

FALL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 17-20, 1973

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
9:30 AM to 10:25 AM		FAITH Andy de Klerk South Africa	Continued	Continued
10:35 AM to 11:25 AM		CONGREGATIONAL CO-OPERATION Robert Crawley Lexington, Ky.	Continued	Continued
1:30 PM to 2:25 PM		THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT Paul Earnhart Mt. Sterling, Ky.	Continued	Continued
2:35 PM to 3:25 PM		THE LIFE OF MOSES Rod Amonett Medina, Ohio	THE LIFE OF DAVID E. Ray Warren Toronto, Ohio	THE LIFE OF NOAH Robert Dickey W. Lafayette, Ohio
7:30 PM to 8:25 PM	THE CHRISMATIC MOVEMENT John L. Clark Louisville, Ky.	Continued	Guest Speaker	THE CHRISMATIC MOVEMENT Continued
8:35 PM to 9:25 PM	PERSONAL EVANGELISM Harold Dowdy Jacksonville, Fla.	Continued		PERSONAL EVANGELISM Continued

CHURCH OF CHRIST

640 THAYER STREET
AKRON - OHIO

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THE GREATNESS OF FAITH

Andy de Klerk

It gives me great pleasure to discuss this vital and wonderful subject with you today. The Lord willing, we will continue this discussion for the next two days. I was asked to specifically deal with the "faith that works". We will therefore deal with the faith that can be seen in the lives of every true child of God. (James 2:14-26)

FAITH ALONE WILL NOT AND CANNOT SAVE:

A. GOD HAS JOINED CERTAIN THINGS AND MAN DARE NOT CHANGE THEM:

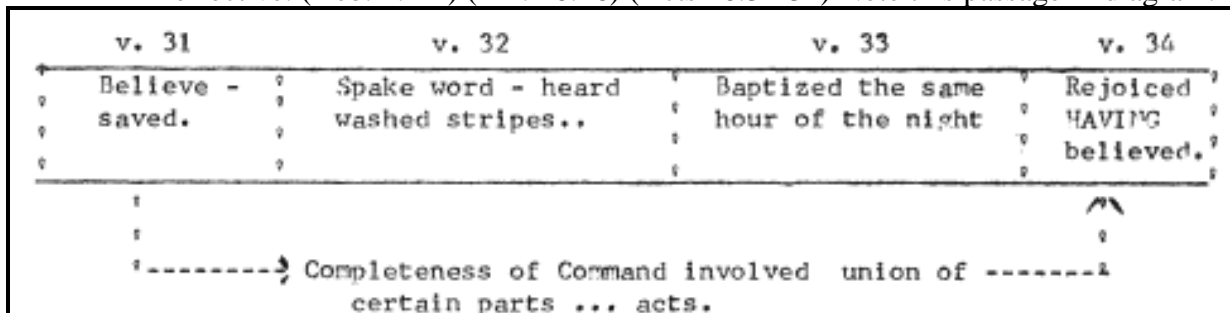
1. The husband and wife. (Matt. 5:31-32) (19:3-9)
2. Christ and His church. (Eph. 1:22-23) (5:23-27)
3. Christ and the Christian. (Gal. 2:20) (Col. 3:1-3)
4. Baptism and Salvation. (Acts 2:38) Mk. 16:16)
5. Faith and Works. (Js. 2:17-24) (Ron- 4:12) (Heb. 11:8. 17)

B. GOD WHO DESIRES SERVICE FROM MAN WILL NOT ACCEPT A DEAD FAITH:

1. God desires worship so we have a True plan. (Jn. 4:24-26)
2. God wants us to know Him thus He has given us His Word to accomplish this. (2 Tim. 3:16-17)
 - (a) The Bible a sufficient guide (Gal. 2:9; 2:3)
 - (1) Know Its power (Gen. 1:1)
 - (2) Know His love (1 Jn. 4:10,16,19) (5:1-3)
 - (3) Know His goodness and severity. (Ron. 11:22)
3. God wants us to be His children, given us a place of reconciliation. (2 Cor. 5:18-19) (Eph. 2:14-16)
4. God does not want us to perish ... given us a Saviour. (2 Pet. 3:9)
5. Likewise God prescribed an active, working faith to characterize His followers. (Heb. 11) (1 Thess. 1:3)

C. MAN IS SAVED BY FAITH BUT NOT BY FAITH ONLY.

1. We know that man is Justified by faith (Rom, 3:28) He is also justified by Grace (Rom. 2:24); Blood (Rom. 5:9)
2. The faith that saves is the faith that is bound together with certain acts for it to be effective. (Heb. 4:1-2) (Mk. 16:16) (Acts 16:31-34) Note this passage in diagram.



