

Welcome to the: Fifth Annual Saturday May 17, 2008
Minnesota Bible Lectureship

This year's theme:

God's Instructions to ALL of His Family

8:00 a.m. - Registration (Refreshments & childcare will be provided.)

9:00 a.m. - Introduction, Prayer, and Song

9:15 a.m. - ***God's Instructions Concerning the Youth and Small Children***

- Children are a gift from the Lord. *(Dan Mayfield - Owatonna, MN)*
- What is our goal with children?
- Small children learn to respect authority through loving discipline.

10:15 a.m. - ***God's Instructions Concerning Teens and Single Adults***

- The teen and young adult years are pivotal times of change. *(Jon McLemore - Montgomery, AL)*
- Peers are a big concern. Who should be their examples?
- This is a time for instilling convictions and making commitments.

11:15 a.m. - ***God's Instructions Concerning Widows and Orphans***

- What instruction does God give to or concerning widows and orphans? *(Doug Dingley - Rapid City, SD)*
- How do church members fulfill their responsibility to them?

Noon - Lunch (There are restaurants very close to the lectureship.)

1:30 p.m. - ***God's Instructions Concerning the Elderly/Seniors***

- There is no retirement age for faith. *(Ron Maynard - Burnsville, MN)*
- How do Seniors benefit the church?
- The elderly can be a big influence in the lives of the young.
- By their example and teaching they are a source of stability for the church.

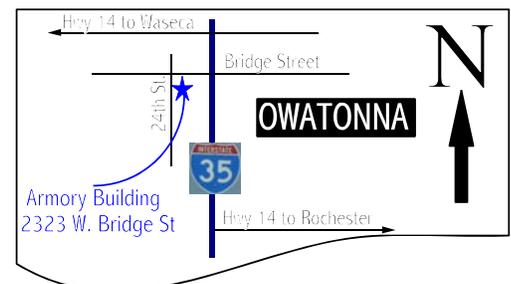
2:30 p.m. - ***God's Instructions Concerning Women/Wives***

- What does the Bible teach about the woman's example? *(Randy Martin - Lakeville, MN)*
- What is her role in marriage? Does submission imply inferiority?
- How is the woman with a gentle spirit a spiritual force in the church?

3:30 p.m. - ***God's Instructions Concerning Men/Husbands***

- What is the duty of man? *(Tim Walker - Huron, SD)*
- What is his example to others as a husband, father, friend, worker, and church member?
- Does being the leader in the home imply superiority?
- What are his aspirations and goals?

- This lectureship is sponsored by the Owatonna Church of Christ and the South Twin Cities Church of Christ.
- It will be held in the **Armory Building** on the west side of Owatonna just 1/3 mile west of I-35 on Bridge Street.
- For more info contact - Dan Mayfield (507) 451-7368
- Randy Martin (612) 220-1124





Dan Mayfield has preached for almost 18 years at the Church of Christ in Owatonna, Minnesota, which he helped to establish in 1990. For 29 years he has been happily married to the former Hazel Fowler. They have 5 children, 3 sons-in-law, and 3 grandchildren. Their first, second, and third children are married to Christians, the third and fourth are in Christian college, and the fifth is at home taking post-secondary college classes. After Dan graduated from the Bear Valley School of Biblical Studies, he received a Bachelor of Science in Management Communication and the Master of Arts degree in Bible from Southern Christian University. Besides preaching and teaching the Word, Dan enjoys working out on the treadmill, riding bikes, camping, and doing woodworking.

GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING THE YOUTH AND CHILDREN

I. WE ARE RAISING CHILDREN IN CHANGING TIMES

- A. In their book "What Every Family Needs", Brecheen and Faulkner wrote, "Back in the days when most people lived on the farm, father and son worked together all day in the field. Mother and daughter worked together all day around the house. A boy learned about farming, but more importantly, he learned about life. While they worked together, he learned about values, faith, and commitment from his dad. A girl learned about a woman's role in society from her mother. She learned not only how to work, but also drank in the spirit of her mother. She learned about people, about relating, and about spiritual concerns." (p.125,126)
1. Back in the day, children received lots of time, lots of instruction, lots of help, lots of love.
 2. The spirit of the Psalm was the credo of many parents: "We will not conceal them from their children, But tell to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His strength and His wondrous works that He has done." Psalm 78:4



- B. How times have changed from when the home was the greatest influence on children.
1. Peers quickly have become the children's counselors and confidants. "But because of technology especially, 'Millenials' (another term for Generation Y) bypass the decisions of authority and reach consensus within their own social circles." (Millenials)
 2. Materialism in the form of electronic games, television, and Internet are consuming the bulk of free time.
 3. From the Wiscasset Newspaper, three AFS students from Japan, Germany, and Sweden reflected on what they observe as a student in America: "American teenagers, seen from the perspective of foreign students, are bored. They have so much free time on their hands they have to look for ways to fill up their day. So, they go shopping, they go to the movies, they watch TV -- activities their foreign counterparts rarely engage in. Cecilia Eken, Alena Heinsohn, and Kahoe Tsuchiya, from Sweden, Germany, and Japan, respectively, are shocked at how

- little is expected from American high school students -- in terms of how many subjects they take, how difficult the work is, and how little studying they do at home.... Cecilia says American students are "not challenged." At home in Sweden she takes 17 subjects a week, going to school from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. She's also a swim coach, teaches a dance class, and has a part time job as a waitress." (AFS students) They are describing many of our own children.
4. Government schools have evolved over a hundred years to become the omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent entity to indoctrinate as many children as possible to share their secular thinking and values - which is at times at variance with the Christian life. The government tells us when to wash our hands, what to eat, and what is right and wrong.
 - a. BOSTON, MA (LifeSiteNews) - A federal appeals court panel has upheld a Massachusetts policy of indoctrinating elementary school students with pro-homosexual attitudes without their parents consent. The three judge panel ruled that a lower court decision was correct when it denied parents the right to remove their children from such classes, while admitting that the purpose of the literature to which their children were being exposed was to influence children to "tolerate" gay marriage. "It is a fair inference that the reading of King and King was precisely intended to influence the listening children toward tolerance of gay marriage," the court admits. "That was the point of why that book was chosen and used." (Court Ruling)
 5. With the breakdown of the family, the result of turning from God, now even the traditional family is under attack.
 - a. In Ruth Reed's book "The Modern Family" you find troubling characterizations of the family as being "inadequate", "inefficient", "instability as an institution" attributable to the rising divorce rates.
- C. Statistics tell a sad story about what is happening with children in America.
1. According to Flavil Yeakley, Churches of Christ are losing about 45% of their kids when they leave for college.
 2. From the Christian Chronicle, "Campus minister Layne Heitz doesn't think Churches of Christ are losing their young people. 'I just think we never had them,' he said. Heitz said that many of the students at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, Okla., aren't 'converted' until they come to college, even if they grew up in churches of Christ. Away from their parents for the first time, some students catch the evangelistic spirit and start inviting their friends to church. Others don't. When they leave Churches of Christ, many students 'are not going to denominations,' Heitz said. 'They are just not going at all.' (Christian Chronicle)
 3. Statistics tell how things are, but not how they have to be. Will we as parents fulfill our duty to bring our children up to know the Lord? The Bible can be the greatest influence on our children.
- D. So what are God's instructions to us concerning the youth and children? How do we recapture the advantage and save our children before another generation is lost?
1. Before it is too late, Christian parents have to take control of childhood fears, disruptive behavior, lying, stealing, shyness, poor self-image, sibling rivalry, and temper tantrums.
 2. Before it is too late, parents must take control and lead their children to become mature Believers in Christ.

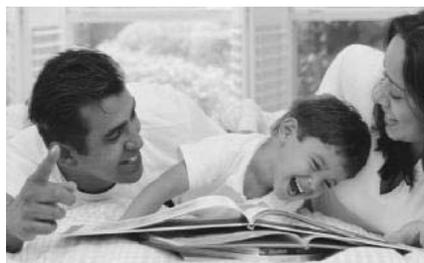
II. FIRST, WE MUST LOVE OUR CHILDREN

- A. God loves children.
1. "*The kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these*" (Mt. 19:14) "*See that you do*

- not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels (possessive) in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven" (Mt. 18:10)*
2. We have a clear indication of how special children are to Him.
 3. The home with love is modeled after God's love for us: *"See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are."* (1 John 3:1)
 4. If we practiced the AGAPE love of God, everything else would take care of itself.
- B. We need to be instructed in how to love.
1. *"Older women teach younger women to love their husbands and to love their children, Titus 2:4*
 2. *"aged men to be temperate, grave, sober, sound in the faith, in the love, in the endurance;" Titus 2:2*
- C. To Love requires we have a proper attitude concerning children.
1. What you think of children effects how you raise them.
 2. If you thought your child was a space alien, planted in you to conceive a new mutant race that would destroy your life, you might even try to destroy it.
 3. If you thought your child came morally depraved from conception, you might be less sympathetic or compassionate even when they don't know better.
 4. If you thought a child was only a few genes ahead of a his ape cousin, you might be happy to have only a creature of instinct.
 5. If you thought a child's destiny was set and you had little no say about it, you might spend less time reading to them and instructing them in right way.
- D. We think children are a sweet gift from the Lord.
1. We think children are a sweet gift from the Lord.
 2. Ps. 127:4, 3 *Behold, children are a gift of the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward.4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth. 5 How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them; They will not be ashamed When they speak with their enemies in the gate.*
 3. Psalm 127 begins with *"Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman keeps awake in vain."*
 4. In a godly home there is love for the children He has given to us.
 5. What is our attitude toward children?
- E. One parent said, "Our ultimate goal as parents should be to develop our children's consciences to be tender and receptive to His leading, and work to fill their minds with God's Word."
1. With the right attitude, The goal is not for them to have as many things as possible, nor to have comfort and ease. The goal was to make them into disciples of Christ.

III. SECOND, PARENTS SET THE EXAMPLE IN THE HOME

- A. "We are apt to forget that children watch examples better than they listen to preaching." — Roy L. Smith



- B. What would we do if we did not have spiritual examples?
 - 1. Without Jesus' example, we would remain in a state of uncertainty at how to live.
 - 2. Jesus said, "*For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.*" John 13:15
 - 3. We have His example on forgiveness, service, accepting people who are different, trusting in the Father, speaking the truth, and on it goes.
 - 4. Paul could say to every Christian man, "*in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified,...*" Titus 2:7
 - 5. If big people need examples, how many times multiplied does the child?
- C. Parents who follow Christ Jesus are the first example for their children.
 - 1. The Mentoring movement is all about modeling life. We live in a broken society with broken homes. The few minutes the children get with the overtaxed mother is not sufficient.
 - 2. You can't teach a child to use a pencil or a fork without showing them. You can't teach a child to make a bed, pick up after himself, care for the family pet, read a book, or a million other things by telling them; life must be exemplified.
 - 3. The Love of God Needs to Be Lived and Experienced through the Parents. It doesn't take long for children to tell where our priorities are. There is a need to talk to the children about God: not just at church and in Bible classes, but at home throughout the week.

