



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

Issue 4

Prayer

by – Dan Gross, Missionary (edited)

I. Why Pray?

- I} To keep our minds focused on Christ and God's Truth (Philippians 4:6-8).
- 2} To pour out our hearts to God (Psalm 62:8; I Samuel 1:15).
- 3} We are commanded to pray (Romans 12:12; Colossians 4:2).
- 4} To praise Him for Who He is (Romans 11:33-36; Psalm 103:1).
- 5} To thank Him for what He has done (Philippians 4:6; Ephesians 5:20).
- 6} Because we are needy people (Romans 8:26; II Corinthians 12:9).
- 7} To keep us from sin (Philippians 4:6-8; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).
- 8} To be free from anxiety (Philippians 4:6-7).
- 9} To follow the example of Paul (I Corinthians 4:16; 11:1).
- 10} To make requests (Philippians 4:6; I Timothy 2:1).
- II} To make wise use of our time (Romans 13:11; Ephesians 5:16).
- 12} To help us apply the Word of God to the circumstances of our lives (Colossians 1:9-11; I Thessalonians 2:13).

II. Where Should We Pray?

- I} Privately (Daniel 6:10; Matt. 6:6; Acts 9: 11).
- 2} Corporately (Acts 20:36; Romans 15:30; II Corinthians 1:11).
- 3} Anywhere - The Holy Ghost indwells us (Romans 8:9-11; I Corinthians 6:19).

III. When Should We Pray?

- I} Night and Day (I Timothy 5:5; Psalm 88:1).
- 2} Early in the Morning (Psalm 5:3; Mark 1:35).
- 3} Evening, Morning, and Noon (Psalm 55:17).
- 4} Always - without ceasing (Ephesians 6:18; Colossians 1:9-12; 1 Thessalonians 5:17).

IV. How Should We Pray?

- I} Posture
 - A. Kneeling (Ephesians 3:14; Acts 20:36).
 - B. Standing (Mark 11:25; 1 Kings 8:22).
 - C. Any Position – The Holy Spirit indwells us. We do not have to adopt any particular posture in prayer (Romans 8:9-11; 1 Corinthians 6:19).
- 2} Continually (Romans 12:12).
- 3} With Understanding (I Corinthians 14:15).
- 4} In the Spirit (Ephesians 6: 18).
- 5} With Thanksgiving (Philippians 4:6).
- 6} Fervently (Colossians 4:12).
- 7} Without Ceasing (I Thessalonians 5:17).
- 8} Without Wrath (I Timothy 2:8).
- 9} Without doubting (I Timothy 2:8).
- 10} With Desire (longing – Colossians 1:9).

V. To Whom Do You Pray?

- I} There is one God Who exists eternally in three persons (Deuteronomy 6:4; II Corinthians 13:14).
- 2} Each Person of the Trinity has a specific and distinct role (Matthew 3:13-17; Ephesians 1:3-14).
- 3} Our prayers should be addressed to the Father (Ephesians 3:14).
- 4} Our prayers should be in the name of the Son (Ephesians 5:20).

(continued on page 32)

Dear Readers:

Greetings in the name of our LORD and SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST! A number of you have written, asking us to share in our paper a little of our testimony concerning our past and our having come to understand the mystery.

Looking back over the 1980's I truly am thankful to God for His marvelous grace and goodness. As the decade began I was an ordained minister in the Baptist denomination and serving as Assistant Pastor. My wife, Cindy, and I had no children but before the first year of the decade was over we had our first child and had begun our embark on a journey which would gradually lead us out of our religious confusion and into an understanding of the glorious liberty and freedom which we already had in Christ! As with many others, it would not always be an easy or simple course, but it would be one of great joy and blessing. Many along the way would not understand our direction. This would be one of the most difficult parts, but to paraphrase one from centuries past, "Dear is family and friends, but dearer still is truth."

As we look back to 1980, we thank God that we had one great issue settled which would prepare us for our journey. This issue concerned the Bible. We knew unquestionably that the book in our hands (KJV) was, without qualification, God's book. It was the authority and it alone held the answers to all our questions. It was the road map for this voyage into the "unknown." We had full confidence in God and His sure Word.