- (a) Heb. 11:6 Sane principle is true. Belief in God; Belief in the Reward offered; Acceptance that something must be done in addition to "belief" — Seek Diligently —
3. Seeking God implies needing God -- thus faith is based on that which reveals God to man -- His Word — (Rom. 10:17)

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- (a) Noah built the Ark by faith -- did he guess what would please God? (Heb. 11:7)
No, God told him. (Gen. 6:22)
- (b) Abraham -- by faith -- obeyed, after God spoke to him. (Heb. 11:8)
- 4. The faith acceptable to God, is expressed through the works commanded by God. (Eph. 2:10)
 - (a) God wants good works; good works prepared by God; prepared Ions ago that we should walk therein; thus the good works required by God that I must engage In, is an expression of my faith. (Tit. 2:14) (2 Tim. 3:16-17) (Mic. 6:8).
- C. THE GREATNESS OF FAITH WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE GREATNESS OF THE OBJECT:
 - 1. Faith in God -- How great such a faith and how this faith must work to please so Great a God. (Ps. 8)
 - 2. Faith in Jesus Christ -- (Jn. 1:4) The object of demotion and service.
 - 3. Faith in the Word of God. (Matt. 4:4) The doing of the commands and the keeping of this Word, is the true expression of our faith. (Js. 2:14-26)(Gal. 5:6)
 - (a) Sons of God through faith, but obedience the result of this faith, which brought us into Christ. (Gal. 3:26-27)
 - (b) The murmuring Israelites not healed the moment they believed, but when they "looked". (Num. 21:8)
 - (c) The walls of Jericho did not fall the moment Joshua believed, but when he obeyed. (Josh. 6:20)
 - (d) The faith of Abraham not honoured until he attempted to offer up Isaac. (Gen. 22:12)
 - (1) Why would those who claim to have faith, stagger, halt, doubt when they come to the command to be baptized? (Mk. 16:16) (Acts 2:38)
 - (2) IF Joshua, Noah or Abraham were on earth today what would they have done with Acts 2:38 or Mark 16:16?

Let us walk in the faith of Abraham... let us obey as his faith led him to obey. Since faith alone cannot save, and faith without works is dead, let us therefore engage in every work of faith and labour of love (I Thess. 1:3). Let us so labour and produce good works that we may receive the end of our faith the salvation of our souls (I Pet. 1:9).

Our lesson tomorrow, the Lord willing, will continue under the heading:

"THE LIFE OF FAITH"

THE LIFE OF FAITH

Andy de Klerk

The Christian life is a life of faith and trust. In our previous lesson we studied the Greatness of Faith". Our thoughts centered around these important truths.

1. Faith alone cannot save the alien sinner nor the non-working Christian. (Js. 2:14-26)
2. Faith In God requires a constant following of His will in matters of salvation, work and worship. (Eph. 2:10)
3. Faith Is great, because the object of our faith Is so wonderful and so great. (Heb. 11:6)

SINCE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS A LIFE OF FAITH AND TRUST IT BRINGS BLESSINGS AND PRIVILEGES:

A. WE WILL ALL RECEIVE THIS END OF THIS KIND OF FAITH:

1. The salvation of the Soul. (1 Pet. 1:9)
 - (a) Must therefore walk by faith. (2 Cor. 5:7)
2. He is JUSTIFIED by it. (Rom. 5:1-2)
3. He lives by it. (Nab, 10:37-39)
4. He is guarded through faith. (1 Pet. 1:5)
5. So, his hope, trust, faith are in God. (2 Cor. 1:2)

B. SINCE OUR FAITH IS IN THE LIVING GOD, WE CAN DEPEND ON HIM TO DO HIS PART:

1. The blessings and privileges on sonship are ours to enjoy. (1 Jn. 3:1-3) (Gal. 4:6)
2. The blessings and privileges of Prayer. (Matt. 6:9; 7:1-2) (Phil. 4:4-7) (1 Thess. 5:17) (1 Pet. 3:12)
3. Faith in the promises of God leads to a quiet, calm, sure, confident life. (Heb. 6:19) (Heb. 13:5-8) (Js. 4:7-8) (1 Pet. 5:7-8)

