible says he was a leper. Now that disease was a disease that could not be cured. There was no human skill that could cure leprosy. Only God could cure men of leprosy. The Bible says a maid at Naaman's house learned that Captain Naaman was a leper, and, of course, she suggested there was a man in Israel that could cure Captain Naaman. The arrangements were made, and Naaman, instead of going to Elisha, went to the king of Israel. My friends, I would like to make this statement. Many honest people are making the same mistake that Naaman made. He went to the wrong person; when he should have gone to the prophet, he went to the king. Many people go to the wrong place when they should go to the Bible for counsel. Many honest men go to the mourner's bench to pray. The time has come to go to the right place to get the right information. But notice, after a while Naaman went on down to Elisha and instead of going
in himself, he sent a messenger in. Elisha sent the messenger back to him and told him to dip in Jordan seven times. It made Naaman mad. He went away in a rage, kicking against it. Many honest people kick against the word of God and fight the things that it takes to save them. People in this town are mad at the church of Christ and its doctrine. They fight it and we fight back. We have to fight for the things that are right.

A doctor fights a disease for our own good. We love him and we pay him well for it. We pay our preachers but they are called everything but the children of God. Naaman was told to do a certain thing that many people would call foolishness—dip in Jordan seven times! Think of it—dip in water seven times to be cured! He left in a rage, but he went on down and dipped once. He came up and still had it. He dipped twice, came up and still had it. He dipped three times, came up and still had it. He dipped the fourth time, came up and still had it. He dipped five times, came up and still had it. He dipped six times, came up and still had it. He dipped the seventh time and came up and was cured. God said dip seven times and six won't do! When God says do a certain number of things to receive a certain benefit, you can't get that certain benefit until you do that certain number of things. Naaman might as well not dip at all as to dip the first six times and leave off the seventh time, if he expected to be cured. God has told the sinner a certain number of things to do to be saved, and he is not saved until he does them. Naaman went down seven times and came up and where was his leprosy? God washed Naaman's leprosy away. People are fighting water, yet they have to admit there is one wonderful job done with water. God washed Naaman's leprosy with water. He went down with leprosy and came up without it. I am contending the same God lives today and if he could take water and wash Naaman's leprosy away, he can take water and do something else that I will tell you about after awhile. Naan-
man was cured with a thing that looked like foolishness and thus was saved.

2. Another example, a brass serpent, Numbers 21. The children of Israel were brought out of Egyptian bondage, out from the hard taskmasters into the wilderness where they could serve God according to the law. Many of them began to complain about the lack of the necessities of life, and God called out serpents to bite them. They began to die in numbers. It is a dangerous thing to kick against God’s plans. The Bible tells us that many of them died. Then the people went to Moses and talked to him. Moses talked to God and God told Moses to make a brass figure in the form of a serpent and put it on a pole and whosoever was bitten by a serpent and should look upon the brass serpent, he shall live. Imagine, a man bitten by a snake, looking at a pole, expecting it to help him! Suppose you get bitten by a snake and I tell you to look at a brass serpent. Why you would say, “Don’t you know that won’t do any good, don’t you know I have a little sense.” You would criticise. It would look foolish—looking up at a pole expecting to cure one of a snake bite. Anything that God commands to be done will work every time. Now friends, when they looked at the pole, they were healed. Who healed them? God. Looking at a brass serpent looked like foolishness but it worked. If I got bitten by a snake, and would come running to some of you. You would have some remedy—a poultice or take a good drink of you know—but that might look reasonable, but think of a piece of brass! Nobody would believe that had any sense. God commanded that and those who obeyed it were healed. All who obeyed were healed.

3. Blind eyes opened. This time in the 9th chapter of John, there was a blind man. He had never seen his mother, nor his father—born blind—and yet my friends, he wanted to see. He came in contact with Jesus, and Jesus prescribed a remedy that the average man would call foolish. He spat on the ground, mixed clay and spit and anointed the
blind man's eyes and told him to go wash in the pool of Siloam. That looked foolish. If you were blind and somebody would spit on the ground and then put the clay in your eyes, why you'd say, "You'll never put that in my eyes," but this man stood still and let Christ put it in his eyes because he wanted to see. When a man wants to be saved, anything God commands to be done, he will do. This man went and dipped in the water of Siloam and Christ opened his eyes. All of this in the sight of the world may look like foolishness but God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom.

Baptism for Remission of Sins. I can get most people to agree that Naaman was healed by dipping in the water; people were healed by a brass serpent; and the blind man's eyes were opened by spit, clay and water. But here is where I have a time—getting somebody to agree with me that baptism is "for the remission of sins." They say there is nothing in the water. I am not concerned that there is anything in the water, but that God is able to take water and wash my sins away. I want to make this statement. There is not a man living today that can find a place in the Bible where God, Christ, or the Holy Spirit ever told a sinner to pray for a single thing and yet some preachers teach that in order for a sinner to be saved, he must go to some mourner's bench and pray until God pardons him of his sins. If that is true, it ought to be found in the Bible, and anyone who teaches it, ought to be able to put his finger on it. This doctrine is "sharp," my friends. Yes it is sharp. The word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than a two-edged sword. No preacher wants to get cut all to pieces.

I want to make this statement. A preacher ought to have as much courage as a rooster. If a rooster crows at another rooster, this rooster will crow back at him. If a rooster gets on the fence and the other rooster jumps at him, some feathers are going to fly. Business picks up. I say, that six years ago I came here to preach the gospel;
jumped on the fence and now I am in the back yard, and not a preacher bothering this doctrine. The word of God will stand the test. It is quick and powerful and sharper than a two-edged sword. I am going to tell the people that their doctrine is not right and encourage them to accept the truth and obey it before it is everlastingly too late.

Baptism is for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). After Christ was raised from the dead, the Holy Ghost came direct from heaven, and bringing all things to The Apostles remembrance and they began to preach. Many were present and heard Peter as he preached the gospel and told them what to do to be saved. If you don’t know what to do to be saved, then listen to the answer Peter gave when they asked him what to do to be saved. When I first sent off a money order, I didn’t know what to do, but I saw another man fill out a blank and push it under the window with his money so I did the same thing. They never knew that I didn’t know how to make out a money order. You don’t have to let people know you don’t know what to do to be saved. Just listen to God in his word and he will tell you. Do what the 3,000 did on Pentecost. On the day of Pentecost, Peter said, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins and you should receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38). If you have not been baptized for the remission of your sins, you are yet in sin. That sounds foolish, so they say: “There is nothing in the water.” “You can be saved without being baptized,” and one preacher told us one time that we are saved by faith only. I am contending that it takes more than faith to save a man. Jesus says in Mark 16:16: “He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.” But the average denominational preacher says he that believes is saved, changing the word of God and expecting honest people to believe and accept it. If you have not been baptized for the remission of sins, now is the time to do it. 1. First of all, hear the gospel. Mark
12:29, says: “The first of all commandments is Hear O Israel.” 2. Then believe. Without faith, it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6). 3. Luke 13:3. “Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. 4. Then confess. Matthew 10:32: “Whosoever confess me before men, him will I also confess before my Father which is in heaven.” After a man hears, believes and repents and confesses there is something else for him to do. 5. By baptism, his sins are washed away. He must be baptized to be saved. But some one may say: Is baptism all one must do to be saved? No. He must do all five things prescribed. It is like a doctor coming to your house, telling you to take 5 capsules follow one after another and so on. We don’t take one and leave off another if we expect to be cured. We must take the whole remedy.

Jesus demanded a dose of hearing, a dose of believing, a dose repentance and a dose of confession and following in baptism for our sins to be washed away (Acts 22:16).