IV. THIRD, PROVIDE FOR THE CHILDREN'S NEEDS

- A. Material, Emotional, Spiritual. God expects us to provide for our children.
 - 1. When a son asks for a loaf of bread, a father does not give him a stone or a snake. True, but when his soul is craving to know God, do we give him what his soul craves?
 - 2. *2Co 12:14 "Here for this third time I am ready to come to you, and I will not be a burden to you; for I do not seek what is yours, but you; for children are not responsible to save up for their parents, but parents for their children."*
 - 3. *1Ti 5:8 "But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."*
- B. We must provide the physical needs and the spiritual needs of our children.
 - 1. Children are provided prenatal care, infant clinic visits and vaccinations, nurseries with all of the decorations, educational opportunities from Little Einstein books, stimulating television programming, eye-catching toys, nursery school and kindergarten education, car seats and booster seats, with physical activities like dance, gymnastics, and T-ball; birthday parties and trees stuffed with gifts. Isn't it interesting of what we won't do for the children; but what they need most we don't do?
 - 2. We provide too much. Our affluence has led us to give so much so that the child is free from want, anticipation, and future reward.
 - a. One Dr. David B. Stein, Assistant Professor of Psychology (Stein), says he can cure most ADHD and ODD with his REST program. (REST program). Only food and shelter was provided. Everything else was purchased with money earned with correction in the five behaviors: room cleanliness, personal hygiene, completing chores, stopping abusiveness, avoiding safety violations. Providing beyond needs without responsibility and accountability is the cause of behavior problems.
- C. The most important thing we can provide to our children, beyond what sustains their physical needs, is a spiritual foundation to build on.

V. FOURTH, PARENTS NEED TO PERFECT CHILDREN UNTO ADULTHOOD – Parents Determine the Path Their Children Will Go

- A. When we think of the perfecting of the child, Jesus Christ should always be our example.
 1. Luke 2:52 says, "*And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.*" (cf, Lk. 2:40)
 2. Kenneth Howard wrote, "*Children are adults in process. They begin as helpless babies and grow up into self sufficient, mature adults...hopefully. Someone has to assume the responsibility of seeing that these helpless human beings get the necessary care in order that they will develop properly. That responsibility is to no other person but the two parents who brought the child into the world.*" (Howard)
 3. Mary and Joseph were parents to their son, Jesus.
- B. Parents must expect for their children to mature and follow the Lord.
 1. When you watch little children around parents, you have to wonder what the parents are expecting of them.
 2. What we see are boys and girls who are emotionally stunted, who are spiritual dwarves.
 3. Dr. William Sears, a Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at the University of California, Irvine, School of Medicine and his wife, Martha Sears, a registered nurse and author of 25 parenting books who are parents of eight children write, "*Your child will be as obedient as you expect, or as defiant as you allow. When we ask parents of obedient kids why their children obey, they all answer, "Because we expect them to." Simple as this sounds, many parents let this basic fact of discipline slip away. They are too busy, their child is "strong-willed;" they make excuses: "It's just a developmental phase."*
 4. Instead of expecting, Eli the High Priest fits the pattern of many parents.
 - a. When they were really bad, the most he could say to them was, "*Why do you do such things, the evil things that I hear from all these people? 24 No, my sons; for the report is not good which I hear the Lord's people circulating.*" (1 Sam 2:23,24).
 - b. Eli the High Priest did not expect for his sons to be good.
 - c. Expecting your children to go the right way is different than wishing they would go the right way.
- C. Kenneth Howard offers some principles for perfecting a child.
 1. Perfect the child by **training** him or her.
 - a. This growth is in the mind of every godly parent.
 - 1) Pro. 22:6 "*Train up a child in the way he should go*". That is to train them up toward a certain direction.
 - 2) It means having a really good idea of which way they should go. *Most of the time* when our children leave and do not return, it is exactly because parents trained them to go that way.
 - 3) Richard Hill wrote, "Life is but one continual course of instruction. The hand of the parent writes on the heart of the child the first faint characters that time deepens into strength so that nothing can efface them."
 - b. To train a child, the parent imparts and impresses upon the children the mighty works of God.
 - 1) Psa 78:4 *We will not conceal them from their children, But tell to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His strength and His wondrous works that He has done. 5 For He established a testimony in Jacob And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers That they should teach them to their children, 6 That the generation to*

- come might know, even the children yet to be born, That they may arise and tell them to their children, 7 That they should put their confidence in God And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments, (The TLB gets it wrong, exchanging "commandments" for "miracles").*
- 2) Training the children to be faithful, or to trust in God, is done by talking about the teachings and works of God in the Old Testament.
- c. Training children is a day-to-day reality.
- 1) Deut 6:6-9 -- *4"Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! 5"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6"These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. 7"You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. 8"You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. 9"You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*
 - 2) Children should look back and say, "My parents were always talking about God."
- d. Training requires that children follow God's commandments today, not just when they are grown.
- 1) Cloud and Townsend said, "the work of boundary development is the work of learning responsibility. "Boundaries" 1992, p. 17
 - 2) Parents must command their children to follow the Lord. Children need to practice God's will now.
 - 3) *"Take to your heart all of the words which I am warning you today, which you shall command your sons to observe carefully, even all the words of this Law."* (Dt. 32:46).
 - 4) And children must follow what they were taught. *"Hear, my son, your father's instruction And do not forsake your mother's teaching;"* (Pro. 1:8)
 - 5) The number one boundary concern of the Christian parent is to bring God into the home and into the children's lives.
 - 6) And EVERYTHING the child does, thinks, and says must be measured and examined in the light of God's Word. If a child is not trained to practice God's commands today, when will we expect them to?
2. Perfect the child by **discipline**.
- a. Boundaries class: Little Children Will Test Boundaries and should enjoy the Consequences for doing so. James Dobson, "when your children are young they will test the limits. If you tell them not to cross a certain line, they will cross it, to see what will happen. At this point you children are looking for a fight . . . and you ought not disappoint them!"
 - b. God says that disobedience and rebellion should be punished. That's reality.
 - 1) Pro. 29:17 *"Correct your son, and he will give you comfort; He will also delight your soul."*
 - 2) Correct means "bind, chasten, punish, reform".
 - 3) Pro. 22:15 *"Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of discipline will remove it far from him."*
3. Perfect the child with **comfort and encouragement**.
- a. Discipline without kindness and understanding will be ineffective.
 - b. Holly Dunn sang about "Daddy's Hands":
 - 1) Daddy's hands were soft and kind when I was cryin' .
Daddy's hands, were hard as steel when I'd done wrong.
Daddy's hands, weren't always gentle
But I've come to understand.

There was always love in Daddy's hands.



- 2) Sydney J. Harris wrote, "The best combination of parents consists of a father who is gentle beneath his firmness, and a mother who is firm beneath her gentleness."
- c. Col. 3:21 "*Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.*"
- d. Too much or too little perfecting will develop a frustration and confusion in a child that will lead to hopelessness.
- e. "*Do not hinder the children from coming to me. It would be better for that man to have a millstone around his neck and to be thrown into the sea than to cause a little one to stumble.*"

VI. FIFTH, TEACH CHILDREN TO RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY

- A. The parent is the child's first authority figure.
- B. God says, "*Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.*" When do they start this? Early, very early, or not at all.
- C. Respect for authority is essential
 1. Kevin Daugherty, "3 Essentials in Developing a Healthy Relationship with our Children", writes, "Children must develop a healthy fear of their mother and father. If children are reared with no fear of their parents, it will be the parents that will soon fear their children." (Think Magazine, March 2008, pg. 31)
 2. If a three-year-old child does not respect the authority of his parents, he will hit his teacher, flout the rules at work, speed away from the police, and shake his fist at God.
- D. Israel produced many children who did not respect God or his prophets.
 1. Some young men disrespected Elisha the prophet and God had 42 killed by two possessed she-bears.



2. Samuel was rejected as Judge and God was rejected as Israel's king (1 Sam. 8:7).

- E. If we want our children to respect God, we must teach them to obey His authority now.

VII. FINALLY, SPECIFICS TO EMPHASIZE WITH OUR CHILDREN

- A. Teach small children about the reality of God; the importance of living to please Him. Remember, the goal is that today they hear the commandments of God and today they obey the commandments of God
- B. Let children know that God expects parents to teach their children right and wrong. A parent is not perfect, but the discipline he gives is out of love.
- C. Teach children about being honest, caring, and respectful of others. These are lessons that will bless them for eternity.
- D. Teach them that responsibility means enjoying the consequences of the right or wrong they do. Nothing is gained by making life easier than it should be.
- E. Give children everything they want....not. Let them learn contentment and avoid materialism.
- F. Be as consistent as possible. Practice your devotion to God for your children to see. When they see that you are the light, they will glorify God.

Millenials, <http://www.rhettsmith.com/?p=866>

Court Ruling, http://www.catholic.org/national/national_story.php?id=26724

AFS Students, http://wiscassetnewspaper.maine.com/1999-04-08/foreign_students.html

Christian Chronicle,
http://www.christianchronicle.org/article736~Are_we_losing_our_young_people%3F

REST program, <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/2275444>

Stein, "Stop Medicating, Start Parenting: Real Solutions for Your Problem Child."

Howard, http://www.siscom.net/~direct/marriage_finances/

Sears. <http://www.askdrsears.com/html/6/t060300.asp>



Jon McLemore was born in 1977 in Florence, AL. He graduated High School in Madison, MS and studied for two years at Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, TN. He is currently a student at Amridge University (formerly Southern Christian University) and will graduate in August 2008. He met his wife Mandy in Polson, MT in 1999 while he was on tour with an a cappella group from Minneapolis, MN. They have five children: Addie (7), Rufus (5), Jackson (3), Ellie (2), and Betsy (5 mo.). Jon has been involved in full time ministry for 8 years in Tennessee, Georgia and Alaska. He is also a musician, motorcyclist, and private pilot.

God's Instruction for Teens and Single Adults

Owatonna, MN

5-17-08

Theme: Keeping one's way clean.

Text: Psalm 119:9-16; Ephesians 4:1

Introduction: A high calling, but one with many obstacles for young people.

1. Consider the environment in which our young people are growing up.
 - a. According to various studies conducted by the Center for Disease Control (www.cdc.gov), in 2005, 1 out of 2 teens had tried alcohol. In 2007, they found that 72% of high school seniors had tried alcohol. 11% of all alcohol consumed in the U.S. is consumed by teenagers.
 - b. The CDC also found that 47% of teenagers had had sexual intercourse, and 55% had had oral sex.
 - c. 30% of high school aged teens use tobacco regularly, including cigarettes and smokeless tobacco.
 - d. 20% of high school students tried marijuana, 4% had used cocaine.
 - e. Good news about smoking and illegal drugs, both showed trends of overall less use over the past 10 years.
 - f. However, these numbers show that the opportunity is there if young people want to engage in these habit forming behaviors.
2. Our young people need our support and encouragement if they are going to overcome such obstacles.

- a. Jeremiah 10.23
 - b. Young people are prone to make mistakes, they need help and guidance.
3. This is a critical time for young people. Worldviews and habits, for better or for worse, are firmly established during this time.
- a. The Barna Group (www.barna.org) found that in the U.S., most people have a firmly established worldview by age 13. Only 4% of adults have a biblical worldview.
 - b. They also found that 2 out of 3 people who made commitments to Christ did so before their 18th birthday. Those who made a commitment to Christ at a young age were much more likely to remain 'absolutely committed' to the faith than those who came to Christ at an older age.
 - c. In the same way, poor habits are established by age 18. CDC found that young people who start drinking before age 15 are five times more likely to develop alcohol dependence or abuse later in life than those who start drinking after age 21.
 - d. These illustrations lend support to the Proverb 'Train up a child in the way he should go, when he is old he will not depart from it.' (22.6)
4. Young people, I want you to think hard about your behavior, the habits you are developing. Parents, I want you to consider how you are raising and encouraging your children.
- a. We only have a brief window of time wherein we have a profound influence on our young people.
 - b. There comes a point where the effectiveness of our admonitions and attempts to influence is significantly decreased and can even become 'too little too late.'
 - c. So as we have opportunity to encourage our young people, let us be diligent to take advantage of the time when they are more open to instruction.