C. GOD WILL DO HIS PART MANS FAITH WILL BE TRIED, TESTED, HE MUST ALSO REMAIN STEADFAST: (1 Pet. 1:7)

1. Life of Abraham shows a great life of faith, but not exempt from testing, trial. (Gen. 22:1-14)
2. We learn the following from this event:
 - (a) The SACRIFICE of faith. v. 2. "His only Son" ... his all...so today. (Rom. 12:1-2.) (Matt. 19:21)
 - (b) The OBEDIENCE of faith. v. 3. Rose early, obeyed (Heb. 11:7) He swiftly obeyed the command.
 - (c) The EXPECTATION of faith. v. 5. Believed both would again be returned. (Heb. 11:19) (Gen. 21:12)
 - (d) The WORK of faith. v. 6. Faith must act for it to be worthwhile. (Jas. 2:24-26)
 - (e) The ASSURANCE of faith. v. 8. On the road to obedience questions may arise (v. 7) that only faith can answer (Acts 27:25)
 - (f) The PERSISTENCE of faith. V. 9. A faith that fails at the hour of trial ... is no faith at all. (Mk. 4:40)
 - (g) The VICTORY of faith. v. 12. "Now I know", declares God (Rom. 9:33) (Mk. 9:25) (1 Jn. 5:4)
3. How will our faith hold up under such trial or testing? (Heb. 10:33-39)
 - (a) When it is really going to cost me something to serve the Lord, will He find me true?

- (b) When matters are "out of our hands"...when great odds are against us, how then our faith? (1 Tim. 1:11-15)
- (c) Count it joy, as the trial of faith can make us stand (Rom. 5:1-5) (1 Pet. 1:6-8) (Js. 1:4-8)
- (d) There are certain hazards that will be faced as we live the life of faith. (Phil. 2:30)
 - (1) Persecution. (Matt. 5:12) (Jn. 9:4) (16:1-2)
 - (2) May lose the love of friends, family. Matt. 10:35-37)

Will our lives of faith show "great" or "little" faith? This will be seen by the effort we put forward. The greater our faith the greater the service rendered by us. (Prov. 3:3-5)

If our faith leads us to obey with true conviction, regardless of the circumstances, we have then become successful in our lives of faith and trust. (Eph. 1:19-20)

"To Christ be loyal and be true; In noble service prove
Your faith and your fidelity. The fervor of your love."

(Abiding Hymns No. 391 v. 3)

THE REWARD OF FAITH

Andy de Klerk

Since faith is essential to man's proper relationship with God, it follows that with each blessing offered by God we have a corresponding obligation. As we express our faith through our actions, we receive blessings promised by God.

God's promises in the Old Testament to His people were always conditional. "If" they obeyed, "then" He blessed them. The same principle is true today.

LOOK AT SOME OF THE BENEFITS AND BLESSINGS RECEIVED BY THOSE WHO HAD AN OBEDIENT FAITH:

A. EXAMPLES FROM THE BOOK OF HEBREWS:

1. Noah: His faith caused him to do exactly what God said and the reward for this obedient faith was "life". (Heb. 11:7)
2. Moses: His faith caused him to shun evil and to hold to that which was good he looked unto the recompense of reward. (Heb. 11:24-27)
3. Passover: The faith that led the people to put blood on the door posts was rewarded in that the first born of that house was spared his life. (Heb. 11:28)

B. HOW CAN THIS FAITH BE SEEN EVEN TODAY?

1. By accepting what God says without question - standing firmly upon such truth. (Heb. 11:3)
2. By offering up such "sacrifices" as God requires and requests without hesitation. (Heb. 11:17-19)
3. By doing exactly what God wants us to do, without trying to add human reasoning to replace divine commandments. (Heb. 11:4, 7)
4. By being willing to suffer affliction with the people of God. (Heb. 11:25) (Heb. 10:32-39) (Acts 7) (Acts 5:41-42)

C. SUCH WORKING...OBEDIENT FAITH ... OBTAINS THE FOLLOWING:

1. The testimony of God that such a faith will be rewarded. (Heb. 11:4)
2. The Assurance from God that such a faith results in you being righteous. (Heb. 11:4)
3. The power to overcome insurmountable obstacles. (Heb. 2:9)
4. The end of such faith will be rewarded with the salvation of your souls. (1 Pet. 1:9)

THE FAITH THAT WILL BE REWARDED WILL CAUSE US TO LIVE A LIFE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND FAITHFULNESS:

A. WE MUST BE A DIFFERENT PEOPLE FROM THOSE WHO LIVE IN THE WORLD:

1. Ours will be a different OBEDIENCE. (Rom. 6:17) (Matt. 22:37) (Heb. 2:1-2)
 - (a) Such obedience will be from the heart and it will seek out God's Word. (Gal. 1) (1 Pet. 4:11) (1 Pet. 3:1-3)
2. Our lives will be different, as servants of God we will render a different SERVICE: (Eph. 2:10) (Gal. 6:9-10)
 - (a) As such our allegiance will be to God and only to Him. (Acts 4:19) (5:29) (Gal. 1:6-12)
3. Our WORSHIP will be different as it will be in all sincerity and in full accord with the Word of God. (Jn. 4:24)