We walk by faith and not by sight. I can’t see how the leprosy was healed by dipping in the water but the Bible says it and I believe it. I can’t see how people were healed by a brass serpent, but the Bible says it and I believe it. I can’t see how spit, clay and water healed a blind man but the Bible says it and I believe it. A God that can do all this can take water and wash our sins away. I can’t see it but the Bible says it and I am going to believe it. While together we stand and sing, will you come with a believing, penitent heart, confess the name of Christ before men and then be baptized in his name for the remission of your sins?
Moving By Orders

Sinners Pray for Pardon
Get Religion
Profess Religion
Tell Experience--Vote
Saved Before Baptism
Sprinkle--Pour

Man's Orders

Hear
Believe
Repent
Confess
Baptism

Christ's Orders
Number 70, "O Why Not Tonight" has been announced as the invitation song. We are certainly happy and praise God that we are blessed with this another opportunity and privilege to be assembled to study his word. We trust that you are present for the purpose of getting a better understanding and a clearer conception of what the Lord wants us to do to be saved and to become his children. Realizing that we are living in an age when many different doctrines are taught; and many different churches are represented, when the Bible only speaks of one doctrine of Christ and one church. The Bible speaks of the doctrines of men in the plural, but the doctrine of Christ is always singular. We read in Matthew 15:9, Christ says, "But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." So you see that men have doctrines and commandments and many honest people have followed blindly and followed teachers and leaders and accepted a doctrine that is not in the word of God. Sometimes preachers become offended with Brother Miller. They say why is it that I fight other preachers. Why don't I just preach the gospel and let everybody else alone. Christ was the greatest preacher that ever made footprints in the sands of time and he didn't let everybody else alone. He exposed false teachers on every hand, and showed the people their mistakes. He fought the doctrines and commandments of men. He even told the Pharisees and religious sects of his day that they were white-washed sepulchres (Matthew 23:27). He went so far as to call them hypocrites. I call the preachers gentlemen and Christ called them blind guides and hypocrites and they get mad at me when it was Christ
train that goes through your wonderful city is moved by orders. You see a man come out with maybe a cane, a piece of paper in his hands and that piece of paper has some writing on it. That writing is instructions to the engineer and the whole crew, telling them what to do. These trains have to run by orders and the reason is that hundreds of thousands of dollars in property and lives is going up and down the railroad every day that would be lost unless they had some system to guide them. The orders are invaluable in guiding the train up and down the railroad track. Another thing, I want to say in regard to the railroad orders—they must come from the right authority. Just anybody can't issue orders. Suppose I walked down to the train and handed the engineer a piece of paper telling him what to do. He would run me away from there. I am not authorized to give orders. They have got authorized men to tell them what to do. Jesus authorized the apostles to tell men what to preach? 1. Tim. 2:2. He authorized the apostles to tell to us the things we are to do in order to be saved. Any church that cannot find its orders in the Bible is not the right church. Methodist preachers get their orders from the discipline and the bishop; the Baptist preachers they just don't take orders from anyone, not even the Bible. He gives orders in Baptist church. One thing about the Methodist, he can't stay any longer than the bishop will let him and the Baptist stays as long as he wants to. In fact, you can't move him without trouble. They are getting their orders from the wrong place. The Catholics get their orders from the Pope; the Holiness people get their orders from Elder C. H. Mason, but the Church of Christ is run by divine orders and we get our orders from the apostles as they wrote it in the New Testament. These orders can be understood. Don't you think the railroad company would be mistreating the engineer if they gave him or the conductor a set of orders that they could not understand and fire them because they did not obey? That wouldn't
be fair. If they cannot understand it, they are not respon-
sible for what happens but if the orders are given in plain
words so they can understand and if they don't obey then
they are subject to being fired. The point is the Bible can
be understood Eph. 3:3, 4. There are preachers that will
Teach you that you can't understand the Bible. That is
because he is preaching a doctrine not in the Bible, and if
you read you would find it out. He also says you can't
see alike. You can't understand a thing differently. If
you understand it and I understand it we both see it just
alike. Orders must not be changed. The engineer, the
conductor, the firemen and all must receive their orders
and understand them just alike. If each one took a dif-
ferent understanding, it would be a wrecked train. The
Bible is right and we are going to have to do what it says.
Can we all see alike? 1 Cor. 1:10, Paul said, "I beseech
you, brethren by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that
ye all speak the same thing and that there be no dvisions
among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the
same mind and in the same judgment." Paul said we can
all see alike and my friends we are not to change the word
of God but take it for what it says.

Proverbs 30:6, "Add not unto his words, lest he reprove
thee, and thou be found a liar." The great trouble today is
that preachers have been adding to the word of God and
taking away and changing God's orders and have caused
many honest souls to be wrecked. Jesus Christ brings to
us this thought again in Revelation 22:18, "If any man
shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the
plagues that are written in this book: And if any man
shall take away from the words of the book of this
prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of
life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which
are written in this book."

It is dangerous to add to and take away from the divine
orders that God expects us to run by. Here we have a set
of man-made orders on this side of the board.
1. He tells sinners to pray for pardon. Some men have been to college and have degrees, yet they can't find a line in the Bible where a sinner was told to pray for a single thing. Why not investigate? You were probably sent to the mourner's bench and told to stay there until God moved you. If you had waited for God to move you, you would have died there. There is no harm in trying to get honest people to see the light. I want you to tell your pastor because he will be wanting to work on me Sunday. That is all right because I am working on him tonight. You ask him to show you one place where Christ or the apostles ever told a sinner to pray for a single thing since Christ was raised from the dead. God won't hear a sinner's prayer. Isaiah 59:1, 2, "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." The preacher says he will hear and God says he will not hear. Who is right? John 9:31, "Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshiper of God and doeth his will, him heareth." The facts are before you. God says he will not hear a sinner's prayer, so teaching sinners to pray for pardon is false doctrine.

2. They tell the sinner to get religion. Not a person in this building has got religion—not a person in the world has got religion. Religion is not something to get, it is something to do. James 1:27, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless, and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." I ask you, does that sound like something to get. I believe you will admit religion is something to do.

3. They teach you to profess it. I never heard one yet profess religion that didn't tell too much. One man told that he knew he was saved because he felt light. If feeling light is an evidence of being a Christian, listen to this.
I recently passed through a dark place and I heard a chain rattle and I felt real light. I couldn’t stand still but you can’t depend on feeling light. The Bible tells us what to do to be saved and we are going to find out before we quit this lesson. What do they mean by professing and telling experiences? Why is that done? So they can vote and see if they want you. The Baptists vote on their candidates. If they have to fix you after God, then they are above God. The time has come when we need to examine the orders and see if we run by the wrong set of orders. They can turn you down unless the majority votes in your favor and ladies and gentlemen they vote you in and tax you and if you don’t pay up they vote you out.

4. They say you are saved before baptism. Baptism does not have everything to do with soul salvation they say. Mark 16:16, Christ said, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” I remember an illustration. A teacher was teaching a class of boys and girls and the superintendent told him the children were not paying close attention. He said “To prove that to you, I am going to ask them to give me some numbers and you put them on the board and I will prove they are not paying attention.” One boy said “25.” The teacher wrote “52.” A girl said “56” and the teacher put “65.” One little boy, the very one who looked as if he never paid attention, called out “Put 77 and see if you can change that.” They caught the teacher. No preacher is smart enough to change Mark 16:16. In Acts 22:16, Saul was told “Why tarriest thou? arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” You can’t change that.

5. They sprinkle and pour. The Bible tells us that baptism is a burial in water and man calls sprinkling and pouring, baptism. Methodists remind me of a filling station. The man at the station asks you what kind of oil do you want—light, medium or heavy. That is about the way they issue baptism. Light sprinkling, medium pouring,
heavy immersion. In Col. 2:12 “Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.” Man-made orders are praying for pardon, getting religion, professing religion, telling experience, voting, saved before baptism, sprinkling and pouring.

God’s orders are simple, plain and easy to understand. We are told in Mark 12:29 “Hear, O Israel.” Then believe. Hebrews 11:6, “But without faith it is impossible to please him for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” Then comes repentance. Luke 13:3, “Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” Isaiah 55:7, “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”

Yes my friends, the wicked is going to have to forsake his way of sins and that is genuine repentance. After one repents he must confess Christ before men. Matthew 10:32, “Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father who is in heaven.”

One hears the gospel, he is unsaved; when he believes, he is unsaved; when he repents, he is unsaved; when he confesses, he is unsaved. Jesus said “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved” and I know Jesus knew what he was talking about. Christ’s orders are divine orders. It is dangerous to run by the wrong set.