The first step that we made was to leave the security of our church position. This was a difficult decision, for this was our home church from childhood. In 1981 we began to meet with a few other saints who loved truth and eagerly longed to pursue it. A church was formed (Old Fashioned Gospel Tabernacle) from the small nucleus which met in our little apartment. Although we felt quite inadequate for the task we knew that God and His Word were more than sufficient for the challenge, and that the truth would be found in the Old Book, not in the Modern inventions of man. Over the first four years our church developed a strong dispensational position (Acts 2). We learned much from the teachings of Scofield, Larkin, Chafer, and the like. This produced much insight and growth in our lives and yet, looking back, I realize that we were still missing something very important, something that would allow us to plainly see what God's purpose and will was for us today. Because of this lacking piece to our doctrinal puzzle we were not able to clearly shake our denominational bondage and

Bible Student's Notebook

This biweekly publication (24 times a year) is dedicated to:

- the proclamation of the riches of God's abundant, exceeding grace (Romans 5:20; 11:6; Ephesians 1:7)
- the affirmation of God's purpose to save all mankind through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (I Timothy 2:3, 4; 4:10; Titus 2:11)
- the "preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began" (Romans 16:25)
- true freedom and liberty apart from the law (Galatians 5:1)
- the organic nature of the church, the body of Christ (I Corinthians 12)
- the distinct ministry of Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles (Romans 11:13)
- the importance of receiving all whom Christ has received (Romans 14-15)
- the recovery of *rich* Biblical truth that has too long remained hidden under the veils of traditionalism, prejudice, misunderstanding, and fear (Mark 7:7, 13).
- the completeness of the believer in Christ (Colossians 2:10), with ...
 - total forgiveness of sins (Colossians 1:14)
 - identity in His death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6)
 - adult sonship position (Galatians 4)

This publication is a joint effort of a few members of the body of Christ. It is a product of our individual lives and ministries together. We do not claim infallibility for its contents. Our readers are asked to be as the Bereans and search the Scriptures (Acts 17:10-11; I Thessalonians 5:21).

This publication is not connected with any "Movement," "Organization," "Mission," or separate body of believers, but is sent forth to and for all "saints."

SUBSCRIPTION

U.S.: 6 months (12 issues) - \$24⁰⁰; 1 year (24 issues) - \$42⁰⁰;
2 years (48 issues) - \$72⁰⁰; 3 years (48 issues) - \$96⁰⁰;
Foreign: 1 year (24 issues) - \$60⁰⁰;

PATRIARCHS

Remember that it is our responsibility as husbands and fathers to take the truths we learn from God's Word, the truths that we hold dear, and impart them to our families.

The Bible Student's Notebook
www.BibleStudentsNotebook.com

PO Box 265
Windber, PA 15963
Office: (800) 784-6010
bsn@studyshelf.com

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. – Editor
Andre Sneidar – Managing Editor
Visit our online bookstore at: www.StudyShelf.com

Copyright © 1989-2007 Pilkington & Sons

legalistic approach. This eventually produced what Paul, the apostle, had warned of in Galatians 5:13-15. In our sometimes militant, hard and legalistic confusion we began to allow our critical spirit to devour even ourselves.

The answer came in 1985. The key was in rightly dividing the Word of truth (II Tim. 2: 15). It was the understanding of the "preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began" (Romans 16:25). This, according to the passage, is what STABILIZES the believer. How many believers, just as we were, are not even aware of this glorious and distinct message of God's plan and purpose for today, the plan that Paul called the "dispensation of the Grace of God" (Eph. 3:2)? This message would prove to "rest" our souls and "restore" our congregation.

The understanding of the mystery was the greatest spiritual event in our lives outside of salvation. It must be remembered that it is God's will to have "all men to be saved, AND to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (I Tim. 2:4). This desire was evidenced in the life of Paul, who said, "Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; And TO MAKE ALL MEN SEE WHAT IS THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE MYSTERY, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God ..." (Eph. 3:8-9).

I do not want to mislead you, we did not embrace this wonderful truth immediately. We actually pursued an understanding of this message so that we might help the brother who shared it with us. We wanted to help him get out of this "bad teaching;" but after much careful study we were convinced that it was indeed the true teaching of Scripture. It was the missing element in our ministry. As we accepted this truth the floodlight of illumination shown upon the Word of God as never before. I am surely thankful for this man who so boldly and yet lovingly came to me and presented the message. We did not know each other, but he sacrificially took it upon himself to travel from a neighboring state to "create" an opportunity to share Pauline truth. He truly had nothing personal to gain and I shall be eternally grateful for his concern and faithfulness.