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- (a) Three things involved in this passage:
- (1) The object must be right: GOD. (Matt. 4:10)
 - (2) The sincerity of the worshipper must be right: IN SPIRIT. (Matt. 15:8)
 - (3) The acts engaged in must be according to the right standard: IN TRUTH. (Matt. 15:9)

The faith that saves, is the faith that works and obeys ... such faith, when based on God's Word, expressed through obedience to the Word, can only bring forth blessing from God now, and a home with Him in the life to come.

Yes, "Faith is the victory, the glorious victory, that overcomes the world."

THE LIFE OF MOSES

Hebrews 11:24-28

Rod Amonett

Introduction:

The life of Moses was a life of preparation and service.

Moses was a man of great abilities, but more importantly, he was a man wise enough to understand his talents were valuable only in the service of Jehovah.

Moses required a variety of strengths and virtues to accomplish the works of his life, but the vital asset that brought success was his faith in the Master.

I. Periods of Preparation

A. 40 years in Egypt

1. It seems likely that from the very birth of Moses God's Hand was responsible for his safekeeping.
2. Moses received the finest education in a culture which then led the world in educational advances and learning.
3. During these early years Moses had the availability of the Royal Court and was able to learn first-hand the characteristics of leadership and distribution of justice.
4. At the end of this period Moses made a futile attempt to help his people. Acts 7:23-29

B. 40 Years In Midian

1. Moses marries and acquires a wise father-in-law in Jethro.
2. Moses learns the land through which he will guide the Israelites.
3. Moses is divinely called from the burning bush to lead the Israelites out of the land of Egypt.
4. Objections are raised.
5. Moses convinced Jehovah will be with him.

II. Period of service

- A. Moses leads the household of Israel out of Egyptian bondage.
- B. Through Moses the Land is delivered to the children of God.
- C. The twelve tribes are brought to the promised land.
 1. Because of lack of faith this generation is rejected.
- D. Moses guides Israel in the wilderness while a new generation matures to receive God's promise.
- E. Moses sins.
 1. His transgression prevents him from leading the people into Canaan.
 2. He repents and continues service until Joshua is appointed.

III. Practical applications

- A. Excuses anger God. Exodus 4:12, 14
- B. God may take many years to prepare us for a task.
- C. God is with us when we go about his work.
- D. The value of patience and perseverance.
- E. Unselfishness is one of the chief marks of Greatness. Deut. 9:18-20, 25-29
- F. The extraordinary power of Intercessory prayer. Exodus 32:9-14
- G. The penalty for disobedience and loss of temper is severe. Num. 20:12,17:14

Conclusion: The life of Moses clearly depicts him as a willing instrument; a tool in the hands of the Master.

THE LIFE OF DAVID

Ercel Ray Warren

INTRODUCTION:

1. The many chronologies which are well outlined for Bible students. Perhaps the best is found in Old Testament Biographies, by Tribble, Hill, and Yates, Broadman Press, Nashville, Tennessee, 1935, Page 223. A duplicate of which follows:

DAVID WAS CALLED A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

- I. David Introduced (1 Sam. 16)
 1. Noble Ancestry
 2. Anointed by Samuel
 3. At Saul's Court
- II. Personal Fortunes (1 Sam. 17-27)
 1. Victory and Acclaim
 2. Loyalty and Devotion
 3. Jealousy and Rage
- III. Kingdom of Judah (1 Sam. 28 to 2 Sam. 4)
 1. Saul's Tragic End
 2. The House of Saul
 3. Every Inch a King
- IV. King of Israel (2 Sam. 5-10)
 1. The Tribes United
 2. Jerusalem the Capital
 3. Kingdom Established
- V. Sin and Consequences (2 Sam. 11-24)
 1. Adultery and Murder
 2. Confession and Judgment
 3. Rebellion and Revolt
- VI. Evening of Life (1 Kings I to 2:11)
 1. Problem of Succession
 2. Charge to Solomon
 3. Comfort in Song

A LIFE LIVED IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD IS A GREAT LIFE.

2. Rather than approach this from a standpoint of chronology, however, the intent of this lesson shall concentrate upon some of the Problems David had to overcome, and how in overcoming he was "a great man""a man after God's own heart."
3. If we can understand David's problems, his struggles when on the verge of being completely overcome, and can appreciate the value of his final victory, we can become better Christians, and will be able to have a greater effect upon the lives of others.