In 1 Samuel 15, God told Saul to kill all, leaving nothing alive. Saul spared Agag and the best of the cattle and sheep. God said obedience is better than sacrifice. Saul was rejected because he ran by the wrong set of orders. God told Moses to speak to the rock and Moses hit the rock and alas, you can’t go over. When God says do a thing, he says what he means and means what he says. It is dangerous to disobey. I wonder tonight if some precious
soul won't walk out in the name of Israel's God and accept his word. I know some will criticise you but they criticised the Son of God and he was the Savior of the world. Christ suffered for me, was persecuted for me and I ought to be willing to suffer for him.
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**Note:** All courses are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 AM to 11 AM.
Baptism

What Does B. Require...

- Water
- Much Water
- Going Into Water
- Coming Out of Water
- Burial--Resurrection
- Planting
- Washing
- Remission of Sins
- Wash Away Sins
- Saves--Sanctifies
- Put On Christ
- Born Again
- Hear
- Believe
- Repent
- Confess

What Is It For...

Who Should Be Baptized?
We certainly appreciate the presence of this splendid audience tonight and I am indeed thankful that you have manifested such splendid interest by coming out on this night, especially because of the threatening weather. It proves that when people are interested in their soul's salvation that even rain does not stop them from coming to where they can hear the word of God preached in its purity and simplicity. It was Christ that said “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.” Again Christ made it very plain, “If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” My friends, if people ever needed to stop and examine the Bible, it is now. There are many doctrines being taught and there are many churches in the land and country and many of them are teaching doctrines that are contrary to the Bible. Unless we examine the churches and scriptures and study the word of God, we will not know the truth and we will follow false doctrines being preached to us. Again the Apostle Paul says in writing to Timothy, 2 Tim. 2:15, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” Many preachers do not know where to turn to in the Bible to find the plan of salvation. Many preachers would just as soon tell a man that he is saved and should get religion like Daniel had in the lion’s den and Daniel didn’t have any religion in the lion’s den. In fact, religion was not even mentioned in the Old Testament. False doctrine is the result of not rightly dividing the word. Then you say, “Brother Mil-
ler isn't all the Bible good?" Certainly it is all good for the purpose intended but all of it is not good for you. It is not all good for us today. Why? Because certain things were told to certain people for certain purposes that are not binding on us today. You take the drug store. All the medicine on the shelf is good but it is not all for your complaint. A doctor writes out a prescription and you carry it to the drug store. If the druggist looked up on the shelf and because it was all good, gave you all the medicine, you would check out and come up missing! Because many things up there are poison and if you fool around and he fools around and gives you the wrong thing, then it will kill you. The point is that there were many things taught in the Old Testament that are not binding on us today. That is why the Apostle Paul said "Rightly divide the word of truth." In other words, we must know where to start in order to find the plan of salvation. You must come on this side of the death, burial and resurrection of the Son of God in order to find what to do to be saved. When you come to this side of the Cross, you learn what men must do to be saved. In the Old Testament, under the law, the plan of salvation cannot be found. If you have been rightly dividing the word of God and if preachers have been rightly dividing the Bible, then there would not be musical instruments in the worship today. Those things were never brought over by the Holy Ghost and were never bound on the church by the apostles that had the keys to the case. If you have been reading and rightly dividing the word of truth, you would know that "holy dancing" was never practiced in the church. Where is an example of Peter, of John, of Mark or any of those inspired men dancing while Martha played the piano and Mary beat the drum? Where is an example? You have it practiced in your dancing churches today. All kinds of steps are being cut and the worst part of it is that they are laying it on to the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost never made anybody dance. If it makes them dance
today, it ought to have made them dance on the day of Pentecost. Did they cut a step there? Nowhere did the apostles in the New Testament cut a step. You have simply added to the word of God and failed to rightly divide the word of truth. I hope the time will come when men will lay aside all man-made additions and take the New Testament as their guide and do what it says and live a faithful Christian life. Sometimes people say, suppose I did not know that the doctrine was false at the time when I obeyed it and even though I was honest and sincere, I just didn’t know the doctrine was false. Won’t I be saved just the same? Let me ask you this: Suppose in your medicine cabinet you have medicine that is good for headache and then you have some deadly poison medicine. Having a headache, you reach for the headache medicine and accidentally take a dose of the deadly poison. Will it keep it from killing you? You would be just as dead as if you took the poison on purpose. Not knowing doesn’t change the effect of the poison and it doesn’t change the fact of false doctrine. In other words, suppose you did not know you were setting a hen on duck eggs. Just because you didn’t know would not change the fact and make them hatch out little chickens. Christ has already said, “Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.” It takes the truth to make us free. We hope tonight that when the invitation is given and the privilege is granted that some honest soul who has been misled, and seen the light, will walk out and confess the Son of God and be buried in baptism for the remission of sins and arise to walk in the newness of life.

My subject tonight is baptism and no doubt some of you are thinking that every time you come to the church of Christ, you hear the preacher preaching something about baptism. Why is it that the church of Christ preacher preaches something about baptism in almost every sermon? I will tell you why. Because it is a part of the gospel plan of salvation and no man can preach a complete plan
of salvation unless he preaches about baptism. It is in
the plan and you can't get it out. I realize that these
preachers are trying to get baptism out of the plan of sal­
vation and are saying that there is nothing to baptism, but
when I examine the Bible I find that God put it in the
scheme of redemption and there is no way to become a child
of God and be saved until we comply with his command
to be baptized. I call your attention to what the Bible says
on the subject of baptism. My thoughts about the matter
won't help you a bit. Neither will your thoughts do any
good. You have to take what God says about it. What­
ever the Bible says about baptism is correct and if your
thoughts are contrary to what the Bible says, your thoughts
are wrong and mine too if they are contrary to what the
Bible says. We have on the blackboard a diagram and in
this lesson we have divided it into three parts. First, what
does baptism require? Second, What is it for? and Third,
who should be baptized? We want to take what the scrip­
tures teach on this subject and on these outlines that I
mention. We ask you to earnestly and carefully check
your baptism and see if it measures up to these scriptural
requirements and if it does not measure up to these re­
quirements, it proves beyond a shadow of doubt, you have
never been scripturally baptized to be accepted in the sight
of God.

When I say baptism, I refer to water baptism. I men­
tion that fact because there are many people that think
they are baptized with the Holy Ghost and some claim to be
baptized with fire. I want to make this clear and I want
you to catch it—there is not but two cases of Holy Ghost
baptism. One was the apostles Acts 2, and the other was
the household of Cornelius, Acts 10. Catch this too, be­
cause somebody is going to tell you they are baptized with
the Holy Ghost and fire. Why were the apostles baptized
with it? To guide them into all truth and bring all things
to remembrance and by so doing they were able to write
the New Testament so you and I could read it. Many peo-
people claim they are baptized with it and they could not write the New Testament and many of them can hardly read it. Has the Holy Ghost lost its power? No, it just proves they are not baptized with it. On the other hand, the household of Cornelius was baptized with it to convince the Jews that the Gentiles had a right to the gospel. There is no more New Testament to be revealed and no more revelation; no more Jews that need to be convinced that the Gentiles have right to be Christians so they don't need it for that purpose today. So the baptism of the Holy Ghost has ceased and the baptism by fire is yet to come. People tell us they are baptized with fire. If they were, they would be telling you to “put them out.” You say, “I don't believe it is that kind of fire.” John mentioned the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire in Matthew 3:11-12, “I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire: whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” John was talking to a mixed multitude. Who was to receive the baptism of fire? John said the chaff. In the 12th verse, he said “he will burn the chaff.” Who gets the fire? Not the wheat, but the chaff. I know you can see that and the man or woman that claims the baptism of the Holy Ghost claims that which belong to the chaff. The chaff is the wicked, the hypocrites, whoremongers, back-sliders. Rev. 21:8. It is not for the faithful child of God. The fire was never promised to them. I don't want the fire because it is in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone. That is the baptism of fire and I don't want it. Do you? You may be praying for the baptism of fire but now I hope you see baptism of fire was not for the righteous so there is only one baptism that is acceptable to God and that is water baptism for remission of sins. If you want to please God and to be ready when the Master comes again, you must
obey the gospel of Christ, be buried in baptism and live faithful until death and he will take you to your eternal home.