Subject: Practical principles for cleansing one's way.

1. 'How can a young man cleanse his way?'
 - a. How can a young people avoid the pitfalls of so many of their peers?
 - b. Keeping one's way pure begins in the mind. We must open our minds and take heed to God's Word.

- i. Have you already put on Christ?
 - 1. Paul says in Colossians 3.1, ‘seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.’
 - 2. ‘Set your minds on things above, not on things of the earth.’
 - 3. SET – like concrete.
 - ii. Maybe you have not yet given your life to Christ.
 - 1. It has been a part of God’s plan all along that you will. (Ephesians 1.3-6)
 - 2. I look at you today as a future Christian. Though you have not put on Christ in baptism, it is God’s will that you will be conformed to the image of His Son.
 - iii. Each one of us was created in the image of God and He desires that we be conformed to the image of His Son.
 - 1. God does not want any to perish, but all to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3.9)
 - 2. The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. (Titus 2.11)
 - iv. Please don’t feel left out today if you have not yet put on Christ in baptism. The call for cleansing one’s way is applicable to all.
- c. How can one cleanse his way?
- i. By taking heed...being on guard, watching out, and paying attention.
 - 1. Picture a fort complete with watchtowers. A strong defense.
 - 2. Because this is an important matter!! Let’s not forget these are matters of eternal consequence.
 - ii. By taking heed, according to Your word. (2 Timothy 3.16)
 - iii. If you are going to rise above the bad habits, sinful behavior that entraps so many young people, it will be because you have developed the proper respect and appreciation for God’s Word.
2. ‘With my whole heart I have sought you; Oh let me not wander from your commandments.’

- a. Keeping one's way clean and pure requires tremendous effort. One's whole heart! (Matthew 22.37)
 - b. We cannot allow even the slightest room for the Satan. (Ephesians 4.27)
 - c. Paul says elsewhere in Ephesians, 'Do not be drunk with wine, but be **filled** with the Spirit.' I always thought it a bit odd to compare the Holy Spirit to wine.
 - i. Have you ever been around someone who is intoxicated? The alcohol starts to take over, does the talking, influence over decisions.
 - ii. That's how it ought to be with the Holy Spirit; He should take over, do the talking, and have complete influence over our decisions.
 - iii. He can do this if we will allow him to fill our hearts and minds. (2 Corinthians 10.5)
3. 'Your word have I hidden in my heart that I might not sin against you.'
- a. Cleansing one's way requires preparation, much like pilot training.
 - b. Learning to fly an aircraft requires careful memorization of emergency procedures.
 - i. It would be completely unacceptable to wait until one is actually in an emergency situation to pull out and open the emergency procedures manual.
 - ii. Pilots spend hours studying that emergency manual while sitting safely on the ground in a quiet place.
 - iii. When that emergency arises, decisions are already made and our actions come naturally.
 - c. Young people you cannot wait until you are in the heat of the moment to consult the procedure manual! It will be too late!
 - i. You've got to head those emergency situations off long before you get yourself into them.
 - ii. A good passage to hide in your heart would be 1 Corinthians 6.18-20.
 - iii. It provides instruction ('Flee!') for many situations in which you might find yourself. (Example: Joseph)
4. 'Blessed are you O Lord! Teach me your statutes.'

- a. God has provided us with His statutes, the complete Revelation. In it we learn that Jesus is Lord. He is in control, our supreme authority.
- b. He would not have us be controlled by anything other than Himself, especially bad habits which satisfy the desires of the flesh.
 - i. Consider Paul's instruction to the Ephesians as he encourages them to abstain from many harmful behaviors.
 1. Put off the old man. (4.22)
 2. Put away lying. (4.25)
 3. Be angry and do not sin. (4.26)
 4. Let him who stole, steal no more. (4.28)
 5. Let no corrupt communication come out of your mouth. (4.29)
 6. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. (4.31)
 7. Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness. (5.11)
 8. Do not be drunk with wine. (5.18)
- c. As we rid our lives of bad habits, we must then be diligent to develop good habits.
 - i. Matthew 12.43-45.
 - ii. In every instance, Paul provides instruction regarding the good behavior in which to engage in.
 1. Put off the old man and be renewed in your mind. (4.23)
 2. Put away lying, speak the truth with your neighbor. (4.25)
 3. Be angry and do not sin, do not let the sun go down on your anger. (4.26)
 4. Let him who stole, steal no more, rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good that he may have something to give him who has need. (4.28)
 5. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. (4.29)

6. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ also forgave you. (4.31-32)
 7. Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, rather expose them. (5.11)
 8. Do not be drunk with wine; rather be filled with the spirit. (5.18)
- d. Having the right friends is a vital part of developing proper habits.
- i. 'He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed.' (Proverbs 13.20)
 - ii. 'Do not be deceived: evil company corrupts good habits.' (1 Corinthians 15.33)
 - iii. Imitate....
5. 'With my lips I have declared all the judgments of Your mouth.'
- a. Encouraging others helps us keep our way clean.
 - b. Continually declaring something helps one live up to it.
 - i. This is why we sing the 'same old songs', go over the 'same old scriptures.' Do you ever sing something for years and then one day finally 'get it?'
 - ii. Peter wrote in his second letter 'I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, *though you know them*, and are established in the present truth.' (2 Peter 1.12-15)
 - c. 'Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young; set an example, in speech....' (2 Timothy 4.12)
 - i. You can be that example of which we just read.
 - ii. Be the 'right crowd' that your friends' parents can count on.
 - iii. Young people have a way of inspiring us like no one else.
6. 'I have rejoiced in the way of your testimonies as much as in all riches. I will meditate on your precepts, and contemplate your ways. I will delight myself in your statutes. I will not forget your word.'

- a. Taste and see that the Lord is good! (Psalm 34.8)
- b. Following the way of the Lord is exceedingly rewarding! (Psalm 1)
- c. Keeping one's way pure is an ongoing process.
 - i. Romans 12.1-2 must become a daily habit.
 - ii. Like many daily habits that we can never stop.
- d. You never really arrive. (Philippians 3)
- e. Statutes do not sound like a lot of fun. How can one delight in them?
- f. Do not forget! Israel's big problem, forgetfulness.

Conclusion: Be who you are. (Ephesians 4.1)

1. You are an important part of the body of Christ. (Ephesians 4; Romans 12; I Corinthians 12)
2. You will soon need to take initiative and become leaders in Lord's church. Now is the time to prepare.



Doug and his wife Karen are both “born and raised, native New Englanders”, having lived there all their lives until last August, when he was blessed to become the evangelist for the Lord’s church at Rapid City, South Dakota.

Both he and Karen were raised with no religious background, but were baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of their sins in April of 1985, after her attendance at a neighbor’s house, where an in-home Bible Study conducted by a brother in the Lord’s church, revealed the true, Biblical, gospel plan of salvation, which they both then obeyed together two days later.

While continuing his full-time employment of driving tractor-trailer until October 8th, 2001 when he became the full-time pulpit preacher for the Conway church of Christ in Conway, New Hampshire, he gratefully took advantage of any and every opportunity to study, preach, and teach the Word of God as written, to anyone and everyone who would listen. He worked with the youth of his home congregation from approximately 1987-1997, and later helped organize several very successful youth rallies that God blessed with hundreds in attendance, with many being converted, as well as many being re-committed, to Jesus Christ the Lord, during his 6 year, full-time tenure there at Conway.

He has also been blessed by God over the years to present God’s Word from such pulpits as those of the Oxford Hills church of Christ in So. Paris, Maine, the Penobscot Valley church of Christ in Bangor, Maine, and the Seabrook and Derry churches of Christ in New Hampshire; as well as speaking at gospel meetings and lectureships in Kittery, Maine, and Taunton, Massachusetts.

WIDOWS AND ORPHANS (OUTLINE FOR LECTURESHIP)

1. Introductory Remarks...

A). To the topic: “Social Security” is not enough; God wants the widows and orphans within His body to have “**Scriptural Security**”!

B). Discussion of 1st Corinthians 12:21-26:

It is the weaker parts of the body that deserve special attention and extra protection, according to the plan and purpose of Almighty God, as it is they that are indispensable.

2. God Himself, throughout time and Scripture, has made it incredibly and abundantly clear, through His very consistent and specific commandments, that extra-special emphasis and compassionate care for this very vulnerable group of people, **MUST** be in evidence amongst His people. Old Testament Examples:

A). Psalm 68:5-6 (which I think should be the theme verses for this segment of our study)

B). Exodus 22:22-24

C). Deuteronomy 24:17-22, 26:12-13

D). Psalm 145:5-10

E). Proverbs 15:25, 23:10-11

F). Isaiah 1:1-23 (particularly verses 16-23); and Isaiah 10:1-3: ‘No excuses allowed!’

G). Jeremiah 22:3-5

H). Zechariah 7:7-14

I). Malachi 3:1-6

3. New Testament Examples:

Jesus Christ’s just compassion for the harassed and helpless (Matthew 9:36, 12:18-21) compelled Him to:

A). Raise the widow of Nain’s son from the dead (Luke. 7:11-15).

B). Commend the widow who contributed all that she had to live on to the Temple treasury, even though a very meager amount by any earthly standard. (Mk 12:41-44; Luke 21:1-4).

C). Instill in His own disciples the same kind of care and compassion for the needy widows within His church, which were otherwise easily overlooked (Acts 6:1ff; 9:36-41)

- D). Make sure, through the Divinely-Inspired pen of James, just how essential such care was to their eternal salvation (James 1:27)
4. The institution and application of His church's responsibilities to the widows and orphans among them, are clearly expressed and explained in our central reference text of 1st Timothy 5:3-16...
 5. 1st Timothy 5:3:
 - They are to be honored; treated as one would their own mother (see verse 2)
 - Only those who are "truly widows"; that is to say, only those with no one else to rely on but the church to care for them; for those with children must be served by those children (verses 4 and 8), for even pagans and unbelievers know they have a responsibility to provide care for their own (Matthew 5:46-47). If family members take care of their own elderly, as they should, then the church will be free to serve the genuinely unable or legitimate, "true" (verse 2), or "real" (verse 16) widows.
 6. 1st Timothy 5:5:
 - A great example of the widow described in this verse would be Anna (See Luke 2:36-37; also: 1st Corinthians 7:34-35)
 7. 1st Timothy 5:6:
 - This definition of "dead" can be seen in Ephesians 2:1-3, where it means "separated from God", by sin (Isaiah 59:1-2). See God's instructions in 1 Corinthians 7:8-9 relating to the temptations the younger widows might face more so than the older ones, and also verses 11 and 12 of 1st Timothy 5, as well as 2nd Timothy 3:6 for further insight into why these things are so. Those widows who have not typically mastered self-control in these areas or those of 1st Timothy 5:13, the Lord's church is not ultimately, financially responsible for.
 8. 1st Timothy 5:14-15:
 - This is God's Scriptural solution for younger widows to stay faithful and have their needs met.
 9. 1st Timothy 5:7:
 - These instructions are commands that Timothy is to teach to the church as well (Ch. 4:11)
 10. 1st Timothy 5:9-10:
 - These are the faithful and God-fearing widows the Lord's faithful church is responsible to help. (Perhaps Dorcas was just such a one?). These are those who have faithfully and obediently served the brethren themselves just as Jesus taught in such places as Matthew 25:35-36, John 13:1-14, and Titus 2:2-5 and others; and it is now time for them to reap what they've sown (Galatians 6:7-8) when they now need it most. These good and godly sisters, with no one left but their brethren, must now be taken care of by the saints, in the same manner as they themselves, have taken care of the saints.
 - Note: This is not only meant in a merely a financial sense, but in social, spiritual, and other physical needs as well. For instance, a church which does not provide a ride for its' faithful widows to worship when they can no longer drive, is probably not truly worshipping in the

way that God expects, accepts, or approves, are they? (See James 2:14-26; 1 John 3:16-18, 4:17-21, Isaiah 1, and 1st Corinthians 11:28-29).