I. PROBLEMS OF YOUTH

- A. Famous duel with Goliath (1 Sam. 17)
 - 1. Details in text.
 - 2. "David's victory in the face of the cowardice of the Israelites, the jeers of his brothers, and the contempt of his enemy was most impressive; it was all the more so because he spurned a warrior's armor, fought in his own uniform, with his own weapons, and trusted God for the victory" (Ibid. pp. 216, 217)
- B. Honors showered upon him.
 - 1. No bad effects upon David
 - 2. Remained same, modest youth that he had always been.
- C. Friendship with Jonathan established.
 - 1. David's valor made a lasting impression upon Jonathan, son and heir of King Saul.
 - 2. There was an affection, "surpassing the love of women," and a friendship that will remain a classic for all time.
 - 3. David's lament over Jonathan is one of the beautiful things of his life.
- D. Saul's insane jealousy
 - 1. Persistent persecution drove David into ranks of outlaws and guerrillas in his own land.
 - 2. Repeated attempts were made upon David's life, with no result except to advertise his skill and bravery.
 - 3. Two occasions -- Saul was entirely at the mercy of David -- each time David refused to take advantage of the opportunity to slay the king.
 - 4. At Saul's death, came David's beautiful lamentation in which he remembered Saul just as tenderly as he did the devoted Jonathan.

II. DAVID AS KING

- A. Desire to build the temple
 - 1. Nathan approves the idea, but tells David that he should be denied the privilege of building the temple, this honor being reserved for his successor.
 - 2. Recorded in 2 Sam, 7 -- Note effect upon David (v. 18f)
- B. Sin and Consequences
 - 1. Story of David's terrible sins told fully and clearly in the text (2 Sam. 11, 12)
 - a. Coveted his servant's wife, committed adultery with her, and then ordered the husband to be so placed in the battle line that he would be killed.
 - b. Following the death of the husband, David took the widow to wife.
 - 2. Nathan's interview with David is one of the most dramatic stories in literature.
 - a. Nathan brought from David confession and repentance, the genuineness of which cannot be doubted.
 - b. Not only in this passage, but throughout the writings of David, the note of deepest penitence is sounded (see conclusion). God heard him and forgave him, and used him mightily afterwards....but
 - 3. Consequences -- Because of his sins...
 - a. His first-born son with Bathsheba died.
 - b. The sword should never depart from his house.
 - (1) Rebellion of Absalom, David's most attractive son.

- (a) "The way-wardness, recklessness, and disloyalty of this talented young man broke his old father's heart, and his tragic death called forth from David the most sublime apostrophe in the language" (cf. 2 Sam. 18:33)
- (2) The insurrection led by Sheba.
- (3) The conspiracy of Adonijah.

III. OLD AGE

A. David's charge to Solomon

- 1. A complete summing up of his ideals
- 2. Begins with the oft-quoted words, "I go the way of all the earth."
- 3. Urges Solomon to show himself a man, and to walk in the ways of the Lord always that he might prosper in all that he does.

B. After a busy rule of forty years, KING DAVID "slept with his fathers."

CONCLUSION:

- 1. Surely David found comfort in the beautiful sentiments from his own pen through the years (cf. Psalms 23)
- 2. David was a man after God's own heart because his heart (not always his actions) gave increasing evidence of moral progress.
- 3. The Psalms reflect his spirit (heart), and God looks on the inside. A proper synopsis of David's heart, then, is found in Psalms 23, 51, 32, 139, 73, 37 -- as time allows these shall receive due attention.
- 4. A great life to within the reach of ALL who will live in the presence of God.

Personal Evangelism

Harold Dowdy

- Monday - 1. General procedure that I use in this work
("What") 2. Present the lesson as if a prospect were present
- Tuesday - 1. What your personal evangelism must have to work
("Who") 2. How to have a "who"
3. (Lesson)
1. Getting in ... and out ... and in
("How") 2. Why you cannot do personal work
3. (Lesson)
- Thursday- 1. How to baptize your student
("Where") 2. History lesson if needed
3. (Lesson)

"CHURCH CO-OPERATION"

Bob Crawley

Introduction

- I. Attention-getting issues tend to come and go in history of religion.
 - A. While facing up to one problem we often back into another.
 - B. Our best light is often behind us, like Sen. Irwin's lightning bug.
- II. Church co-operation is not currently a major battleground.
 - A. That makes now a good time to evaluate the past.
 - B. This is the best time to inoculate against future digressions.
- III. For convenience, we divide the topic into three areas:
 - A. The divinely given character of the church and the churches of Christ for operation (including co-operation).
 - B. A consideration of some New Testament cases as a pattern for church co-operation, and
 - C. Some errors and dangers in past and current practice relating to the topic.