What does baptism require? It requires water. Matthew 3:11 “I baptize you with water.” That proves it takes water. John was not talking about baptizing in milk or syrup or some other liquid but it was water. All right, I think every one agrees that it takes water in some form but now the Bible says it requires much water to do baptism. John 3:23, “John was baptizing in Enon near to Salim because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized.” It took much water to do the baptizing at that time. Did it take much water to baptize you? Or did they take about a glass full and baptize a dozen? If you were sprinkled or had water poured on the head out of a glass, you have not been scripturally baptized because baptism requires much water to do the job like God wants it to be done. Another thing, God requires coming to the water. Even Christ came to John to be baptized. The eunuch went to the water but you take the average baptism, they park the candidates by the altar, go get the water and sprinkle a little on them and call it baptism. There is no example of it in the word of God. Baptism requires a going to the water.

Baptism requires a going into the water. Acts 8, we read about the conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch. They rode along in the chariot, Philip preaching to the eunuch and when they came to a certain water, the eunuch said, “Here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?” The eunuch believed and he commanded the chariot to stop and the Bible tells us that they both got out of the chariot and they went down into the water and the Bible is right; you can’t get around it. They went down into the water and came up out of the water. When you were baptized, did you go down into the water? Were you buried while down there and did you come up out of water? If you didn’t, you have not been scripturally baptized. It re-
quires a burial. Paul said in Romans 6:4, "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in the newness of life." Paul said we are buried, and sprinkling and pouring just won't do. Not only is baptism a burial but it is a resurrection. Col. 2:12, Paul said: "Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead." Sprinkling does not fit that and if you were not buried, you were not raised up. In immersion, you are buried and raised again. Baptism is a type of burial and resurrection. Romans 6:5, Paul said: "For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection." You must be planted, buried and raised up to walk in the newness of life. It is a planting and also a washing of the body. Hebrews 10:22: "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water." Not only that, I hear Ananias talking. Saul of Tarsus had been praying for a long time and the preacher stopped him, told him to rise. Be baptized and wash away his sins. In baptism some washing takes place and your sins get washed away.

I want to make a statement that I have made before. The Bible is right and you can't get away from it. A little boy was trying to give a quotation on the Bible. He said, "The Lord is my shepherd and______" he failed to remember the rest, and finally he said "The Lord is my shepherd and I don't mean maybe." I mean to tell you the Bible is right and I don't mean maybe. May God help you my friends to accept it before it is everlastingly too late. When I say baptism requires water, the Methodists and Baptists agree with me. When I say it requires much water, that is where the Methodists leave me but the Baptist still agrees. When I say going to the water, the Baptist still agrees. I say going into the water and he still agrees.
say come out of the water; he still agrees. I say it requires a burial; it is a resurrection; requires planting and washing and he still agrees but when I get to "What is Baptism For," Brother Baptist leaves me, he does not know and he does not teach what baptism is for. He says it is the outward sign of an inward grace. Baptism has a purpose and unless you know what that purpose is, you can't be scripturally baptized. In the kitchen, if the lady didn't know what all the things in the pantry were for, somebody would have a stomach-ache. Unless a preacher knows what baptism is for, he is going to ruin some one, baptizing them for the wrong purpose. It is for the remission of sins, Acts 2:38, "Repent and be baptized every one of you for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." The apostles said baptism is for the remission of sin and remission means to pardon, cancel and blot out. So in baptism, your sins are cancelled and blotted out. Acts 22:16 "And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." Friend, your sins are not washed away until you are baptized.

Baptizing is for saving; it is for salvation. No man can be saved until he has been baptized. Mark 16:16, Jesus said "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." That is backed up by all power in the heaven and earth because Christ did not make it until he had all power.

In baptism we are sanctified. Some people don't even know where sanctification takes place. Ephesians 5:25, 26, "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word." That makes baptism essential to the soul's salvation. You can't get sanctified and you can't get your sins washed away until you are baptized for that purpose. In baptism, we put on Christ. Gal. 3:27, "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." In baptism,
we are born again. John 3:5, “Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” The Bible is right and I know you can see it because you are too honest and intelligent. You ought to make an investigation and see whether you have been scripturally baptized.

Who should be baptized? Many say you can baptize babies and grown folks too. You can’t baptize a baby because there are some requirements that the Bible gives before one can be baptized and a baby does not meet them. He must first hear the gospel. He must be taught. Christ said in Matthew 28:19, “Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.” Therefore a baby cannot be scripturally baptized. The Bible says teach them, baptize, but you baptize first, and teach later. You have the cart before the horse. After he hears the gospel, he must believe the gospel. Hebrews 11:6, “But without faith it is impossible to please him.” A baby does not have faith. A person must repent. Acts 2:38 “Repent and be baptized.” A baby has no sins to repent for. He has no sin. You don’t inherit sin. You commit sin. Sin is a transgression of the law (1 John 3:4). All the baby did was cry and he can’t help that. The baby cannot hear and understand the gospel, cannot believe, cannot repent, cannot confess and therefore be scripturally baptized. The parents were deceived who had the bay baptized. Were you scripturally baptized? Did you believe with all your heart and confess Christ before men and were you buried in baptism? If not, today is a day of salvation. Won’t you come tonight. Christ said “Come to me, all that are heavy laden and I will give you rest.” In the name of him who is the Alpha and Omega, that hung on the cross, won’t you come while we stand and sing.
Where God Put Water

Noah
Israel
Blind Man
Sinner

WATER
New World
Freedom
Cure from Leprosy
Sight
Salvation
Christ
Blood of Christ
New Life
Sanctification
WHERE GOD PUT WATER

Number 7.

Brothers and sisters in Christ and visiting friends, I am glad indeed that we are being spared tonight and that we have this another opportunity to study His Word and to listen to the gospel of Jesus Christ preached. We realize that Paul said in Romans 1:16, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” As the apostle says in that verse, the gospel is the power of God unto salvation. I would like to state that even though the gospel is God’s power to save the world, the gospel can be and is sometimes perverted. Paul says in Gal. 1:6-7, “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: which is not another but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.” So then, when the gospel has been perverted or changed, then it ceases to have that saving power. In other words, when men twist and change the word of God, the things they preach cannot save. Water is God’s power to quench the thirst but if you put salt in it, you pervert its power and it fails to quench the thirst. Food is God’s power to satisfy hunger but if you put poison in it, it ceases to be a value and it becomes a harm. So it is when men add to the word of God, they become harmful and cause many honest souls to be lost. Somebody may say, “Brother Miller, won’t the doctrine of men make Christians?” Let me ask you a question and I think this will answer your question. Will the Ford plant make Chevrolets?

It is a fact that Ford parts made and put together make Ford cars and if you want a Chevrolet, you will have to
put Chevrolet parts together. Ford parts will not make a Chevrolet and Chevrolet parts will not make a Ford. Baptist doctrine won't make a Christian and the Bible won't make a Baptist. Either way it won't work. Let me tell you this. We are just going to have to get down to facts. Many honest people are just playing with God and going on in sin without stopping to make investigation. Catholic doctrine make Catholics. Methodist doctrine make Methodists. Presbyterian doctrine makes Presbyterians. Baptist doctrine makes Baptists and the Bible makes Christians. I hope the day will come when honest people will be Christians only.

Before I call your attention to the lesson on the board, I have a question here to answer. “Where has this doctrine of yours been all the time?” First I want to tell you that it is not my doctrine. I don’t have a doctrine. I don’t even have a church. I realize that there are some preachers that claim to have a church and to have a doctrine but their doctrine is no good and you can’t be saved in their church. I hear preachers sometimes referring to members and they say “this is my member and he belongs to my church.” If you are his member, you are not Christ’s. If you are Christ’s, you are none of his and if you are in Christ’s church, you are not in man’s church. So my friends that is the way it stands and I am contending and holding to the fact that any church or doctrine that belongs to man has no salvation in it. The question is: “Where has this doctrine been all the time?” It has been right in your Bible. The great trouble is you did not take the time to open it and study and make a careful investigation. I held a meeting once in Macon, Georgia. There was a man who was a deacon in the Primitive Baptist church for more than 20 years. He heard me preach and he obeyed the gospel of the Son of God. After he was baptized, and was going back home, somebody stopped him and asked him: “Why did you let that man fool you with that new doctrine that he brought to town?” Trying to make out
like I brought the doctrine to town. Like some of you are saying if it were my doctrine I would have to bring it here. But if I can prove it was here before I came, then I have proved that it is not my doctrine. I will tell you what this man gave as an answer and it pretty well answers this question.