We have dedicated the last 4 1/2 years of our ministry to understanding the message and ministry of Jesus Christ through Paul, the apostle. These have been truly enlightening, enjoyable and exciting years. The Bible has never been so

clear and real to us as when it is "rightly divided." We truly believe that this message is UNANSWERABLE and that it is the solution to the great majority of problems which the Body of Christ now faces.

In the past few years we have begun a few ministries which continue to serve in sharing this message: 1) a Bible Correspondence Course ministry 2) a bookstore 3) a tape ministry 4) a weekly handout called the Forgotten Truths and 5) an Annual Mid-Atlantic Coast Grace Bible Conference.

Last year we were able to see our new printing ministry, Grace Testimony Publishers, get "off the ground." The following accomplishments were made in our first year of operation: 1) two issues of the *Bible Student's Notebook* were printed and mailed into 38 states and 13 foreign countries, 2) 3000 dispensational packets were mailed to preachers, churches and believers, 3) 20,000 copies of the newsprint tabloid *Grace Testimony* were printed for the purpose of local evangelism 4) 26,000 additional tracts and booklets were printed, and 5) the printing our our Grace Clearinghouse catalog [the mail order division of Grace bookstore].

All of this has been carried on by the concerted efforts of many. I want to sincerely thank each one who "joined hands" in helping to produce, print and distribute literature. We must continue to do our part to carry the message as far and wide as possible. We cannot rest on the successes of the past. We must reach out further in this work! Our goal is to triple our issues of the BSN this year and increase its circulation. We also want to add titles to our track list and establish a grace library, opening it and our bookstore to the community.

I want to encourage you to stay true to God and His message! We may not always find this to be the easiest way. In fact it may be difficult to remain faithful but the battle is the Lord's and He will give each of us sufficient grace! Let us, after Christ's pattern in Paul, make our lives count and not just become another name in a long list of genealogies that "lived and died" (II Timothy 4:5-8).

Your servant,



Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.
II Corinthians 4:5

(continued from page 29)

5} We should pray “in the Spirit” (Ephesians 6:18).

VI. A Dispensational Look At Prayer

1} **Prophetic Program:** There was an emphasis on the physical, both in Israel’s requests and God’s response to their prayers (Genesis 20:17-18; Exodus 8:12-13; Deuteronomy 28; Isaiah 35; Isaiah 65:20-25; Matthew 5:5).

Such is not the case in the Dispensation of Grace: Romans 8:18-28; II Corinthians 4:16-5:7; 12:7-10; Ephesians 1:3; Philippians 4:6-7; Colossians 3:1-2.

2} **Prophetic Program:** Israel’s requests were specific and they saw specific answers (Numbers 11:1-2; Judges 6:36-40; 16:28-30; 1 Samuel 1:27; I Kings 18:22-39; Matthew 21:21-22).

Such is not the case in the Dispensation of Grace: Romans 8:26-28; II Corinthians 12:7-10; Ephesians 1:16-23; 3:14-19; Philippians 4:6-7; Colossians 1:9-12.

3} **Prophetic Program:** The Law system is an “If-Then” system. If you fail to meet my conditions, you do not get the blessings (you get the curse). Israel’s prayer lives were consistent with this system (Deuteronomy 11:26-28; Psalm 66:18; Proverbs 15:29; Isaiah 59:1-2; Micah 3:4; II Chronicles 7:14).

Such is not the case in the Dispensation of Grace: Romans 5:1-2; 8:32; I Corinthians 1:30; Ephesians 1:3, 6; 2:18.

4} **Prophetic Program:** Physical protection was promised to Israel and provided (Psalm 34:7; 34:17; 91; Daniel 3:26-28; 6:22; Luke 1:71-74).

Such is not the case in the Dispensation of Grace: Romans 8:18-25; II Corinthians 4:16-5:7; 11:23-27; 12:7-10; Ephesians 1:3; II Timothy 4:20.

5} **Prophetic Program:** Confession and Repentance were required of Israel in order to obtain the promised blessings – including the forgiveness of sins (Leviticus 5:4-7; 26:40-42; II Chronicles 6:26-27, 34:39; 7:13-14; I John. 1:9).

Such is not the case in the Dispensation of Grace: Romans 5:1-2; II Corinthians 7:9-11; Ephesians 1:3, 7; 4:32; Colossians 2:13.