DISCUSSION

- I. We must first understand the character of Christ's church and churches.
 - A. In its original denotation, a "church" (ekklesia) is an assembly or collection of people.
 - 1. It is so used (along with a couple of synonyms) of "an assembly of the citizens regularly summoned, the legislative assembly," --Thucydides. It is also so used by Demosthenes, Aristophanes, and Herodotus. (Liddell & Scott, p. 239).
 - 2. Strictly, "called out" is its etymology rather than definition.
 - 3. In the New Testament, it is an "assembly" in one of several senses:
 - a. A group actually physically assembled.
 - b. A group assembled in an organization, or
 - c. People assembled in a spiritual and abstract sense.
 - B. In the abstract spiritual sense, Christ's church is the Saved.
 - 1. Christ's purpose is to collect people out of sin.
 - 2. This relationship is entirely spiritual, being "added by the Lord." Acts 2:47
 - a. This "assembly" has no earthly organizational structures
 - b. This "assembly" never operates as an organization, but exists as a spiritual relationship, or brotherhood.
 - C. Christians must frequently participate in assembling physically.
 - 1. Considering one another, we do this for exhorting (Heb. 10:24, 25).
 - 2. Disciples come together to break bread (Acts 20:7)
 - a. This is an act of personal discipleship, not church ordinance.
 - b. Participation is not on the basis of organizational membership.
 - 3. These are known compositionally as "churches of the saints," (1 Cor. 14:33, 34: James 2:2).
 - 4. Non-Christians will frequently be in these assemblies, (I Cor. 14:23).
 - D. In an organizational sense there are churches of Christ.
 - 1. These are frequently identified by their locales:
 - a. "The church that was ... In Antioch...." (Acts 13:1).
 - b. "... of the Gentiles." (Rom. 16:4).
 - c. "The churches of Galatia..." (1 Cor. 16:1).

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- d. "The churches of Asia salute you (1 Cor. 16:19)
 - e. "...by the churches of Judea...." (Gal. 1:22).
 - f. "... the seven churches that are in Asia." (Rev. 1:4).
 - g. "...the church in Ephesus ...Smyrna...Pergamum...Thyatira... Sardis...Philadelphia...Laodicea." (Rev. 2:1, 8, 12, 18, 3:1, 7, 14).
2. These "churches of Christ" are the only divinely appointed organizations.
- a. Membership, under Christ, is voluntary.
 - (1) Paul assayed to join the one in Jerusalem (Acts 9:26).
 - (2) The Corinthians were to expel a member (I Cor. 5:2-5).
 - (3) Members are "subjecting... to one another" (Eph. 5:21).
 - b. The only ones over us in the Lord are in these organizations.
 - (1) "...elders in every church..." (Acts 14:23).
 - (2) Their charge, "the flock...among you." (1 Pet. 5:2).
 - c. Churches of Christ are corporate entities.
 - (1) The action of a church is not the private action of any individual (1 Tim. 5:16).
 - (2) This is to be distinguished from co-operative individual action.
 - d. Under Christ, these churches are independent in action.
- II. Church operation (including co-operation) is described in the N.T.
- A. Churches operated and co-operated in paying preacher's wages (Phil. 4:10-16; 2 Cor. 11:7-9).
 - B. Churches co-operated in exposing false teachers (Acts 15:1-31; Gal. 2:1-10).
 - C. Churches operated to relieve material distress.
 1. This was an action of the church organization.
 - a. Jerusalem relieved its needy members (Acts 2:44; 4:34,35; 6:1-6)
 - b. The Thessalonians were so taught (2 Thess. 3:7-12).
 2. Needy churches received from churches elsewhere.
 - a. Judeans received from Antioch (Acts 11:27-30).
 - b. Many sent to Jerusalem (Rom. 15:25-28; 1 Cor. 16:1-4; 2 Cor. 8, 9; Acts 21:17-19; 24:17).
 - D. Proper co-operation of churches is actually their independent operation under Christ.
 1. Christ rules through his word. This is the only co-ordination factor among the churches of Christ. It is enough.
 - a. It provides proper polarity of purpose.
 - b. It requires Individual reliance on the wisdom of God's plans
 2. Christ provides the "Co-..." Churches must be faithful in the "operation."
- III. Relationship of churches has been an area of perennial apostasy.
- A. A fundamental error is to think of "churches" as elements in a catholic organization.
 1. In early post-apostolic days this led to episcopacy and church councils in "the image of the empire."
 - a. The impulse to this was in the danger of heresy (Ayer, p. 36).
 - b. Strength was sought in co-ordinated church administrations
 2. Protestant reformers largely retained this concept.
 - a. Lutherans and Calvinists retained "national church" idea.
 - b. Anglicanism, Methodism, American Episcopalianism and Pentecostalism retained episcopal pattern.