He said, “I know it is not Brother Miller’s doctrine because I have got a Bible I have owned for nearly 30 years and I have had it put away in my trunk. I dug it out and read it and I found that doctrine in my Bible and I know he did not bring my Bible to town.” There is where it is friends. It is in your Bible. You take many places in this state, they have great oil fields. I was up at Midland, Texas several weeks ago and one white man said, “See that man over there. Several years ago he was just a poor farmer, trying to make a living. They went out and found oil on his place and now he is just as rich as he can be. The question is where had that oil been all the time? Right under that same land he had been plowing. He had not dug down and found it. It had been there. It took somebody to dig down and bring it up. The doctrine I preach is in every Bible in this town but preachers fail to dig down and bring it up and somebody calls it a new doctrine, trying to make out like I brought it to town. It is in everybody’s Bible in this town if it has not been torn out.

We want to call your attention to the lesson that we have before us. Our subject tonight is “Where God Put Water.” I know some of you are thinking that every time you go to the church of Christ, it is water, water, water. Why don’t they preach on something else and let the water alone? Now friends, the reason we continue to preach about water and water baptism is because you can’t be saved unless you are baptized in water and that for remission of sins. I want to show you tonight that God has always used water in his plans as a dividing line between man and certain blessings and in order to get those blessings, man had to come through the water. We note first in Genesis 6,
Noah was found righteous in the sight of God. God told Noah to build an ark out of gopher wood to save him and his family. Now the question is: What were they saved by and what did God use to save them? We turn to 1 Peter 3:20, Peter said, "Which sometime were disobedient, when once the long suffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water." So we see that God took water and saved Noah from destruction and thus Noah stepped out in a New World, that was cleansed and sanctified with the washing of water. Good took water and washed the filth and corruption off the face of the earth and let Noah step out on a clean earth. God did this wonderful work with water.

In Exodus 14, we read about the Israelites, how Israel was saved and obtained freedom. They obtained freedom by coming through the water. We find that the children of Israel were under hard taskmasters under Egyptian bondage and God selected Moses to lead them out. He led them down to the Red Sea. God did not let them go around, like some of us would try to do today. They went God's way and we have to do exactly the same thing today. We will have to lay our way aside and take God's way if we expect to be saved. God led them down to the Red Sea. The mountains were on either side of them and the Red Sea in front of them and the Egyptians behind them. It looked like a trap but God is able to do whatever He promises to do. That is why I never doubt God because whatever He has promised, He is able to perform. He told Moses to stretch out his hands over the sea. It might look foolish to stand there with his hands stretched out but God said do it and Moses did what God told him. When he did it, the water was divided. A strong east wind blew and dried the bottom. The Israelites marched through on dry ground. When the Israelites were about to get out on the other side, the Egyptians were coming into the water and if it had not been for God working
in the defense of the Israelites, the Egyptians would have caught them. By giving trouble to the Egyptian's chariots, God gave the Israelites time to get out and then he told Moses to stretch out his hands again and the waters came together and drowned the Egyptians with water. There is another wonderful job done with water. Ladies and gentlemen, the Israelites' deliverance from bondage was a type of our deliverance from sin. They did not get rid of their enemy (the Egyptians) until they went through the water and we won't get rid of our enemy (sin) until we go through the water. We will prove this before we leave this lesson. In fact, in water baptism, our sins are washed away. I know there are a lot of preachers-who would differ with me on it but I can prove I am right by the Bible and the Bible is right whether anybody believes it.

Now my beloved friends I want you to notice something else. God placed water between Naaman and the cleansing from leprosy. Leprosy was incurable, a disease that no human being could cure. God, through his prophet, gave Naaman a remedy and told him to dip in Jordan seven times. You know what happened? Naaman got mad—kicking at the remedy like a lot of people today are full of sin and kicking at the gospel, fighting against the very thing it takes to save them and cleanse them from their sins. Finally a servant reasoned with Naaman and brought him to his senses but before that, Naaman decided to dip where he wanted to. He wanted to pick his place. God said Jordan. Naaman was like many people today—they want to pick their own way to be saved. You have to go God's way, just what he says do it if you expect to be saved. Naaman finally went and dipped in Jordan seven times and the Bible says Naaman's skin became like that of a little child. God took water and washed his leprosy away. Not a preacher in this town will dispute that, I am sure. He is too intelligent. Of course, they make out like they don't believe in fight-
ing. You know why? They don’t have anything to fight with and it is wisdom not to go bare-handed. They don’t have a thing to fight with but the church of Christ has the apostles’ doctrine, the truth, and we draw the Bible on them. If I go down the street, and meet a man who has a 44, and he shoves it in my face and says “Let’s fight,” you know I am not going to fight. I would say I don’t believe in fighting. Not when he has the business end of that gun in my face! Maybe if I had the thing in my hand it would be different. That is the way with the preachers today. The church of Christ has the doctrine on the world and the world doesn’t feel like fighting. The doctrine is right. You can’t get around it.

God put water between the blind man and his sight. The Bible says so in John 9:7. You can read about a man, born blind, never seen sun nor moon. Jesus spit on the ground, mixed spit and clay and anointed the man’s eyes and told him to go wash in the pool of Siloam. He washed and came back with his eyes opened. Who opened his eyes? Christ did. With spit, clay and water.

Christ opened the blind man’s eyes and God had water between him and his sight. So God is able to take water and do anything he wants to do with it. I don’t think I need to tell you that God saved Noah. It was God’s salvation but Noah had to do what God said do. God saved the Israelites but they had to do what God said. Naaman was cleansed from leprosy but he had to do what God commanded him to do. God opened the blind man’s eyes but he did what God told him to do. I say that to tell you that if the sinner is saved today, he must do what the Lord tells him to do. The Bible teaches that God has put water between the sinner and his salvation. Every preacher will agree that God put water between the sinner and his salvation. Every preacher will agree that God put water between Noah and the New World; between the Israelites and their freedom; Naaman and his cleansing from the leprosy; between the blind man and
his sight but they do not agree with me that God put wa-
ter between the sinner and his salvation. The Bible says
so, my friends. Mark 16:16, Jesus said, "He that be-
lieves and is baptized shall be saved’’ and that baptism is
water baptism because the Holy Ghost baptism was never
sent to save anybody. Not a man in town can show a
place where Holy Ghost baptism ever came to save any-
body. It only came first to the apostles and they were
already clean before it came (John 15:3). It came to the
household of Cornelius to convince the Jews that the Gen-
tiles had a right to the gospel. It did not save the house-
hold of Cornelius. Acts 11:13, 14, “Send men to Joppa,
and call for Simon, whose surname is Peter; who shall
tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be
saved.” The word of God commands us to be baptized.
Mark 16:16, God placed water between the sinner and
his salvation when he said, “He that believeth and is bap-
tized shall be saved.”