11. In light of the Lord's commands concerning widows and orphans then brethren, we are without excuse are we not?

-Our responsibilities to them are not abrogated by so-called "Social Security" any more than our responsibility to evangelize could be Scripturally entrusted to missionary societies and still be considered as acceptable to God. In both cases, He entrusted those responsibilities to His church.

-We cannot use the excuse that because we live in a different time and culture, complete with all of it's social programs, that God's Word on this no longer applies to us. This is the same type of self-justification that is causing the current liberal digression within our ranks relative to such Scriptures as 1st Timothy 2:11-15. In that passage, God goes back to the beginning and proves that this was his plan all along on that, just as I've done here today relative to His commands on widows and orphans.

-We cannot become as were the Pharisees of Jesus' day who would look for any loophole to justify not taking care of the elderly whom God wants His people to care for, who walk among us, in all times and places.

12. In conclusion; yes, we have many social, financial-aid type programs in our country and culture, which do indeed help to lessen the burden on some of our very old, very young, and otherwise needy. BUT: Where there is still a legitimate need, in those areas and within those perimeters that God has clearly established and defined in His Word, it is up to the church of our Lord Jesus Christ to do all it possibly can to fill those needs, if we would be faithful to God.

In the Love of God and His Eternal Truth; Douglas E. Dingley, evangelist, church of Christ at
Rapid City



Ron Maynard has been a full-time evangelist since his graduation from Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver in 1972. During that time he worked for two years with the Crosstown church in Tulsa, OK, directing a large bus ministry and benevolent center outreach; 17 years with the Mankato church, two years with the Owatonna church, five years with the South Twin Cities church, and 11 years as a Fishers of Men instructor, equipping Christians in 13 states and two foreign countries to teach the gospel to their friends, neighbors, and relatives. He has made six trips to Russia. In addition to an Associate Degree from Bear Valley, Ron holds Bachelors and Masters degrees from the University of Minnesota at Mankato, where he earned certification in gerontology, and a Doctor of Ministry in Church Growth and Evangelism from Theological University of America. He has also served as a Police Chaplain, adjunct faculty member at Mankato, editor of the Minnesota Milestones, and as a member of various boards including Flaming Pine Youth Camp and Hands of Compassion. Ron has been married to Louise for 45 years and has three children and nine grandchildren. Louise retired from public school teaching in 2007, and they now live in their RV nine months of the year as they travel to teach Fishers of Men. Ron has Fishers of Men classes scheduled as far ahead as 2010 and has no plans to retire.

God's Instructions Concerning the Elderly/Seniors

- I. Introduction: How do you view the elderly?
 - A. As a young boy I visited our Grandpa and Grandma Faulkner in Lakeview, Texas, where my mother grew up. We went down the street visiting all the old people sitting in their rocking chairs on their front porches.
 - B. In my old neighborhood in Enid, Oklahoma, I remember knowing all the elderly within a few blocks of our house. We knew which of the widow ladies would have the best Halloween treats. Old Mrs. Stotts purchased all the duck eggs produced by Donald, my pet duck. I named the duck Donald because as a duckling I thought it was a boy duck. After Donald started laying eggs, I changed his name to Daisy and sold her eggs for 75 cents a dozen because they were jumbo double yolk eggs, great for baking.
 - C. Other neighbors were Happy and Edgar Coppick who lived across the street. They were two old bachelor brothers who just went fishing every day.
 - D. Needless to say, I grew up thinking that older folks did one of two things: sat on the front porch all day long waiting for the neighbors to come by to visit, or they spent their days fishing.
 - E. But my wife Louise remembers from her childhood in Ames, Oklahoma, an elderly couple, Emory and Ethel Poindexter. Ethel was confined to a wheelchair. Emory was frail, but he and Ethel never missed the assembly of the saints—Sunday morning, Sunday night, Wednesday night. As a

young girl, when Louise envisioned heaven, she saw God on the throne, Jesus on His right, and Emory and Ethel sitting on his left.

F. Like many of you, I have always compared the stages of life to the seasons of the year. When we are children, anything over 20 seems old. Louise's 17 year old student in his essay on the seasons of life came up with this assessment:

1. Spring is pre-school.
2. Summer is elementary school.
3. Fall is junior high and high school.
4. Winter is everything after high school! It gives Louise some pleasure to know that her essayist is now in his 15th year of winter.

G. Here is a more common view:

1. Spring is childhood, 0-20 years.
2. Summer is young adulthood/young families, 20-40 years.
3. Fall is middle age, children leaving the nest, 40-60 years.
4. Winter is growing old and facing the end of life, 60 and older.

H. As I began to prepare this lesson, I thought of myself as being in Fall, but I've realized I'm definitely getting into winter.

I. What season of life are you in? Whatever season it may be, we need to be concerned about God's instructions for this final season of life. We need to establish a mindset early in our lives. It influences how we feel about getting old, how we treat the elderly, how we plan for winter, how we live our lives in this last season.

II. "Teach us to number our days."

A. Psalm 90:12 "So teach us to number our days,

That we may present to You a heart of wisdom."

B. I have lived 23,337 days. There may be some value in counting the days we have lived, but God is not wanting us just to mark the days on the calendar.

C. Anyone can count time. The challenge for us is to make time count. Ecclesiastes 8:5b "And a wise man's heart discerns both time and judgment."

D. Just what is the psalmist telling us in Psalm 90:12?

1. He is asking God to "teach us."
2. He is asking God to teach us to "number our days." Be aware of the time we have been given by God. Each new day is a gift.

3. He states why we should make these days count: “That we may present to You a heart of wisdom.” The blessings that we receive as we get older are greatly determined by how we apply our heart and minds to wisdom daily.
- E. The Bible speaks about the shortness of time and the brevity of life.
1. Job 7:6 “My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope.”
 2. I Chron. 29:15 “For we *are* aliens and pilgrims before You, As *were* all our fathers; Our days on earth *are* as a shadow, And without hope.”
 3. James 4:19 “Whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.”
- F. The longer we live, the more we feel that time that can never be reclaimed is slipping by. Someone has said that “life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.” We cannot let this knowledge of growing older become a fear. We cannot begrudge the use of time as a miser does his money. The fear of the passage of time may cause older people to withdraw from the present, leading to boredom and despair. To overcome this fear, we must see each new day as a gift from God to be used in living an active life that blesses those around us.
- III. Are you planning your retirement? The investment counselors certainly encourage us to plan. It’s like the cartoon showing a man who was out in his yard posting a sign: Wanted Odd Jobs. Will do ironing, mowing, repairs. He explained to his wife, “We’re going to need more gold for our golden years.” But beyond the financial considerations, how do you envision your golden years? What do you want to do? Travel? Golf? Fish? What do you not want to do? Louise would answer, “Grade junior high essays.” There is one guiding truth for the Christian: There is no retirement age for faith.
- A. A lady in the church once stated that she was not planning to be a part of the church visitation ministry. She said, “I’ve been working in the church for over 20 years, and now I’m going to just sit back and coast into heaven.” I pointed out to her that heaven is usually considered to be “up” and left her to ponder where she might be headed if she were “coasting” down.
- B. Luke 9:23 “Then He said to *them* all, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.’ ” Do

you hear any provision for retirement in this passage? Do we take up our crosses daily until we are 62? 65? 70?

- C. Think of the giants of faith of the Old Testament. Can you think of any who retired? On the other hand, think of those who served God faithfully in difficult circumstances at the end of their long lives.
1. Abraham. Hebrews 11:8-12 “By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. [Abraham was 75 years old.]
⁹ By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as *in* a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; ¹⁰ for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God. [Abraham lived in tents from the age of 75 to 175 years old.]
¹¹ By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born *as many* as the stars of the sky in multitude--innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.” [Abraham was 100 years old.]
 2. Moses was 40 when he killed an Egyptian and fled from Egypt, 80 when he led the Israelites out of Egypt, 120 when he died. Deuteronomy 34:7 “Moses *was* one hundred and twenty years old when he died. His eyes were not dim nor his natural vigor diminished.”
 3. Caleb was 40 years old when he was sent into Canaan to spy out the land. In Joshua 14:8, Caleb, age 85, remembers that trip this way: “Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt with fear; but I followed the LORD my God fully.” In verses 9-11 Caleb comes to claim the land inheritance he had been promised and gives us insight into his feeling about being an old man of 85. “So Moses swore on that day, saying, 'Surely the land on which your foot has trodden will be an inheritance to you and to your children forever, because you have followed the LORD my God fully.'
¹⁰ Now behold, the LORD has let me live, just as He spoke, these forty-five years, from the time that the LORD spoke this word to Moses, when Israel walked in the wilderness; and now behold, I am eighty-five years old today. ¹¹ I am still as strong today as I was in the day Moses sent me; as my strength was then, so my strength is now,

for war and for going out and coming in.” In verse 12 in the NKJ Caleb ends by saying, “Give me this mountain.”

4. Barzillai, who befriended David when he was fleeing from Absalom, offers a different view of old age. We cannot all be like Moses who at age 120 experienced no dimness of eye or diminished vigor. We cannot all say at age 85 that our strength is the same as at age 40, as Caleb did. In II Samuel 19 David asked Barzillai, age 80, to cross over the Jordan and go into Jerusalem where he would “sustain him.” Barzillai’s response is recorded in verses 34-37. “But Barzillai said to the king, ‘How long have I yet to live, that I should go up with the king to Jerusalem?’³⁵ I am now eighty years old. Can I distinguish between good and bad? Or can your servant taste what I eat or what I drink? Or can I hear anymore the voice of singing men and women? Why then should your servant be an added burden to my lord the king?³⁶ Your servant would merely cross over the Jordan with the king. Why should the king compensate me *with* this reward?’³⁷ Please let your servant return, that I may die in my own city near the grave of my father and my mother.” While Christians do not retire from serving God, they must be willing to accept the limitations of age and wisely discern how best to serve. Paul said in I Timothy 6:6 “Now godliness with contentment is great gain.”
- D. Are you thinking, yeah, but those guys lived to be a lot older, and God dealt with them in a different way? Great things have been accomplished during modern times by the elderly.
1. Colonel Sanders started his chicken business with his first Social Security check at age 65.
 2. Many of you know Glen Bettenhausen. He preached the gospel at churches in Minnesota and Arizona in his 60’s and 70’s. During this time he served the church as a caretaker at Flaming Pine Camp where he influenced untold numbers of children and adults. In his 80’s, after numerous strokes and procedures to keep his ailing heart going, he did mission work in Nigeria and served as both an elder and a deacon.
 3. Lena Little, an 82 year old lady in Trinity, Alabama, graduated from the Fishers of Men course last October. She was scared to take the course, knowing about all the homework involved, afraid to make a mistake as she taught the gospel. She graduated in the honor club. She taught her niece, who was very opposed to the gospel, so much so that the class was amazed when Sister Little reported that the young woman had agreed to a Bible study. Curt Fox, 81, took the FOM class

in January in Round Rock, Texas. Bob Cloyd, 93, is presently taking the class in Alva, Oklahoma.