- c. Churches affirming "Congregationalism" (Congregationalists, Baptists, and various "free" churches) have nevertheless practiced co-ordinating associations. Presbyterians have a republican centralization.
- 3. The "restoration movement" was beset by this tendency.
 - a. The "Testament of the Springfield Presbytery" was never completely executed.
 - b. The American Chr. Miss. Soc. embodied the prevalent idea of the church as a brotherhood of churches.
- 4. This concept is still widely prevalent.
 - a. Many imagine the church to be the sum of "all the churches in the brotherhood."
 - (1) A brotherhood of churches is in fact a denomination.
 - (2) Identifying the spiritual brotherhood with some organizational structure multiplies digressions.
 - b. "Church related" societies (Charity, Educational or Evangelistic) usually assume a denominational brotherhood.
 - (1) An organization of trustees cannot operate in behalf of a pure spiritual church universal.
 - (2) It is a small step from "brotherhood-wide" support to putting it "into the church budget."
 - (3) "Sponsoring church" idea creates a denomination, it does not actually "activate the church universal."
- B. It is an error to regard churches as differing in rank.
 - 1. We tend to attribute rank to what is actually maturity.
 - a. Philadelphia's "little power" was not over Laodicea (Rev. 3:8).
 - b. The N.T. knows of no metropolitan, "mother" or "sponsoring churches."
 - 2. No church of Christ is under anyone but Christ.
- IV. Many specific problems must be solved in the light of these basic principles.
 - A. Some relate to order and discipline:
 - 1. Is it proper for a church to "withdraw" from another church?
 - 2. May one church receive a member expelled by another church?
 - 3. May a church "discipline" one not a member of it?
 - 4. What about list of "all the churches in fellowship with....?"
 - B. Some relate to the furtherance of the gospel:
 - 1. What about a church's "assuming the oversight" of a "work" or preacher in some other place?
 - 2. Can churches properly work together in conducting meetings, radio preaching, supporting preachers, etc.?
 - 3. Should churches combine advertising and promotional efforts?
 - C. These, and all others, must be solved lawfully and expediently.

Conclusion:

- I. Churches of Christ today must operate (and thus co-operate) within the same rules that are taught and demonstrated in the N.T.
- II. Any work that cannot be done by churches abiding in the doctrine of Christ should not be done.

THE CHARISMATIC MOVEMENT

John L. Clark

- I. A history of the Charismatic movement.
 - A. Brief glimpses at the historical background.
 - B. Charismatic movement or Pentecostalism in churches of Christ.
- II. Claims of Charismatic movement stated and examined.
 - A. Statement of the position
 - B. Analysis of the position
 - C. What is claimed as scriptural basis for Pentecostal doctrine.
 - D. Critical examination of Pentecostal doctrine.
- III. Modern tongue-speaking
 - A. What?
 - B. Why?
 - C. What can we do about it?

NOTE: The full discussion of this subject is found in the booklet entitled "The Charismatic Movement" by John L. Clark, 1973.

NOAH - A PREACHER OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Bob Dickey

I. BRIEF OUTLINE OF NOAH'S LIFE

A. Birth

1. Son of Lamech (Gen. 5:21)
2. Tenth generation -- ninth from Adam
3. Meaning of name -- "to comfort" (Gen. 5:29)

B. Righteous in a time of wickedness

1. God warns of coming destruction (Gen. 6:13 - 7:5)
2. Noah instructed to build an ark (Gen. 6:14 - 22)
3. Noah, family, and animals come into the ark - God shuts them in (Gen. 7:1 - 16)

C. The flood

1. Destruction of all flesh - except inhabitants of the ark (Gen. 7:17-24)
2. Waiting for the waters to recede - the earth to dry (Gen. 8:1-14)
3. Noah told to leave the ark (Gen. 8:15-19)
4. Noah erects an altar and sacrifices to the Lord (Gen. 8:20)
5. God's covenant with Noah and his seed - the token (Gen. 8:21 - 9:17)

D. Noah's sons (Gen. 9:18-19)

E. Noah's drunkenness (Gen. 9:20-21)

1. Reactions of the sons (Gen. 9:22-23)
2. Blessings and the curse (Gen. 9:24-27)

F. Noah's death (950 years old) (Gen. 9:28)

II. BIBLICAL DESCRIPTION OF NOAH'S CHARACTER

A. GEN. 6:8 --- "BUT NOAH FOUND FAVOR IN THE EYES OF THE LORD."

God's judgment: utter destruction of mankind - with this one exception— A gleam of hope against a background of despair!