Even Saul of Tarsus, a man who was honest and sin-
cere, meant to do right but made a mistake. He prayed
and could not get saved. He had to let a gospel preach-
er by the name of Ananias tell him what to do to be saved.
Ananias told him, Acts 22:16, “And now why tarrie s :
thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins,
calling on the name of the Lord.” Then my friends, wa-
ter baptism stands between the sinner and his soul’s sal-
vation. Not only that, but God put water between the sinner and Christ. Gal. 3:27, “For as many of you as have
been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” Baptism
stands between the sinner and Christ and Paul tells us
that in baptism, man is washed from his sins and then in
Ephesians 5:25, “Husbands, love your wives, even as
Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it; that
he might sanctify it with the washing by the word.” God
put water between the sinner and the blood of Christ.
Sometimes people accuse us of not believing in the blood
of Christ. We do believe that it is the blood of Christ
that saves, but the question is: Where do you reach the blood? If we can find out where we reach the blood, we can find out where we reach the cleansing power. John 19, Christ was crucified between two thieves. They came to the two thieves and found they were not dead. They broke their bones, but not a bone of Christ’s body should be broken. They speared him in the side and out of the wound came blood and water. Both came out of the same wound together, blood and water. If I can find out how man reaches the blood of Christ, I think it will help this audience tonight. The Bible said he was already dead when he shed his blood. I must find out where I reach the death, because the blood was shed in the death of Christ. How can I reach the death of Christ where the blood was shed? Romans 6:1-4, “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death.” We are baptized into his death and let me ask you this question: Where was the blood shed? In the death. Where does baptism put me? Into his death. Doesn’t that put me where I can reach the blood? Baptism puts me in the death of Christ where I reach the blood. We come in contact with the blood of the Son of God in baptism. God put water between the sinner and new life. Following the same passage of scripture I just quoted, Roman 6:4, “Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” Water baptism stands between us and the newness of life. Therefore, you must be baptized in order to have a new life. Again baptism stands between us and sanctification. Eph. 5:25, “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.”
That means water baptism is essential. So in conclusion, I wonder if there is a precious soul tonight that is willing to surrender to the word of God, and lay aside the doctrines of men before it is everlastingly too late. If so, while we wait will you come.
Is There Anything In a Name?

The Church Is
- Christ's Wife
- Christ's Body
- Christ's House

Human Names Condemned
1 Cor. 1:12, 13
- Mormon
- Russellite
- Catholic
- Methodist
- Baptist

In Christ's Name...
- Salvation
  Acts 4:10-12
- Protection
  Prov. 18:10
- Work
  Col. 3:17
- Everlasting
  Isa. 56:5
- Better
  Isa. 56:5
IS THERE ANYTHING IN A NAME?

NUMBER 8.

We are thankful and indeed happy to see this splendid audience present tonight. I consider this a wonderful audience in view of the fact that this is Saturday night when most people are winding up their arrangements of the week. I would like to say business, but in these times of depression and money is very slim, and since it takes money to do business, and we don't have much of that, I will have to say arrangements. So we rejoice to see this splendid audience and hope you will be benefitted by being present. When you go home, we hope you will rejoice because of having attended this service and listened to the word of God preached. In this meeting we have not endeavored to excite or to make you shout or to have spasms of any kind, but we have tried to soberly teach the word of God realizing that I am talking to honest and intelligent people who want to be saved and who want to work out their soul's salvation. Many people think that because they work real good and because they are faithful to what they believe, that makes it right. A lady said to me, "Brother Miller, I am a member of the Methodist church and I am faithful. I do everything I am told to do and that is required of me to do and I believe that if I am faithful in the church that I will be saved." Many honest people are under the same impression. It is all right to work and to be faithful in the church you can read about in the Bible. In order to make that clearer, I want to make this illustration. Suppose there is a man by the name of A and he owns a field and a man named B, also owns a field. Mr. A goes out and finds a man named John and tells him that he has some plowing that
he wants to have done, some land turned under and prepared for spring planting. He asks John if he knows where his field is and John says, "Sure I know where your field is. I have lived here all my life. I know exactly where it is." Mr. A tells him to go out and do the work and he will pay him $10 a day. By mistake John got on the wrong side of the fence and plowed one-half a day in the wrong field. He plows real good. There is nothing wrong with the work he does. He did as good as any man could do, but, does Mr. A owe John anything? I think you will admit that he does not. Suppose about noon, Mr. A. comes out and finds John plowing in Mr. B's field. He asks him what is he doing over there. John said, "I thought this was your field." He was following his thoughts instead of getting the right information. He worked one-half day in the wrong field. That describes many religious people. They have been following their thoughts and imaginations and the thoughts of their pastors and they have worked nearly all their lives in churches not mentioned in the Bible. And Christ doesn't owe them a single thing. If you are working in the Methodist church or any other denomination you may be living good, honest and sincere, but if the church is not in the Bible, your labor is in vain because Christ doesn't owe you a single thing for your work. Friends, you have not worked in the right field. I am sure you can understand why it is that Christ will not pay you because you worked real good, but he will pay you if you work good in his church. If you expect to be saved, you have to work in the right field. I have a question that I want to read before we have the lesson. "Reverend Miller, you said last night that John did not build the church. Who did?" Now friends, first of all, I am not a reverend. There is not a reverend in this city or in the state or in the world because no preacher is fit to be called "reverend." The word "reverend" is found one time in the Bible and it referred to God and not to man. Psalm 111:9, "He sent
redemption to his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name." "Reverend" belonged to God. Even Christ was never called "Reverend." Paul was not known as Reverend Paul, D. D. Peter was not called Reverend Peter. Where did we get it that preachers should be called reverend. Peter said "our beloved brother Paul" (2 Pet. 3:15). That is what all preachers today should be called and if he is not a brother in Christ, then of course, he is in a pitiful condition. The fact is John did not build the church. John did not build any church. John the Baptist never mentioned the church while he lived and never said a word about a church while on this earth. If so, there would be something said about it. The very first time the word church is mentioned is in Matthew 16:18. Christ said, "Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Jesus Christ made that statement. "I will build my church." So my friends, just supposing that John the Baptist did build the church; the Bible does not say that he did and you will have to admit that if he did, he did so without divine authority. I am contending that John the Baptist never built a church. He did not come to build a church. He came to prepare the way for the Son of God. The advertising man comes to advertize the circus and prepare the way. Nobody pays to see the advertising man. They save their money to see the circus. John the Baptist was not the Savior. He came to lay the way. Another fact I want to call your attention to is. John even told us that he was going to decrease in John 3:30. He said, "He must increase, but I must decrease." If you go to the bank and see a sign "We are going out of business." You have $1.00 to deposit but you wouldn't put it there when they say they are going out of business. They told you they were going out of business. Then you don't want to follow a man that is going out of business. John was the only person in the Bible
that was called Baptist. He only prepared the material, but Christ built the church.

Our subject tonight is, "Is There Anything in a Name?" I selected this subject because there are preachers in this town that are preaching there is nothing in a name. That is because they are preaching in a church whose name is not in the Bible.

I hope honest souls when they learn their mistake will correct it. I had a telephone call from Brother C. C. Morgan, Midland, Texas, yesterday. I closed a meeting there a few days ago and there was a colored Baptist preacher that came out several nights and listened. He was sitting on the front seat but I didn't fail to tell the audience that the Baptist church was not in the Bible. This preacher was honest. He had Brother Morgan call me to come back and baptize him and a number of his followers who have come out of the Baptist church and want to get into the church of Christ. I don't care if you are a pastor, moderator or reverend, if you are honest you will lay down the unscriptural things and take up the word of God. Nobody will do it but the honest man or woman.

Is there anything in a name? The average preacher preaches there is nothing in a name. If I went down to a store and gave a check to the owner, he would not be willing to risk a check of mine. Why? Because he could look at me and tell I did not have any money in the bank and therefore my name on a check would not be any good. Reckon he would get anything? I don't have anything in the bank and he could not get any money. The fact is: There is something in a name. I have heard Brother Keeble tell so many times of an intelligent and honest and wealthy white woman that wrote a check out for the preacher and she failed to put her name on the check. The preacher, a member of some sectarian church, teaching there was nothing in a name, took the check to the bank and they told him it didn't have any name on it. He said, "She forgot it." He took the check and ran to the
lady and told her "You forgot to put your name on it." She said, "No, I didn’t forget it. I have heard you preach there is nothing in a name. Let me see you get your money without the name." You consider the church and find out what it is, then you will know there is something in a name.

First of all, what is the church? The church is Christ’s wife, and all right, if the church is Christ’s wife and the Bible says we are married to Christ in Romans 7:4, "Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.” Then we are married to Christ. That makes the church Christ’s wife. I want to ask you this. If a lady is married to a man, doesn’t she have the right and doesn’t he expect her to wear his name? You wouldn’t allow your wife to add some other man’s name and still be your wife. If you are going to be his wife, lady, then you ought to wear his name. Then my friends, if the church is married to Christ and wears another man’s name, it is disrespectful to Christ. The church is Christ’s body. Col. 1:18, “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning.” He is the head of the body. Eph. 1:22, “And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to church.” Paul says God has put all things under Christ’s feet, and gave him to be head over all things to the church. All right then, the church is Christ’s body and Christ is the head of the body. It would seem strange if my head were Miller and my body wear the name Brown. I can’t wear one name for my body and another for my head. The church is the church of Christ because it is his head. The church has the right to wear the name of Christ because it is the body of Christ.