6} **Prophetic Program:** Israel rightly expected to physically see and audibly hear answers to prayer (Genesis, 20:17-18; Leviticus 26:1-11; Numbers 11:1-2; 14:19,20; Deuteronomy. 28:1-14; I Samuel 1:10-27).

Such is not the case in the Dispensation of Grace: Romans 8:18-25; Ephesians 1:16-23; Ephesians 3:14-19; Colossians 1:9-12; I Timothy 5:23; II Timothy 4:20.

7} **Prophetic Program:** When Israel was in disobedience and did not respond with confession and repentance, they lost physical blessings and were disciplined with physical judgments (Leviticus 26:14-33; Deuteronomy 11:27-28; 28:15-63; Judges 2:19-23; 3:5-8; 4:1-2).

Such is not the case in the Dispensation of Grace: Romans 5:1-2; 8:18-25, 32; II Corinthians 4:16-5:7; Ephesians 1:3,7.

8} **Prophetic Program:** Israel was to pray and look for signs (Exodus 4:6-9; Numbers 16:36-40; Deuteronomy 28:45-46; Judges 6:15-24, 36-40; II Kings 20:8-11).

Such is not the case in the Dispensation of Grace: Romans 8:24-25; II Corinthians 4:18 & 5:7.

9} **Prophetic Program:** How Israel physically prayed was important (Ezekiel 9:3- 4; 10:1; Nehemiah 9:1-3; Psalm 69:10-11; Jeremiah 4:8; Matthew 11:21).

Such is not the case in the Dispensation of Grace: No physical Requirements. Romans 5:1-2; 8:9- 11; I Corinthians 6:19; Ephesians 2:18.

10} **Prophetic Program:** Israel had specific times and places they were to pray (Deuteronomy 12:2-6; I Kings 18:36-38; II Chronicles 7:12-16; Daniel 6:10; 9:21; Acts 3:1).

Such is not the case in the Dispensation of Grace: Ephesians 6:18; Colossians 1:9-12; I Thess. 5:17.

Dispensations

by – Clyde L. Pilkington

*“Whereof I Paul am made a minister, according to the **dispensation** of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God” Colossians 1:25).*

*“If ye have heard of the **dispensation** of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward” (Ephesians 3:2).*

The study of the Bible cannot be by a ‘hop-skip-and-jump’ method. One must “rightly divide” the Word in order to correctly understand God’s plan and purpose for the ages. This could not be clearer (II Timothy 2:15).

In Genesis 2:16-17, God commands Adam not to eat of the forbidden tree; but why has God not commanded us to refrain from eating from a certain tree? The answer is found in “rightly dividing the word of truth.”

In Genesis 1:29, God limits man to a vegetarian diet, then in Genesis 9:3 He allows man to eat “every moving thing that liveth.” Under the Law of Moses certain animals were once again forbidden as “unclean;” but under the *dispensation* of Grace, God once again allows “every creature of God” (I Timothy 4:3-5). This is only understood by “rightly dividing” the Scriptures.

Under the Mosaic Law, God commanded the observance of “holy days” and “sabbaths,” yet in Galatians 4:10 Paul condemns the observance of days. The only answer to these apparent contradictions is the right division of the Word of God.

The key is not just “dividing” the Word of Truth, but “rightly dividing” it. This right division comes from the study of the Bible (II Timothy 2:15, I Corinthians 2:11-14, Isaiah 28:10). Without proper divisions in Scripture one will end up confused and in error (note the words “present truth” in II Peter 1:12).

The Scriptures are the revelation from God of Himself, as well as His plan and purpose as to man and the earth. They were given to us in “sundry times and in divers manners” (Hebrews 1:1) over a period of 1600 years, consisting of 66 separate books written by about 40 authors, including kings, priests, prophets,

herdsman, fishermen, a tax collector, a physician, etc.

Some who are “blind” to “right division” while reading through the Bible scream “contradiction,” while others try to misapply the Scriptures.

A farmer sets certain tasks for his household in the winter, others in the spring and summer, and yet still other tasks in the fall. Would we consider him to be inconsistent by these changes? Why no, he is only consistently following the proper rules and plan of agriculture. So it is with God.

To rightly divide the Scriptures there are some essential divisions that must be made (everybody divides the Bible, even if it is only between the “Old” and “New” Testaments). One of the most important divisions is the *dispensational* one.