4. Hundreds of seniors are part of the Sojourner program. They own RVs and travel in them from place to place to serve God in many ways, ranging from building cabins at Flaming Pine Camp to teaching Bible studies in door-to-door campaigns.
5. Gennady, age 73, is an elder in the church in Syktyvkar, Russia. He is retired as a doctor, but he is far from retired as a Christian. He took the Fishers of Men class when he was 61 and has been active in evangelism ever since. He oversees a social assistance program for widows and young women with small children who would be on the streets of this northern Russian city if not for the church's provision for them. Gennady is not just an administrator. He teaches the children and the women in weekly Bible classes. He is personally involved in their lives. When I left Russia in December, his wife reluctantly asked if I would leave my ice cleats for Gennady. She said he falls on the icy streets of Syktyvkar almost every day as he is out and about in his ministry. Gennady and Svetlana do not have a car.
6. I'm sure you could add to this brief list the names of elderly people you know who have never retired from serving the Lord. You know names like George and Barbara Pappas, Leroy and Mildred Murphy, Linda Haedge, and Boots Young. You probably know the names Marshall Keeble, J. C. Bailey, Mac Lyon. They are great examples to all of us and by their lives remind us that great service can be given by seniors who never retire from the army of God.

IV. Seniors have a major role to play in stabilizing the church through their example and teaching.

- A. Older people strengthen the church through teaching. Hebrews 5:12-14
“For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need *someone* to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes *only* of milk *is* unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, *that is*, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”
- B. Older women are to teach the younger. Titus 2:3-5 “The aged women likewise, that *they be* in behavior as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; ⁴ That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their

- children, ⁵ *To be* discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.”
- C. It is vital that the elderly not relax in their study and dependence on the scriptures. Their teaching must rest on sound doctrine. Titus 2: 2 admonishes “That the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience.” I studied at Bear Valley under Roy H. Lanier Sr., an elderly gentleman who was known for his knowledge of the scriptures. His habit was to rise at 4:00 A.M. for Bible study. His favorite verse was Psalms 119:97 “Oh, how I love Your law! It *is* my meditation all the day.” In spite of that, he often shared with us his fear that in his old age he would be led astray and would lead others astray by teaching error. The elderly can never rest on their previous knowledge of the scriptures, no matter how great that knowledge might be.
- D. The elderly must be involved in teaching the lost. Why is it that we want to live longer? The psalmist gave as his reason that he wanted to teach about God. Psalm 71:18
“And even when *I am* old and gray, O God, do not forsake me,
Until I declare Your strength to *this* generation,
Your power to all who are to come.”
- The elderly have a unique opportunity to teach their peers. We sometimes mistakenly assume that the elderly are set in their ways, that we “can’t teach an old dog new tricks.” This is simply not true. A 79 year old woman in Olathe, Kansas, obeyed the gospel, saying, “I thought I was saved and found out that I was not. At age 79, you don’t have much time to learn the truth.” Sandy Gruper’s mother Vivian was in her 90’s at the time of her baptism. When Bruce was studying with her, he realized that there were times when she was not capable of understanding, but she had “good days” when her mind was clear. It was obvious that Vivian understood perfectly what she was doing on the day of her baptism. “I was baptized as a baby,” she said, “but those babies don’t know what they’re doing.” Recently Jakie Gibbs in Denver baptized two women, both in their 80’s, in a nursing home where he teaches a Bible lesson on Sunday afternoons.

V. The elderly have a major role to play in stabilizing the church through leadership.

- A. Seniors provide much of the leadership in the Lord’s church. God has always used the elderly as leaders, both in the Old and the New Testaments. While the elders of the church do not have to be old men,

they cannot be novices, and the very term “elder” suggests that they are not to be young men.

- B. The wisdom of the elderly is the quality that enables them to be good leaders.

Job 12:12 “Wisdom is with the aged.

With long life is understanding.”

Psalm 92:12-15

“The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree,

He will grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

Planted in the house of the LORD,

They will flourish in the courts of our God.

They will still yield fruit in old age;

They shall be full of sap and very green,

To declare that the LORD is upright;

He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.”

- VI. The elderly have a major role to play in stabilizing the church through their influence on the young.

- A. One of the great blessings of age is grandchildren. They are both a reward and a responsibility. “Children’s children” are mentioned 10 times in the Bible. “Sons’ sons” are mentioned six times. Proverbs 17:6 tells us that “Children’s children are the crown of old men.” The Bible speaks of grandparents once, in II Timothy 1:5 “When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.” The impact of this influence is described in II Timothy 3:15. “And that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” At the end of the first Fishers of Men class, the students share the names of the key persons in their conversion to Christ. Many times that person will be a grandfather or a grandmother. Grandparents, you have a great blessing but also a great opportunity to teach and influence.
- B. The young people that the elderly influence may not always be their grandchildren. Just as Paul referred to Timothy and Titus as his sons in the faith (I Timothy 1:2; Titus 1:4), so the elderly may have “grandchildren” in the church. Children are watching you. They form impressions that you may never know. I’m sure Emory and Ethel Poindexter had no idea that Louise was watching them and picturing them in heaven sitting on God’s left hand. The influence of Gennady on

the fatherless children in Russia will bear eternal fruit. Even though our children had wonderful, loving grandparents, they lived far away, and we are grateful to various seniors over the years who filled the role of grandparents to them.

VII. The elderly have a major role to play in stabilizing the church through their service.

- A. It is not necessary to do great things to have a great impact on the church. We could all name memorable acts of kindness and of service that have left a lasting impression on us. The New Testament is full of reminders that the first shall be last, that we are to be the servants of all, that Jesus Himself was a servant. Matthew 23:11 says, “But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.”
- B. This is an area where seniors have a great advantage because service requires one precious commodity that seniors have more of than anyone else if they are retired from their secular jobs: time.
- C. To be a servant requires the ability to look around us and see what needs to be done, to be willing to do it even if it requires getting our hands dirty, and to be unconcerned about who gets the credit.
- D. Our son Mark wrote this about his grandmother: “My grandmother lived a quiet life of great importance. She was a servant of God, and every hour in the kitchen, every kind word, card or letter, every day she spent sewing things for the people blessed enough to receive something made by the hands of Marjorie Cooper, were service to God. She went about life serving the people she loved with hard work. I will always remember the lesson of her quiet, peaceful smile, that giving all you have to the people you love for a lifetime can be an exciting, joy-filled life.”

VIII. Old age can definitely be, as the kids say, a huge bummer, but for the Christian, it can be seen as the final passage to glory, a unique time to lead, teach, influence, and serve.

- A. In Ecclesiastes 12:1-8 the scriptures paint a graphic picture of the infirmities of old age when we become frail, hard of hearing, and even toothless. “Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them":² While the sun and the light, The moon and the stars, Are not darkened, And the clouds do not return after the rain;³ In the day when the keepers of the house tremble, And the strong men bow down; When the grinders cease because they are few, And those that look through the windows grow dim;⁴ When the doors are shut in the

streets, And the sound of grinding is low; When one rises up at the sound of a bird, And all the daughters of music are brought low; ⁵ Also they are afraid of height, And of terrors in the way; When the almond tree blossoms, The grasshopper is a burden, And desire fails. For man goes to his eternal home, And the mourners go about the streets. ⁶ *Remember your Creator* before the silver cord is loosed, Or the golden bowl is broken, Or the pitcher shattered at the fountain, Or the wheel broken at the well. ⁷ Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it.”

- B. The same bleak picture is painted in Psalm 90:10. “The days of our lives *are* seventy years; And if by reason of strength *they are* eighty years, Yet their boast *is* only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.”
- C. Some have described the infirmities of old age in a more humorous way. You know you’re getting old when:
 - 1. Most of your dreams are reruns.
 - 2. The gleam in your eye is from the sun on your bifocals.
 - 3. Your “little black book” contains names ending with M.D.
 - 4. The airline attendant offers “coffee, tea, or Milk of Magnesia.”
 - 5. You sit down in a rocking chair and can’t get it started.
 - 6. Your knees buckle, but your belt won’t.
 - 7. The little gray-haired lady you help across the street is your wife.
- D. Some see the time of growing old as stepping down to the grave. Others see it as a step up toward heaven. Even in the passages just quoted, they both end with the good news about old age. The Ecclesiastes passage ends with “the spirit will return to God who gave it” and Psalm 90:10 ends with the glorious words of the old song “I’ll Fly Away.”
- E. God keeps His promises. He has gone to prepare a mansion for us. If we are faithful, He will give us a crown of life. He will carry us to glory. His promise in Isaiah 46:3-4 describes His care for us from birth through our old age. “Listen to Me, O house of Jacob, And all the remnant of the house of Israel, Who have been upheld *by Me* from birth, Who have been carried from the womb: ⁴ Even to *your* old age, I *am* He, And *even* to gray hairs I will carry *you!* I have made, and I will bear; Even I will carry, and will deliver *you.*”
- F. May God bless each of us as we grow older, to “let the beauty of Jesus be seen” in our lives and hearts.



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God's Instructions Concerning Women / Wives

- A. I have discovered that for most people following instructions is easier when one sees the reason, or understands the larger picture behind them.
1. Illustration (ILL) - In the movie "Karate Kid," when he had to "wax on, wax off," all the cars and "paint the fence" Daniel got frustrated until Mr. Miyagi dramatically demonstrated that all those hand movements were representing self-defense techniques. It was worth a thousand words!
 2. God similarly often gives us a vast amount of imagery when explaining commands.
- B. The truth is that the women's role can best be understood when we let God give us not merely commands, but a larger mental picture of what the woman's role represents.
1. Actually, all of us are walking billboards for something. Even when Christ was on Earth He was a physical manifestation designed to give the imagery and glory of God.

Col 1:15 - ¹⁵And He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation.

Heb 1:3 - ³And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature . . .
 2. Right now you are in a fleshly container. Just as Christ was removed from His, so shall you be. Have you considered what image and glory you are to be representing while in this magnificent role? It's powerful!
 - a. God could have made everything vastly different from what we know as common. For example He could have made man and all species asexual, couldn't He?
 - b. But He didn't and there was a great reason. He specifically made male & female / husband & wife because He wanted living illustrations (images) of spiritual realities in the heavens. Every union is a walking sermon illustration.
 - c. This term "imagery" is from the Gk. *eikon*, hence the word "icon." *We're icons!*
 3. This imagery is strongly portrayed in the book of Ephesians.

Eph 5:28-33 - ²⁸So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; ²⁹for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, ³⁰because we are members of His body. ³¹For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh. ³²**This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.** ³³Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see to it that she respect (fear) her husband.
 4. Here we see each marriage should be a living illustration, an icon, portraying Christ's relationship to His bride, the church. The marriage relationships we live each day should be a visual aid showing the type of relationship between Christ (husband) and His bride (the Church).
- C. Therefore, as per my assignment, I'm going to focus on the spiritual imagery of the female, as simply a woman but also as a wife in my attempt to explain God's various instructions to them. I hope it helps!