Another point is the church is Christ’s house. In Hebrews 3:6, Paul said, “But Christ as the son over his own
house, whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.” Then the church is Christ’s house. If I have a house, I bought it and built it, that would be Miller’s house. Christ bought the church, built it, therefore it is Christ’s church. It belongs to him by virtue of the fact he bought it and paid for it with his own blood.

There is something in a name. There is something in whose name? First. There is salvation in the name of Christ. In Acts 4:12, Peter tells us “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” The apostle Peter tells us there is salvation in the name of Christ. People tell us there is nothing in a name, when the Bible tells us there is salvation in the name of Christ. Why therefore wear denominational names when there is no salvation in them? The name Baptist, Methodist, etc. are “other” names “among men” and no salvation in them.

Second. There is protection in the name of Christ. Prov. 18:10, “The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.” There is protection in the name of Christ and if you are wearing some other name, you have no protection and I sometimes think that is why the preachers do not believe in fighting because they have no protection. Those who wear the name of Christ are not afraid to defend the doctrine they teach because the word of God and the name of Christ is their protection.

Third. Another point I want to make is that we must work in the name of the Lord. Col. 3:17, “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.” We are told to do all in the name of the Lord. Not some things but “all” things in his name. Therefore I am contending that we must work in the name of the Lord. Work must be done in his name, not in the name of John the Baptist.
Fourth. The name of Christ is an everlasting name. Isaiah 56:5, "Even unto them will I give in mine house and within my walls a place and a name better than of sons of daughters: I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off."

I am contending that the name of Christ is the best name in the world. You and I should be anxious, happy and glad to wear the name of the Son of God and we hope when the invitation is given that some honest souls who are members of some church that cannot be found in the Bible, will have courage enough to lay aside human names and false doctrine, and become a member of the church of Christ and wear his name.

*Human or Denominational Names Condemned*

1 Cor. 1:13, "Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?" What did he mean? They had a right to wear the name of the man in whose name they were baptized. They were not baptized in the name of Paul and yet some were trying to wear Paul's name and other men's names. Some wanted to, but Paul asked them, "Is Christ divided?" As much as to say, you have no right to wear these human names unless Christ is divided. Therefore, the church has no right to wear denominational names. The apostle condemned the church for wanting to wear human names. If Paul condemned them in those days for wearing sectarian names, we will be condemned if we wear them. Ladies and gentlemen, whose name are you wearing? Why not do as the song says: "Take the name of Jesus with you." Some wear the name of Mormon, Baptist, Catholic, Russellite, Methodist, but when they do they dishonor Christ. We must wear Christ's name (2 Tim. 2:19). Paul has condemned the use of human names. If I were you, I would lay aside these names. Somebody may say I am wearing his name and I am a Christian, but I am also wearing the name Baptist. I am a Baptist Christian.
Suppose your wife says she is Mrs. Smith, but she is Mrs. Miller Smith. You men want your wife to wear your name and yours only. The church today that tries to wear Christ’s name and the Baptist, too, tries to do a thing that would not be pleasing to God.

I want to call your attention to another fact. Nobody has the right to wear the name of Mason except a member of the Masonic Lodge. The name goes with membership in that lodge. No man has the right to wear the name of Christ unless he is in the body of Christ and no man can get into the body of Christ unless he is baptized into Christ. Hear Paul in Gal. 3:27, “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” When the invitation is extended I hope that some precious soul who is not afraid will walk out in the presence of this audience and confess Christ who died on Calvary; go down in the watery grave of baptism and have Christ meet you there and wash away your sins. I am contending that in baptism Christ meets you and washes your sins away. Paul said, Rom. 6:4, “Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” Christ meets you there. Acts 22:16: “Why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” Before baptism one must hear the gospel (Mark 12:29). He must then believe. Hebrews 11:6, “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” He must repent. Luke 13:3, “Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” Confess Christ. Matthew 10:32, “Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.” He is then ready for baptism. We are going to stand now and sing that sweet invitation song.
THE CHRISTIAN RACE

RULES
PLACE
RUN-ON-INSIDE
CONDITIONS
PRIZE
JUDGE

H. B. R. C. B.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sanctified
Crown
Saved

V.-K.-T.-P.-G.-B.-C.
THE CHRISTIAN RACE

NUMBER 9.

We are thankful to our Heavenly Father for this, another expression of his goodness, in that we are all alive and permitted to be assembled together to continue our investigation of his word. I consider your presence as a wonderful compliment to the meeting. It proves to me that you are interested in the simple and plain teachings that we are endeavoring to present. I hope, my friends, that when this service comes to an end tonight, that some precious soul who is convinced will have the courage to walk out in the presence of this audience and confess Jesus Christ, the Son of God and be buried in baptism, and let Christ wash your sins away and make you a new creature in him. I am sure that each night we have enjoyed the splendid singing led by Brother Lonnie Smith. Night after night we have lifted our voices in singing God's praises and I am sure you appreciate the simplicity of the worship of the church of Christ. We endeavor each night to present to you the New Testament teachings on all subjects that you might have a clearer conception of what the Lord wants you to do to be saved and what church he wants you to be a member of. I hope you will not let this opportunity pass, but you should accept the truth and obey it before it is everlastingly too late. We have a question that I want to read and answer as best I can. "If it is unscriptural to have instrumental music in the worship, then is it wrong to have it in the home?" I think this is a fine question and I am glad this question has come up because of the fact that there are many people that believe it is right to have instrumental music in the worship. In fact, every church that I know of ex-
cept the church of Christ, uses instrumental music in the worship. And they wonder why it is that we don't have it. Sometimes people might think that we are too poor to get it and they think that is the reason we are not using it. I will admit we are poor but we could get the musical instruments like the other churches get them. They pay a little down and the rest when they get it. We could get them on the same installment plan. But that is not the reason we are not using them. The reason is because we do not have the command nor example in the New Testament for the use of musical instruments in the worship. I want to call your attention to some passages of scripture in the New Testament that authorize us to sing. Then I will ask you, and if you don't know, you ask your pastor where is one place in the New Testament that authorizes us to play on musical instruments of any kind? I think that is fair, don't you? If he is teaching you to practice those things, he ought to be able to produce the proof. Matthew 26:30, "And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives." Notice, they did not play a hymn, they sang and went out. Notice again, Acts 16:25, "And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them." They sang and prayed but they did not play and sing like so many people are doing today. I call your attention to 1 Cor. 14:15, Paul says, "I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also." Nothing was said about singing with instruments in that verse and we won't find it as we go on through. Listen again, in Ephesians 5:19, "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;" Paul said speak to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs and make melody in your heart, not make melody on a piano, organ or fiddle. There is the trouble. You are making melody at the wrong place. In Col. 3:16, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom;
teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” There is another command to sing and nothing is said about playing. We have another in Heb. 2:12, “Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.” What did that say? It said sing and people today are playing when the Bible says sing praises in the church. James 5:13, “Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.” James said “Let him sing psalms” so we have what the Bible teaches on the subject of singing and where is a man that can produce one place where we are authorized to play on any kind of musical instrument? The man does not live that can produce the proof. I am sorry this friend said, “If it is unscriptural.” We know it is unscriptural. Why? Because it is a violation and addition to the commandments of God. The New Testament says sing and if you go beyond that which the word says, you transgress God’s law, and sin is the transgression of the law (John 3:4). God’s law to the church is to sing and when you play musical instruments you have gone beyond, or transgressed the law of God. “If it is wrong to have instrumental music in the worship, is it wrong to have it in the home?” There are many things that are right at home that would not be right in the worship. It is all right to have black-eyed peas, ham hock and cornbread on your table at home but none of you would think of putting it on the Lord’s table next Sunday morning. It is good at home but you would resent its being on the Lord’s table and I don’t blame you. 1 Cor. 11:22, Paul tells us it is right to eat and drink at home, so it proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that you can eat and enjoy it at home but it would be a sin to put the same thing on the Lord’s table. It is right to have music at home if you want it but it would be a sin to have it in the worship because the Lord commanded us to sing and it is transgression of the law
to go beyond the wisdom of God. While I am on this question, some of you may be saying, "They had musical instruments in the Old Testament. Doesn’t that make it right to have it in the worship now?" No sir. They offered burnt offerings in the Old Testament but you can’t offer them now. That was for the people back there and what God wants us to do is commanded in the New Testament. One man said David had music and I told him that David did not build the church of Christ. He died before the church was built and my friends God condemned and pronounced woe on all that would use musical instruments like David. Amos 6:5, “That chant to the sound of the viol, and invent to themselves instruments of music, like David;” not only that but David brought goats in God's house (Ps. 66:12, 13). And I know you are not going to move any goats in the church house. We have found that instrumental music was never a part of the Christian worship, and even though it may be right to have it at home, it would be a sin to put it in the Lord's worship and I hope the day will come when honest people will cease to add to the teaching of the New Testament and do only the things they can put their finger on in the word of God.