Paul uses the term “dispensation” four times in his epistles. Yet many believers are completely unaware of its importance. It has been a long *neglected* subject by the *majority* of Bible students. Just what is a “dispensation?”

I. THE MEANING

The act of distribution, or dealing out; Administration; Stewardship. Dispensation comes from the word dispense. It also is seen in the word dispensary.

A dispensation is not, as is commonly believed, a period of time. W.C. Vine in his *Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words* gives the following definition: “A dispensation is not a period or epoch (a common, but erroneous use of the word), but a mode of dealing, an arrangement, or administration of affairs.”

II. HOW DO DISPENSATIONS AFFECT ME?

Throughout the Bible God has had different administrations (or dispensations). In God's program, as with that of the farmer mentioned in the earlier illustration, it is very important to do the work of the season. For example, there are truths that belong to Israel that do not belong to the Body of Christ. II Timothy 2:15 plainly gives us the answer: "*Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*"

Many try to follow the dispensations of the "Old Testament" (Romans 15:4) or of Christ's earthly ministry (Romans 15:8); but Paul was given the dispensation for us (Colossians 1:2-26, Ephesians 3:2-3, Romans 15:15-16, 16:25, 26).

You Need a Savior

by – O.T. Sellers (edited)

The basic needs of mankind are usually thought to be food, clothing, and shelter.

That these are necessities all will admit, but even after these have been amply supplied, man's most basic need still remains: he still has a need for a Savior. This need is one to which the human mind gives constant witness. The individual man has been so constructed by the Creator that he cannot have peace of mind, rest of heart, and quietness of spirit until he is linked up with his Creator by means of a divinely provided Savior.

This unfulfilled need of a Savior is the explanation of the constant dissatisfaction of most men, their ceaseless activity, their restlessness of heart, their constant search for pleasure. They try to still the voice of conscience by listening to a thousand other voices (c.f. Romans 2:15). All thoughts of God must be crowded out and replaced by other thoughts (Romans 1:28). Man ever strives to bring himself to that state of mind which is described in Scripture as being, "*God is not in all his thoughts*" (Psalms 10:4). He must create a constant din of activities above which the voice of conscience cannot be heard. For above all else, conscience

III. WHAT DOES THIS PRESENT DISPENSATION "DISPENSE"?

"... *The dispensation of the GRACE OF GOD* ... " (Ephesians 3:2).

"*And if a man strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully*" (II Timothy 2:5).

A participant in any race must follow the rules for *that* game or they will not win the prize. How sad it is that many believers, even though they are sincere, won't be "*approved unto God*" as regarding their service because they did not study with the purpose to "**rightly divide the Word of Truth.**" ■

continually tells man of his need of a Savior. This is your greatest need, your most important need.

There are many reasons why you need a Savior, but the chief one will always be your standing in the sight of God. This truth is expressed in simple, easily-understood words spoken by Paul the apostle when he said of all men in Romans 3:11, 22, 23, "... *There is none righteous, no, not one ... There is no difference, for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.*"

While we may be in good standing with our friends, family, and fellowmen, yet because we are sinners we lack such a standing with God. You may be extolled in life or at death as having been a good citizen, good father, and good churchman, but you still lack a right relationship with God. Your children may esteem you highly as a good mother and your husband may praise you as a good wife, but you are still lacking the esteem of God.

Something must be brought into your life, there must be some definite act that will bring you to

God's favorable attention that will result in Him accepting you into a right relationship with Himself.

As to what this act is there can be no question; God has provided you a Savior. Your neglect of this God-appointed Savior must cease. You must appropriate God's great provision for your great need – your need of a Savior. You must be able to stand before Him as a sinner who has a Savior – not a sinner without one. It is your crying need that you bring yourself to some final dealing with God in regard to this. Truly, you need a Savior.

Another positive reason why you need a Savior is seen in the fact that death is working in you and you are dying. The death that works in you will reach its end and your life will be over and gone. This is a fact that few want to face, and many will not like to be reminded of it, but it is an unmovable fact and the death rate is still one apiece. *"For the wages of sin is death ..."* (Romans 6:23). *"... It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment"* (Hebrews 9:27). In view of this, you need a Savior who can rescue you from the fate and fact of death without hope and give you eternal life to take the place of the one you are using up little by little, day by day.