I. WOMEN ARE THE IMAGE OF THE CHURCH AND THE GLORY OF MAN

- A. What does it mean to be an image & glory (splendor) of something? What are icons for?
- 1 Co 11:7* - ⁷For a man ought not to have his head covered, since he is the image and glory of God . . .
1. Man is the image and glory of God. Therefore, he is representing God and His life

- must bring glory/splendor to that position God is in. It illuminates it.
Re 21:23 - ²³And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.
2. This is similar to the work that one performs. One's work either brings positive glory or shame to his position in life. Paul used this to appeal to the Thessalonians.
1 Th 2:19-20 - ¹⁹For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming? ²⁰For you are our **glory** and joy.
- B. What does it all mean that **she** is the glory of man and is the imagery of the church?
1. She is the glory of man as a woman.
1 Co 11:7-9 - ⁷For a man ought not to have his head covered, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the **glory of man**. ⁸For man does not originate from woman, but woman from man; ⁹for indeed man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake.
 2. She is the image of the church as a wife.
Eph 5:23 - ²³For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.
 3. Similarly, as to how the man's position is a glory to God, it means that her position & relationship to man brings glory/splendor to man who is in the imagery of both God and Christ as head of the church.
 4. As the text says, she was made for man. Man was not made for her. The aspects of her being a woman in the church and then her as wife to her husband glorifies man, which subsequently glorifies Christ.
- C. Take pride in your imagery & what you are to be the glory of! The alternative is to not understand, like it, and that is tantamount to shaming it!
1. We can't be prideful, but we all can and should take pride in what God makes!.
 2. Don't bring contempt to the position, which is dishonoring God.
Php 3:18-19 - ¹⁸For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, ¹⁹whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose **glory is in their shame**, who set their minds on earthly things.
 3. Earthly thinking wants you to be ashamed to be made from man and for man, but all should glory in their specific position they have been put in by the hand of God.
 - a. While in the flesh we are all like icons/actors in the most splendid play of all! Our respective roles reveal the power structure and nature of the spiritual universe. It reveals God and His ways!
 - b. ILL - Feminists would have women be outraged by saying theirs is merely a **supporting** role! Yes, but who whines for those winning the Oscar for being the best supporting actress? Isn't the lead actor also merely supporting the director, producer, and the profits for the studio making the film? Aren't all of the characters completely integral to a film's completion?
 - c. We are dependent on one another and all tied together in importance.
1 Co 11:11-12 - ¹¹However, in the Lord, neither is woman independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. ¹²For as the woman originates from the man, so also the man has his birth through the woman; and all things originate from God.
 - d. The very next chapter says all the members of the body are necessary. Does one feel bad because they are a prophet, but not an apostle or teacher?
 4. We must not fail to play our roll because that automatically disgraces! The Corinthians were told their imagery was important, not just for witnesses on earth, but also the heavens. We sometimes forget the spiritual realm is absolutely real.
1 Co 11:3-5 - ³But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ. ⁴Every man who has something on his head while praying or prophesying, disgraces his head. ⁵But every woman who has her head uncovered while praying or prophesying, disgraces her head. . . .
1 Co 11:7-10 - ⁷For a man ought not to have his head covered, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the **glory of man**. ⁸For man does not originate from woman, but woman from man; ⁹for indeed man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake. ¹⁰Therefore the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, **because of the angels**.

- a. This context is what men and women do when separated in their respective assemblies. The assembly of the whole church is not addressed until verse 17.
- b. And we know this “praying and prophesying” context cannot be that context since in church women weren’t allowed to speak or even ask a question in it.(14:34).
- c. The point is that her imagery as man being her head was so important that her head must be covered, even in a female assembly void of men, because angels were at least still present. That’s how important the imagery is!
- d. For a man to wear a covering, or for a woman to not have worn that veil in a Corinthian assembly was tantamount to saying to each other and the angels that we reject the headship order that God had established.

II. WOMEN MUST DISPLAY THE IMAGERY OF PROPER SUBJECTION TO MAN

A. It’s not surprising the first woman’s arrival happened as it did and is a message for the woman’s role for all ages on Earth. It sets the stage for this specific imagery.

1. Her very name “woman” means she was made out of man. And God did not give us the term “woman.” He gave man the right to even name woman as he named every single other creature.

Ge 2:23 - ²³And the man said, “This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.”

2. She was specifically designed to assist the man. As you know ladies, men need help!

Ge 2:18 - ¹⁸. . . “It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.”

3. And God put instincts in her to have a desire for her husband.

Ge 3:16 - ¹⁶. . . Yet your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you.

B. This holy imagery is accomplished by humble subjection in the church.

1. This is accomplished in her daily life when it comes to teachings within the church.

1 Ti 2:11-14 - ¹¹Let a woman quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. ¹²But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet. ¹³For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve. ¹⁴And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being quite deceived, fell into transgression.

- a. This is the same term as for living a simply quiet life in verse 2 of this same chapter (Gk. *hasukia*).

- (1. It’s not absolute silence, but that she is “quiet” when it comes to teaching Christian men.

- (2. And this is in “every place, thus more than just what happens during church, but is a universal teaching for all assemblies and things concerning the whole household of God.

- b. To teach and exercise authority over a Christian man in matters of the church is portraying the wrong “image,” and fighting the very designs of men and women.

- (1. It would be like boldly declaring that man is NOT the head of woman.

- (2. It’s fighting nature and the lessons we learned about men & women from the sins that happened in the Garden of Eve.

- c. God made women different for a reason, and the sexes have their respective strengths and weaknesses.

Equality feminists will be even more disturbed by science that confirms what most of us already know: women are more emotional than men. Cutting to the chase, that means girls are more prone to over-reaction than boys. Were we to map the female brain, Brizendine says the connecting routes for emotion look more like super-highways, compared with the country roads you’d find inside the male brain. In a Stanford University study, when volunteers were shown emotional images while having their brains scanned, nine different areas lit up in women. In men, two areas lit up.

The author concludes that "there's no getting around the fact that women have different emotional perceptions, realities, responses and memories than do men, and these differences - based on brain circuitry and function - are at the heart of many misunderstandings". And it's in the hard-wiring of the brain, rather than environment.

Last year, Lawrence Summers, president of Harvard University, told an academic conference

that his young daughter, when given two trucks in another effort of gender-neutral parenting, treated them like dolls, calling one "daddy truck" and the other "baby truck". Some in the audience reacted with disgust to Summers's address. A biologist from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology walked out, later saying leaving was the only option, otherwise "I would've either blacked out or thrown up". Another quick test: was the tetchy academic a woman or a man?

In an interview later, the biologist, Nancy Hopkins, said: "It's so upsetting that all these brilliant young women (at Harvard) are being led by a man who views them this way." 09/27/06 - *Feminism begs to differ, but unisex brain is a fantasy* - <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,20867,20481754-32522,00.html>

- (1. In my opinion, her overtly emotional reaction actually helped to illustrate the Professor's point!
 - (2. The Devil made an emotional appeal to Eve, not Adam. Adam was not deceived, but the woman was.
 - (3. The more emotional brain is integral to her roles, but it's not integral to a position of headship.
 - (4. Let's not put women in positions where they were designed to be fragile in.

1 Pe 3:7 - ⁷You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman;

 - (a. This is not saying she is a weak container/pot. She is simply more fragile.
 - (b. It is used contrastingly. Thus, she is merely like a weaker vessel in selected areas. However, I believe this makes her stronger in others.
 - (c. ILL - Should I throw my huge power tools in a large clay pot?
2. This is also accomplished more visibly during the first day of the week assembly.
- 1 Co 14:34-37 - ³⁴Let the women keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but let them subject themselves, just as the Law also says. ³⁵And if they desire to learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is improper for a woman to speak in church. ³⁶Was it from you that the word of God first went forth? Or has it come to you only? ³⁷If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment.*
- a. Being "silent" (Gk. *sigao*) is in reference to addressing the assembled Christians.
 - b. It's the same word used in verse 28 when the tongue speaker must be silent if no interpreter is present.
 - c. It is improper for her to speak (Gk. *laleo*), which is the same word used many times in this chapter for when someone got up to give the church a teaching.
 - d. It's important to realize that if anyone thinks they are spiritual they had better recognize this commandment. It's the opposite of spirituality to change this.
 - e. Again, it is being an improper icon, portraying the wrong image. Notice that he says "as the Law" says. He's not referring to Mosaic Law, but most likely the teaching that comes from the Law, that is the Pentateuch, in which has the Genesis 2 teaching.
- C. The church being subject to Christ is portrayed by her imagery of subjection to husband.
1. There is no doubt about the comparison or the intensity of this subjection.

Eph 5:21-24 - ²¹and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ. ²²Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. ²⁴But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

 - a. It is a fact that the word "subject" is not in verse 22. What does this mean?
 - b. It can only mean that there is a comparison of types of subjection.
 - c. There is a general subjection we all have to one another, but the wives have a subjection to their husbands as intense as the church's subjection to Christ!
 2. It is even a stronger subjection than what elders have over the church.
 - a. In the church elders are commanded not to lord it over the church (1 Pe 5:3).
 - b. But the husband is the **head** as Christ is, which is a greater subjection.
 - c. That is why Peter can plainly give the following teaching.

1 Pe 3:1-6 - ¹In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their

wives, ²as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior. ³And let not your adornment be merely external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; ⁴but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God. ⁵For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands. ⁶Thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.

3. Let me reiterate, for a woman to not in humility obey her husband is tantamount to saying it is proper for the church to not humbly obey her husband, that is, Christ.
 - a. But that is the exact picture the world wants you to send!
 - b. Women should have a respectful fear for the position of husband, since that portrays that people should not have a proper respectful fear for God.

Eph 5:33 - ³³Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see to it that she respect (fear) her husband.

(1. “Respect” is more properly translated as the **biblical** concept of “fear.”

(2. After all, it is where we get “phobia,” based on the Gk. *phobeo*.

(3. A woman should have a phobia about disrespecting the position of husband.

4. Consequently, that is because that imagery is a dishonoring to the very word of God.

Tit 2:5 - ⁵ . . . being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored.

D. Take pride in subjection! It’s portraying the greatest truths in the universe!

1. You’re teaching the woman of the world a tremendous so needed picture and lesson.
2. All are in subjection to somebody and we should all respect one another’s role.

ILL - Some may think a policeman has a “better” authority. When I was a serviceman a policeman could pull me over and give me a ticket. But I also had authority to do things he couldn’t. I could walk into his house and red tag his gas piping, furnace, or water heater and they’re all shut off until they’re back up to code.
3. We’re not talking about who is more important. All are equal in importance, but that doesn’t mean the roles should be the same!
4. The truth is that you have authority to do things the man can’t even dream of.

III. AS THE CHURCH DOES, SHE BRINGS FORTH ALL THAT IS GOOD.

A. Likewise, she is to be adorned with good works.

1 Ti 2:9-10 - ⁹Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments; ¹⁰but rather by means of good works, as befits women making a claim to godliness.

1. You are the more beautiful sex, but make sure your physical adornment is reserved exclusively for a husband, or for God approved moment likes the wedding bride.
2. The world wants you to be a walking billboard for Gucci or some other clothing line, but what is befitting for a godly woman is an adornment of good works.
 - a. “Modestly” is Gk. *kosmios*, which also means you should look orderly, and respectable. “Discreetly” is Gk. *aidos*, which also means you should dress in reverence, which is directed toward God!
 - b. If you’re dressing to attract men, rather than attracting respect and reverence for God and His Kingdom, then you need to change your dress. **Remember you are a walking billboard!**

Pr 31:30-31 - ³⁰Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised. ³¹Give her the product of her hands, And let her works praise her in the gates.

3. America’s women are known for being women who “bring forth” many products from the stores.
 - a. Thus, we have the term “shopaholics, ” but we need ““goodwork’aholics.”
 - b. What are you known for? Below is not addressing clothing, shoes or purses!

ILL - *Worldwatch* reports that worldwide annual expenditures for cosmetics total U.S. \$18 billion; the estimate for annual expenditures required to eliminate hunger and

malnutrition is \$19 billion. Expenditures on pet food in the United States and Europe total \$17 billion a year; the estimated cost of immunizing every child, providing clean drinking water for all, and achieving universal literacy is \$16.3 billion.

http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2004/01/0111_040112_consumerism_2.html

- d. There is a reason Mother Theresa is probably the most honored woman on Earth.
4. For wives the “doing of good” is primarily pointed on one direction.

- a. She does HIM good.