My subject is "The Christian Race." Hebrews 12:1, 2, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." Now friends, the apostle said in those verses that the Christian life is like a race and therefore tonight we want to discuss the spiritual race or Christian race that we may have a better understanding of how to run this race.

First of all, we are all acquainted with races and know
that there are some rules to be observed in any race. We all agree that there is a certain time for the race. They have to be there at the time in order to run in that race. Now then, the next rule is there must be a place to run. If the race is set for a certain place, then you couldn’t run anywhere else and win the prize. Can you? On the other hand, if the race is set at a certain place, then it means that you must run on the inside of whatever enclosure is built for that purpose. You have to run on the inside if you expect to get the prize. I am sure you understand that. Then again, we notice there are some conditions to be observed. There are conditions to be met in order to run in the race. If you fail to observe the conditions required, you can’t run in the race and get whatever prize is offered. On the other hand, the prize is to be given but the judge must decide who gets the prize and who won the race that is being run. He has to judge according to the rules. If you fail to run according to the rules, you are not entitled to the prize. I think we have that in your mind clear. We want to look at the spiritual side.

Christ has fixed a place where we should run the Christian race. That place is the church of Christ. Now friends, I want to make this illustration. Suppose there is a man by the name of Jones and Mr. Jones goes out and buys a piece of land and he decides he is going to make a race track out of that piece of land. Of course, he fences it off or builds a wall around it for the purpose of having a race track. Then he fixes his track on the inside of that enclosure that he has built. Then he sends out notices all over town that he is going to have a foot race on his track, that he bought, with his own money and built himself. Now then, he also sends out information that there are some conditions to be met and every person who runs in the race must meet the conditions. It gets all over town that Mr. Jones is having a race and that it is a foot race and the prize he is giving is $100.00 to the one that wins the race. All right, what happens? The crowd gathers
for the purpose. Many are there to enter the race and he tells them those who enter the race must pay $5.00 in order to enter the race and have a chance to win the $100. The time is set. They all begin to run, but there is one boy that decided he was not going to pay the $5.00 to enter. He isn’t going to run on the inside. He is going to run on the outside. The bell taps and they start running on the inside. The boy on the outside tears out to running and he outruns anybody on the inside. He is the fastest thing out there but he runs on the outside. He outran everybody else and yet I want to ask intelligent audience this: Is he entitled to the $100.00? Let me say this: Did he run? You have to admit that he did. Did he run good? You have to admit that he did. Wasn’t he the fastest thing out? Yes, then what is wrong? He ran on the outside. When the race is over, he walks around and tells Mr. Jones to give him the $100.00. Mr. Jones said, “Depart son, I don’t know you.” He ran all right but he was running on the outside and Mr. Jones had promised to pay for running on the inside. The boy is tired as he can be but he did not pay the price to enter and he is not entitled to the prize.

Jesus Christ came down from heaven and lived a sinless life and did not sin; neither was guile in his mouth. Yes, they took him and nailed him to the cross and while hanging there, he gave up the ghost and died. They speared him and out of his side came forth blood and water. The blood came forth for the purpose of purchasing the church of Christ. It came out to purchase God’s divine race track. Acts 20:28, “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.” My friends, God the Son, which is Christ Jesus, hung on the cross, shed his blood to buy the church and the church is his race track. Do you believe that Christ would shed his blood to buy the church and then let you
run on the outside of the track and give you a crown of life for running outside? I don’t believe he will. What do I mean by running outside? I mean this. The life you live is a race that you run. There are people that say “I am not going into the church of Christ. I can live just as good outside of the church as I can in it.” He means that he can run the race just as good outside as he can inside. I want to admit that some people are living just as good, morally, outside the church of Christ, as anybody in it, but the prize was promised to the man that runs on the inside, not the man on the outside. Brother Baptist is living good and working, but outside the track. Brother Methodist is outside of the track, working good, and paying the conference claims, but where? Outside the track. My Dancing Sanctified Friends are coming along with their dancing and picking their banjoes, but outside the track. Brother Catholic comes along praying to Mary, confessing to the priest, and the priest is drinking up all the wine and letting you have only the bread, all running, but outside the track. Then comes the Russellites, running around with a bag of Rutherford’s books, running outside of the track. If you expect to get the prize, you have to go inside and run where God told you to run. May God help you to make up your mind and get on the inside of the track. There are many people living good lives but you must live a good life in the church you can read about in the word of God. You have to be in the right church if you want to get the prize. The prize is the crown of life that fadeth not away. What are the conditions that must be met in order to enter this race? There are five. Hear the gospel (Mark 12:29) “Hear, O Israel.” Man must hear first because nobody is likely to enter a race that he has not heard about. Then he gets interested and decides he wants to run in the race. You can’t do anything until you know what is to be done. Then you must believe. Hebrews 11:6, “But without faith it is impossible to please him for he that cometh to God
must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Some of you may say, "Why Brother Miller, don't you know you have to pray for faith?" Faith does not come by prayer. Rom. 10:17, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Preachers say faith comes by prayer at the mourner's bench or some other place, but God says it comes by hearing the word. The Bible is right. After one hears and believes, there is another step that must be taken, that is, repentance. Luke 13:3, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." What is repentance? If you have been lying, quit. If you have been beating your wife, quit. If you have been bothering another man's wife or husband, quit. That is the plain way of telling you what repentance is—quitting your devilment. Some men work hard all the week and spend their money on another woman and when they get home, their wives are scared to ask where their money is. Let me tell you, God wants men to repent. Acts 17:30, "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent." To repent, you have to quit all your devilment and that is genuine repentance. After one hears the gospel, believes, repents, there is another condition that must be met. Matt. 10:32, "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I also confess before my Father who is in heaven." When one has confessed Christ, he is then ready to be baptized. Let me ask you this. When is a person saved? Somebody might say the minute he believes but I deny the statement. He is not saved the minute he believes, not the minute he repents, not when he confesses, but when he is baptized for the remission of sins. Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." You are then on the track and you must run. Peter says in 2 Peter 1:5, "Add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance, and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness
brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.” If you do those things, you are running the Christian race and if you do those things until death, a crown of life awaits you. Who is the Judge? Paul is writing to Timothy, 2 Tim. 4:1-8, “I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.” Christ is the judge that judges the race. Paul said he is a righteous judge and therefore, if I am entitled to win a crown of life, I certainly will receive it. I wonder tonight if there is a precious soul who would like to enter and run the Christian race? People may criticize but they criticized Jesus Christ. Won’t you come while we stand and sing?
true short sighted thing that happens is that it is easy to become complacent and not to think critically about the decisions we make. It is important to remember that the decisions we make have consequences, and it is our responsibility to make informed decisions that are in the best interest of everyone. It is easy to become complacent and not to think critically about the decisions we make. It is important to remember that the decisions we make have consequences, and it is our responsibility to make informed decisions that are in the best interest of everyone. It is easy to become complacent and not to think critically about the decisions we make. It is important to remember that the decisions we make have consequences, and it is our responsibility to make informed decisions that are in the best interest of everyone. It is easy to become complacent and not to think critically about the decisions we make. 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