Those who are advancing in years, who now realize that there is more sand in the bottom of the glass than there is at the top, should give careful thought to this fact. Senior citizens need more than a hobby; they need a Savior. Do you think that within yourself you have the power to turn over the glass so that another life will run through again? Do you think that in death you will somehow be given eternal life? Certainly not! You need to trust a Savior who is the author and giver of life. To have such a Savior is to have the guarantee of eternal life. Truly, you need a Savior.

THE SAVIOR YOU NEED

Of course, the Savior you need is the One that God has provided. No one else will do, and even to consider another would be to slander God's provision. Mary spoke of *"God my Savior"* (Luke

1:47), a phrase that tells us that our Savior should be no one less than God Himself. Happy indeed is the one who can say in truth, *"My Savior is my God, and my God is my Savior."*

Through the prophet Isaiah, Jehovah declared *"I, even I, am the LORD (Jehovah); and beside Me there is no Savior"* (Isaiah 43:11). Again He says, *"Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Savior; there is none beside me. Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else"* (Isaiah 45:21-22). In view of these declarations it is evident that the Savior we need can be no one else and no one less than the mighty God, the Creator.

The Savior that will fulfill our need must be the Savior of Sinners:

"... Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (I Timothy 1:15).

"... Christ died for the ungodly" (Romans 5:6).

"... While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

Paul speaks of *"the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ"* (Titus 2:13), not two beings but one. These two titles are appositional (one defines the other). If Jesus Christ is not *"the great God,"* if he is not Jehovah, then He cannot be our Savior since long before this Jehovah declared that there is no Savior except Himself.

The Savior you need is the Lord Jesus Christ. He was born to be a Savior (Luke 2: 11); He was sent to be a Savior (I John 4:14); He is spoken of as *"the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior."*

Thus our Savior is our God and our God is our Savior.

This Savior, Jesus Christ became the sinner's substitute. "For He [God the Father] hath made Him [God the Son] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him (Jesus Christ)." (II Corinthians 5:21).

This substitutionary work was accomplished fully and completely on the cross. It is His work and His alone that is the sinners hope.

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23).

"But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness" (Romans 4:5).

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Since by the Word of God you have been shown your need of a Savior, and Jesus Christ has been shown to be the Savior you need, then you should now trust Him as your Savior. You must turn from your own works and merit and simply trust upon the all-sufficient work and merit of Jesus Christ. You must put your trust in Him for your complete salvation. Leave your eternal destiny in His able care. You must either believe Him to be what He claims to be and do what He claims to do or else believe Him to be incapable and untrue. The choice is yours. Remember, salvation depends upon a Savior. Why not deliberately decide that you will believe God, that you will be a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ of the Bible and His work on the cross on your behalf? Trust the Savior and Him alone.

We suggest that you read Romans chapters 3-5, paying close attention to every occurrence of the words "believe" and "faith." You will find it there just as it has been set forth in this message – that to all sinners who need a Savior, Jesus Christ is the Savior you need. ■

PROVE ALL THINGS

I Samuel 17:38, 39
(adapted from Bobby Thomas)

Introduction: How many things do we do that have never been proven? Why? Because they have always been done? How many things do we believe that have never been proven?

We need to do as David did and lay aside everyone's advice and methods until we have proven them from Scripture (I Thessalonians 5:21).

I. THE REALITY: "**Prove** all things"

Prove is defined as, "to examine, to establish as truth, to ascertain the genuineness of, to make certain."

II. THE REACH: "*Prove all things*"

- A. Messages – Acts 17:11
- B. Men – 11 Corinthians 8:22
- C. Ministers – I Timothy 3:10
- D. Ministries – Galatians 6:4
- E. All Things

III. THE RESPONSIBILITY: "*Prove all things*"

- A. Direct Commandment – Ephesians 5:10
- B. Deception Possible – Colossians 2:8
- C. Deficient Building Materials – I Corinthians 3:11-15

IV. THE RESOURCE

- A. The Word of God – Hebrews 5:12-14; Acts 17:11; II Timothy 2:15; John 5:39,40
- B. Through the Spirit – I Corinthians 2:11-15

V. THE REWARD

- A. Reveals the Good – I Thessalonians 5:21
- B. Rejoices the Heart – Galatians 6:4
- C. Retains the Good – I Thessalonians 5:21

Concluding passage – Gal 4:30a "Nevertheless what saith the Scriptures." ■