Pr 31:10-12 - ¹⁰An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels. ¹¹The heart of her husband trusts in her, And he will have no lack of gain. ¹²She does him good and not evil All the days of her life.

ILL - "I act for money, no other reason. Since I made my first picture in 1941, I haven't done a thing worthwhile. I have never enjoyed making films, and I don't like being a so-called film star. I haven't the emotional make-up for it, nor the love of exhibitionism. I am much too shy. [I'd rather find] one good man I could love and marry and cook for and make a home for, who would stick around for the rest of my life. I never found him. If I had, I would have traded my career in a minute." ~ Ava Gardner, arguably one of the most beautiful and talented women to grace the "silver screen," quoted in the Arizona Republic's article on her death, January 27, 1990.

- b. She does the household good, too. Here it is one word and it is literally a “houseworker.”

Tit 2:5 - ⁵to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored.

- c. The excellent wife of Proverbs is entrepreneurial and thus her work is not confined within the walls of her home. But serve God by making sure your household is the center of your life.

Pr 31:16 - ¹⁶She considers a field and buys it; From her earnings she plants a vineyard.

- d. It's more rewarding & challenging than anything you will do outside your home.

"Some women assume that child care is mind-numbing, spirit-killing drudgery, and that only work outside the home is fulfilling. These are not necessarily statements that women would come up with spontaneously, in the absence of feminist tutoring....It took me an embarrassingly long time to realize that my two children needed me at home more than they needed anything my income would buy for them. It took even longer for me to realize that placing my intellect at the service of my family was a greater challenge than my ordinary life as a university professor. I had accepted far more feminist premises than I had realized." - "Why the Market Can't Raise Our Children for Us," The American Enterprise, May/June 1998

- B. Like the church, she assists God in bringing forth more souls.

1. This is a glory that no man can participate and boast in.
2. Is it a small matter that every human on Earth can only be here through a woman?
3. Glory and abound in this avenue, for God even ties it to salvation!

1 Ti 2:15 - ¹⁵But women shall be preserved (saved) through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint.

- a. The word “preserved” is the same where God desires all to be “saved” in verse 4.
- b. It's not that you need the ability to bear children to be saved, but that the godly woman rejoices in her ability to bring more to life, like the church does.
- c. We often think of church growth almost exclusively in the form of evangelism. But I will remind you that God's people first multiplied, and tremendously so, through procreation.
- d. We need to be very afraid when the church's women are not having more children because of their figure, or because they find greater worth in her production at the office than with her production of godly children.

- C. And she brings forth attentive love and kindness!

1. If I can tune you in to one verse today this is the one. This is stated before being “homeworkers.”

Tit 2:4 - ⁴that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,

- a. Thee phrases are only one word, that is “husband lovers” and “children lovers.”
- b. It is based on the Gk. *phileo*, and does deal more with the emotions and

affections.

- c. Imagery? - As the church loves her Husband Jesus Christ with all her heart \, the woman is to affectionally love her husband and the children they produce.
2. All the woman of the church, and especially the women at home are to be like emotional gas stations. The world depletes your loved ones, therefore make the home a refuge so as refill them!
 - a. A woman should be able to supply emotional refilling that we all so need!
 - b. Let's rejoice that women have greater emotional capacity than men for a reason!
 - c. Make your home one that draws them in to your unique comfort & affection.
 - d. ILL - I was one of the few people who took their lunch to school 1-8 grades. The truth is that I loved the fact my mom's hands made it.
 - e. ILL - Sometimes I just find myself wandering around in the kitchen while Robin is busy doing a thousand things. I follow her around the island, and she goes to the stove and then I find myself standing by her at the sink. And I finally realize I need a hug, and one from her.
 - f. ILL - Brecheen & Faulkner talk of the attention starved woman who wanted to make her disconnected and cloddish husband suffer by first making him dependent and crazy in love with her, and secondly dropping him. However, at the end of several months of treating him with *philos* love he responded and she couldn't drop him since they were both madly in love.
4. Use your power in the right way! And tremendous power you possess!
 - *"A beautiful woman is a practical poet, taming her savage mate, planting tenderness, hope and eloquence in all whom she approaches."* - Ralph Waldo Emerson.
 - *"The career of motherhood and homemaking is beyond value and needs no justification. Its importance is incalculable."* - Katherine Short
 - *"The world has enough women who are tough; we need women who are tender. There are enough women who are coarse; we need women who are kind. There are enough women who are rude; we need women who are refined. We have enough women of fame and fortune; we need more women of faith. We have enough greed; we need more goodness. We have enough vanity; we need more virtue. We have enough popularity; we need more purity."* - Margaret D. Nadauld
 - *"What a traditional woman did that made her home warm and alive was not dusting and laundry.... Her real secret was that she identified herself with her home, [and]...it is illuminating to think about what happened when things went right. Then her affection was in the soft sofa cushions, clean linens, and good meals; her memory in well-stocked storeroom cabinets and the pantry; her intelligence in the order and healthfulness of her home; her good humor in its light and air. She lived her life not only through her own body, but through the house as an extension of her body; part of her relation to those she loved was embodied in the physical medium of the home she made. My own experience convinces me that there is still no other way to make a good home than to have attitudes toward home and domesticity modeled on those of that traditional woman.... Advertisements and television programs offer degraded images of household work and workers. Discussions of the subject in magazines and newspapers follow a standard formula.... It is scarcely surprising, then, that so many people imagine housekeeping to be boring, frustrating, repetitive, unintelligent drudgery. I cannot agree. (In fact, having kept house, practiced law, taught, and done many other sorts of work, low- and high-paid, I can assure you that it is actually lawyers who are most familiar with the experience of unintelligent drudgery.)"* - Cheryl Mendelson, *Home Comforts: The Art and Science of Keeping House*, pages 9-10.
 - *"The best happiness would result if women would continue to let this be a man's world and continue to provide a bower of bliss at home. Her greatest career is to help her husband and to start her children off in the right direction. Women should be reminded that they can have just as much pride saying, 'Look, I helped my husband and I have raised some decent children.' I don't think women can do any better than that. That's more important than winning the Pulitzer Prize or the Nobel Peace Prize."* - Richard Armour, author of *My Life with Women: Confessions of a Domesticated Male*.



Brief Bio on Timmy & Samantha Walker and Family.

Timmy and Samantha have been married for twenty one years and have three sons, one daughter in law and two foster sons. Timmy and Samantha are 1999 Graduates of the Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver, CO. They have worked in the mission field of South Dakota since graduation. Currently they are laboring with the church of Christ meeting in Huron, SD.

Gods Instructions concerning Man/Husbands.

Gods instructions given at this 5th Annual Minnesota Lectureship, as with all, are of most importance in offering and providing Gods creation “you and I” with the necessary tools to **“accomplish His purpose” (Philippians 2:13; 2 Timothy 1:9) while “saving our own soul” (1 Timothy 4:16.)** The topic I’ve been blessed to share with you **“Gods instruction concerning man/husbands”** is a very timely and fitting topic considering the current state of men both in the church and society.

To detour any response of hostility from my fellow man understand I’m speaking from my own sin, stumblings and needs and it’s through no such joy that I humbly present for your consideration Gods instructions concerning...

1. The Duty of Man
2. Mans example to his mate/children/brethren and the lost.
3. Mans Superiority in the home.
4. Mans aspirations?

Gods’ word answers these questions very clearly and it’s my hope you will consider what the Lord has to say without prejudice or a closed mind.

The position that many Christian men find themselves in today is no different then the position Adam found himself in, in the garden. Both stem from a “lacking of”, allow me to explain. The reason Adam sinned is seen in his “lacking” in fulfilling his role. Adam was created first, Eve was made as a helper for Adam (Gen 2:18) thus the larger part of responsibility from the beginning, as the scriptures point out, is laid upon the man. Now the problem from Genesis 2:22 when Eve was created to this day is man at times does not fulfill the role given by the Almighty, whether unwilling or not depends upon the man, nevertheless man is falling short of the position God gave him.

It seems some men don’t take the position God has given them very serious. Many times Gods will for man is confused, distorted, compromised or swapped for that which is contrary to Gods will. Some men have loss all sense of their duty towards their creator but please know; fear, repentance combined with study and commitment will place man back in Gods’ light. To help stay or return to the light begins with understanding the duty of man.

I. Gods instructions for the Duty of Man

- a. Knowing the Duty of man begins with acknowledging a known fact about ourselves...
 - i. Man, in and of himself... never has been nor ever will become anything without God.
 - ii. **Jeremiah said “I know, O LORD, that a man's way is not in himself, nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps.” Jeremiah 10:23**
 - iii. **Twice the Proverb writer stated “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man; But the end thereof are the ways of death. (Proverbs 14:12;16:25)**
 - iv. For men who continue to walk by their own wisdom and strength you would do well to note where real wisdom and strength lies... **“the foolishness of God is wiser than man and the weakness of God is stronger than men” (1 Corinthians 1:25)**

- b. If man is not wise or strong enough to guide his own steps then where do we need to look to understand our duty as a man? Believe it or not it's as simple as opening Gods word and following His instruction...
 - i. **Solomon wrote “This is the end of the matter; all hath been heard: fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man” Ecclesiastes 12:13**
 - ii. Hard for some to believe yet unmistakably true, mans whole duty is accomplished in his **“fear and submission” to the Lord.**
 - iii. Solomon's words should be enough in and of themselves to bring the “aimlessly spiraling out of control man” back to the light but if not then consider this...

- c. God said **“Let us make man in our image” (Genesis 1:26)**
 - i. Does man understand that he's made in the very image of God, the creator, the **“judge of the living and the dead” (2 Timothy 4:1)** the only one who **“hath the power to cast into Hell” (Luke 12:4-5)**
 - ii. Contemplation of such a precious creation made by the perfect creator is deserving of all the “fear, reverence, and respect” that man can muster.
 - iii. The mere thought of being made in the image of God should bring us to our knees understanding and being thankful that we have a distinct role in Gods plan.

- d. God knowing how hard headed and hard hearted man would be knew that we would need directions, a blue print to follow in helping us fulfill our duty and it's found and seen in Jesus.
 - i. **I believe understanding our duty and fulfilling it begins with understanding Gods will for us, please note this brief progression.**
 1. God is the creator and thus “created us for His own purpose and His own good pleasure” (Philippians 2:13)
 2. Being all men “sin and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom 6:23)
 3. God wants all men to be “saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.” (1 Timothy 2:4)
 4. He loved the whole world that “He gave His only begotten son” (John 3:16) to accomplish this, saving man from his sins.

5. Jesus, “Gods own son” (Matthew 3:17) a man “born of a woman” (Galatians 4:4) proclaimed “the son of man came to seek and save that which is lost” and to “do the will of Him who sent Me” (Luke 19:10; John 6:38)
6. Jesus accomplished this by “carrying His own cross” and bearing it for all mankind. (John 19:17)
 - ii. That being true, mans Duty, his charge, is to “carry his own cross” (Luke 14:27) and pick up where Jesus left off. We must realize the most important duty known to man is “obedience to the gospel” and the “spreading of it.” This has been given to us with the “power and the authority” to fulfill it (Matthew 28:18-20)
 - iii. May we never wait to be forced to our knees with our tongues made to confess Jesus (Romans 14:11) instead let us approach our duty as Godly Men with fear, submission and thankfulness of heart.
 - iv. Let all men recognize their duty to their creator and to their fellow man and be grateful for it.