B. GEN. 6:9 -- "NOAH WAS A RIGHTEOUS MAN-" (KJV - "Just man")

A man filled with right principles and a godly disposition (Gen. 7:1)

"...and perfect in his generation." (KJV - "blameless")

1. Not "sinless" perfection, but more of sincerity and genuineness; inwardly entire and complete -- one whose heart has a single purpose.
2. Noah's life was spent amid surrounding wickedness, and that is the reason his character shines so brightly. He was such a man "in his generations" - a corrupt and degenerate age.

"...Noah walked with God."

1. A life spent in communion and fellowship with God (1 Jno. 1:6-7)
2. Implies agreement (Amos 3:3), friendship, trust, progress
3. In the Scriptures only Enoch, Noah, priests (Mal. 2:6)
4. While others of his time were living to themselves and the world, Noah was living to God.

C. HEB. 11:7 --- "BY FAITH NOAH ..."

1. Faith defined: Heb. 1:1, 6; Rom. 10:17
2. Noah did not dispute with God, neither did he ask for greater details or particulars.
3. Noah's obedience was evidence of his faith.
4. Faith not only kept Noah from living like his wicked neighbors, but it kept him from going where they eventually did.
5. It was faith that saved him, but not faith alone. His faith motivated him to take God "at His word" and obey Him completely.

"...being warned of God..."

1. Divinely admonished
2. See Heb. 8:5 (Noah knew to make all things according to the pattern (Gen. 6:22)

"...concerning things not soon as yet..."

1. Heb. 1:1; Rom. 8:24-25; 2 Cor. 5:7 -- "we walk by faith, not by sight"
2. No outward evidence that the deluge was sure to occur. Probably had never seen or heard of a flood -- rain?
3. A distant, future event -- yet 120 years before it would come to pass.

"...moved with godly fear..."

1. Reverence for God (Heb. 10:31; 12:28-29; 2 Cor. 5:11)
2. Motivation behind the actions
3. Noah's "moving with godly fear" is closely interwoven with his faith. Godly fear is a companion of faith.

"... prepared an ark to the saving of his house..."

1. Think of the great deal of care, labor, and expense involved.
2. Question: Would it not have been possible for God to have saved Noah by some special miraculous assistance without all the difficulty of ark-making? Certainly, it could have been done, but may we not better understand how only those can be saved in Christ who "work out their salvation with fear and trembling"?

"...through which he condemned the world..."

1. Matt. 12:41-42 -- condemned because they would not repent.
2. Condemned them not only by preaching of the Word, but by his righteous living.

"...became heir of the righteousness which is according to the faith."

1. His faith made him righteous. His righteousness made him an heir.
 2. 1 Pet. 1:9 -- Received the end of his faith -- salvation of his soul.
 3. "Noah lived to see two worlds, but being an heir of the righteousness which is by faith, when he died he went to await a better than either." (Matthew Henry)
- D. 1 Pet. 3:19-21 --- Christ went through the person of Noah and preached "in the spirit" to the antediluvians imprisoned in sin. The same water which drowned the unbelieving, saved those in the ark. The water, in its likeness to baptism, prefigured the salvation in Christ. One must be baptized to be in Christ. There was no salvation outside of the ark, and there is no salvation outside of Christ.
- E. 2 PET. 2:5 --- ***"...a preacher of righteousness..."***
1. Herald: one sent with a message; giving a proclamation
 2. Noah as a preacher

III. THE DAYS OF NOAH -- LIKE THE COMING OF THE LORD Matt. 24:37-39; Lk. 17:26-27

A. DAYS OF SECULAR ACTIVITY

B. DAYS OF SPIRITUAL APATHY

1. Why?
2. Unbelief -- scoffers and ridicule
 - a. Statements Noah might have heard
 - b. A message to the Noahs' and scoffers of today -- 2 Pet. 3
 - c. The second coming of the Lord, to the unbeliever, seems just as impossible today as the flood did in Noah's day. The end of this solid old world seems unbelievable to those who will not hear God nor take Him at His Word. But God has spoken -- the same God who spoke to Noah!

C. DAYS OF SALVATION -- few were saved (8 souls)

D. DAYS OF DOOM AND LOSS -- multitudes lost -- "and took them all away"

IV. CONCLUSION -- With God's help, may we build in faith as we prepare for that last great day -- EVEN AS DID NOAH.