II. Gods instructions towards husbands/mates/ children/brethren and others.

- a. Setting the right example comes from following the right example. Just as sure as **“bad company corrupts good morals” (1 Corinthians 15:33)** good company builds them up. The blueprint for all men to follow begins in **“seeking the kingdom of God and His righteousness” (Matt 6:33.)**
- b. **Husbands;** God’s love and compassion toward his creation brought about a most perfect blessing **“a helper, taken out of man, (woman)” (Genesis 2:18-23)**. Between man and woman God created marriage, whereas a man was commanded to **“leave his mother and father and cleave to his wife” (Genesis 2:24-25)**
 - i. As a husband, second only to God is his wife. Being taken **“out of him” (Genesis 2:23), “equal in Christ” (Galatians 3:28) and a “joint heir of the grace of life” (1 Peter 3:7)** makes her like man, priceless!
 - ii. It’s the husbands duty to recognize and place her accordingly.
 - iii. Paul describes her value to husbands in Ephesians 5:25-29.
 1. **v-25...** She is to be **“loved by her husband as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.”**
 - a. Notice the depth of this love; it’s never ending and all encompassing. It “bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things and never fails.” (cf. 1 Corinthians 13: 7)
 2. **v-26-27...** Jesus “Sanctified the church cleansing her with the washing of water with the word so that he could present to himself the church in all her glory having no spot or wrinkle and any such thing but that she would be holy and blameless” ...
 - a. Is there any doubt of the love Jesus had and the length He was willing to go to, to protect and provide for His bride?
 - b. Men, Jesus set the example and not only is it our duty but our wives are most deserving of the same love.
 3. **V-28,29,30...Husbands are given a clear perspective of their mates...** “Husbands ought also to love their own wives as their

own bodies, he who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh but nourishes and cherishes it just as Christ also does the church because we are members of His body”

- a. Paul's picture is clear; no sensible man hates his own flesh or refuses to nourish it.
 - i. Thus the value of your wife is seen and felt in how you value and treat yourself.
 - b. Husbands must provide the utmost love, care and protection for their wife, just as they do themselves.
 - i. Adams pitfall in the garden was not protecting his wife from the serpent. Watching and proclaiming “don't touch, its hot” is not protecting, that's warning. Protection calls for action.
 - c. Christ provides protection to the church, his body, through his love and guidance, thus so ought husbands to their own wives, why you ask?
 - i. **V-30...** Because **“we” (man & woman)** are members of His body!
- c. A Fathers example to his children.**
- i. The example is clear yet for some the task seems insignificant.
 - ii. Shamefully, I have spent half of my twenty one years as a father, having to practice one of the most important examples in being a Christian/father... making my wrongs right (repenting) and asking for forgiveness from my children.
 1. The “don't do as I do, but do as I say” example that I was taught has caused me to beg my children for forgiveness praying to God that my sinful influences' didn't go to seed.
 2. By the grace of God and my obedience to Him I'm doing better yet I never forget or take lightly my responsibility to my children in all things.
 - iii. As a father I'm the spiritual leader of my family (Ephesians 6:4) and my example is the most powerful teaching tool in my arsenal.
 1. The degree of “obedience and honor” my children are to bestow upon me and my wife (Ephesians 6:1,2) is determined by and to the degree that I am “bringing them up in the discipline and instruction of the lord” (v-4.)
 - a. Leading them in a worldly manner will produce worldliness, disrespect, lack of concern for themselves, their mates and their own children with eternal destruction as their end.
 - b. But leading them to seek God's kingdom and His righteousness will provide them the opportunity to eat the “fruit of the spirit” bringing them eternal life.
 - c. Following the right example provides my children with the right example to follow.
 2. Showing them to fear, respect and love God will prepare them far better to meet Him then telling them to just do it.

- a. Their faith is their own yet as a father I am responsible to help them find the materials to build it.
 - b. My motivation to set the right example to my children is found in the answer to this question “where do I want my children to spend eternity”
- d. **Superiority or leadership in the home:** I am reminded of the first seven years of superiorly putting my wife through hell. Being raised as a hard shell, full immersion put the woman in her place Baptist... I knew two verses by heart.
- i. **1 Corinthians 14:34; 1 Timothy 2:12...** Here, I correctly misunderstood, misapplied and forevermore hermeneutically destroyed God’s meaning in these passages.
 - 1. It’s scripturally true that man is “head of his wife” (Ephesians 5:23; 1 Corinthians 11:3) and the “spiritual leader” in his home (Ephesians 6:4)
 - 2. It’s scripturally true that “wives are to be in subjection to their husbands” (Ephesians 5:22; 1 Corinthians 14:34)
 - 3. Its scripturally true that a wife is “not to usurp authority” over a man (1 Timothy 2:11-12)
 - 4. Failing to submit to these does not bring “glory to God” as woman is supposed to do (1 Timothy 2:10) but instead brings disgrace and reproach upon her and her husband.
 - ii. Being that’s true... it’s just as true that Man’s not to demean, abuse, disrespect or mistreat women in any form or fashion. Such practice is sinful in that it does not fulfill Mans obligations to his wife as seen in (Ephesians 5:25-30)
 - iii. Superiority in the home is not biblical, leading is. Some may say you’re splitting hairs but I believe there is a difference between the two if not in word, definitely in definition.
 - 1. **Superiority:** brings about the idea of supremacy, being better than others, often bringing with it a condescending attitude.
 - 2. **Leader:** brings about the idea of someone that people will follow, someone in charge or responsible for others.
 - 3. Noting the difference between the two ask yourself which one would best describe Jesus?
 - 4. As a man/husband/father we are responsible for “leading” our family to God and it’s only through “leading by example” will the desired end come about... a man and his family in heaven.
- e. **Mans example towards members of the church.**
- i. Although the example should be consistent with those both in and out of the church (Matthew 7:12) there is a difference in application and accountability between believers and non believers.
 - 1. Believers can and should expect a different level of “accountability” (Matthew 18:15-17; 5:23-24) “understanding” (Luke 17:3; 2 Timothy 4:2) and “unity” (John 17:21) from one another as opposed to non-believers.

- ii. Sin is what causes divisions between God and man (Isaiah 59:2) and sin should be the only thing that causes division between brethren.
 - 1. **Accountability seen:** In Ephesians 5:1-14, Paul urges the Ephesian brethren to be “imitators of God” (v-1.) After a list of sinful practices (v-3-5) Paul told the Ephesian brethren that these sins must “not even be named” among them (v-3), they were not to be “partakers with them” that practiced these things (v-7), instead they are suppose to “expose them” (V-11)
 - a. Matthew 18:15-17 Jesus implemented disciplinary action for brethren when one is “in sin.” This practice applies only to members of the church and implementation of this shows the “same care for one another” (1 Corinthians 12:25)
 - b. Jesus explains that if a “brother has ought” against another brother they are to leave their gift at the alter and be “reconciled” to one another. (Matthew 5:23-24).
 - c. Lawsuits discouraged: when one brother has a case against another they are to settle this among themselves, before the saints, not before those in the world. (1 Corinthians 6:1-11)
 - 2. **Understanding seen:**
 - i. Matthew 18:21, 22 “Peter asked how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times? Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you up to seven times but up to seventy times seven.”
 - ii. Luke 17:3 “If your brother sins, rebuke him and if he repents, forgive him.”
 - iii. Philemon 1:-ff
 - iv. Galatians 6:1; “Brethren even if anyone is caught in any trespass you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness”
 - 3. Noting the following passages written to members of the Lords’ church one can see the relationship God desires for his children to have with one another.
 - a. Rom 15:5,6; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Philippines 2:2
 - 4. Gods word clearly shows the accountability, understanding and unity the brethren are to have with one another.
- f. **Mans example towards others...** for the man of God the same truths apply when confronting others in the world (Acts 5:29) application thereof sometimes differs... allow me to explain.
 - i. The first night I went to pick up my future wife I was met at the door by her brother a member of the church. His first question to me was “**where do you go to church**” to which I replied “**Calvary Baptist**” to which he said “**your going straight to hell**”
 - 1. Now as true as that was, his application did little to persuade me to listen to what he had to say.

- ii. Paul's words "As we have opportunity let us do good to all people" (Galatians 6:10) tells us a great deal of mans example in treatment of others.
- iii. The words "opportunity" and "do good" are key here. As we are "given opportunity" let us do "good" to all men. The greatest thing man can do for others is teach them the gospel but this only comes about when opportunity presents itself, and man can do much or little in bringing about these opportunities.
- iv. Jesus explains the attitude and disposition we are to have towards those who choose to believe or disbelieve.
 - 1. In **Matthew 10:12-13**. Jesus tells his disciples as you "**enter a house give it your greeting if the house is worthy give it your blessing if its not take your blessing back.**"
 - a. Note, regardless of the reception incurred we are to give the house our "greeting" Greek "aspazomai" meaning to salute, greet, welcome, express good wishes, pay respect.
 - b. This is a little different than the greeting I received from my brother-in-law but nevertheless follows the point the scriptures make.
 - i. We are to be kind and respectful to all we come in contact with because often times the greeting we give can mean the difference between reception and rejection.
 - 2. **Jesus continues in V-14...** "whoever does not receive you nor heed your words, as you go out of that house or that city shake the dust off your feet"
 - a. **Notice:** shaking the dust from your feet does not consist of retaliation or revenge that's "reserved for God" (Romans 12:19.) The best example in how to respond to those who mistreat you verbally, physically or emotionally is seen in Jesus' example;
 - 1. 1 Peter 2:13-24;
 - 2. 1 Peter 3:8-16
 - 3. 1 Peter 3:14
 - 3. In reaching the lost our attitude and disposition towards them is crucial in offering them the opportunity to find salvation. Remember it's not about you, it's about Christ.

III. Mans Aspirations: To aspire means to have a "particular ambition, to seek to attain a particular goal."

- a. To sum this up in a nutshell I firmly believe that mans goal, his aspiration should be to "please God" because this I know... if man is "seeking the kingdom of God and His righteousness" (Matthew 6:33) he will be treating his mate, his children, and his fellow man in a manner that pleases God.
 - i. This begins with "Faith" for "without faith it is impossible to "please Him" (Hebrews 11:6)

- ii. Hebrews 11:1-ff is full of men and women who sought out the kingdom of God and His righteousness and notice what followed their aspirations... the reward of heaven.
- b. Considering mans aspirations, have you ever asked yourself... **“where am I going to be when I get to where I’m going”**
- c. In noting this I understand all men aspire to different things, different goals yet we must understand with aspirations follows contentment, in other words “when you get to where your going are you going to be content there”
 - i. **Example seen in the Rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31**
 1. V-19-21 the rich man aspired to living “joyously in splendor” every day, “dressing and living well” while Lazarus lying at the rich mans gate, covered in sores with dogs licking them, longed (aspired) to be fed with the crumbs that fell from the rich mans table.
 2. V-22-31 shows us the contentment found in each mans end. Both men died with Lazarus resting (contented) in Abraham’s bosom and the rich man in Hades (in agony).
 3. Note particularly v-25, Abraham’s statement to the rich man... “Child remember that during your life you received your good things and likewise Lazarus bad things but now he is being comforted here and you are in agony”
 4. All men aspire to something yet we must consider... “where are we going to be when we get to where we are going and are we going to be content there”

Conclusion: Gods instructions to man/husbands/fathers/brothers in Christ and the lost of the world is clear, his plan is simple not “burdensome” (1 John 5:3) because it was made especially for man. It’s a plan that some find difficult but with practice and commitment man can bring “pleasure to God” (Philippians 2:13) while “saving his own soul” (1 Timothy 4:16).

I leave you with the words given by the wisest man in history (1 Kings 3:12) **“This is the end of the matter; all hath been heard: fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man” Ecclesiastes 12:13.**

The Fifth Annual
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Make plans to come next year!*