

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of November 8, 2020

Sunday Morning Service -----	13
Sunday Evening Service -----	10
Wed. Evening Service, 11/11/20 -----	10

AND THE PEOPLE "TUNED IN"...

Week of November 8, 2020

- Number of people who connected with our services on Facebook -

Sunday Morning Service:		
50 Views	92 Engagements	59 People Reached
Sunday Evening Service:		
55 Views	134 Engagements	60 People Reached
Wednesday Evening Service:		
41 Views	73 Engagements	53 People Reached

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of November 8, 2020 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 1,958.12
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 11/08/20:	\$ 1,958.12

- Week of November 1, 2020 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 920.00
Insurance Fund -----	\$ 400.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 11/01/20:	\$ 1,320.00

- Week of October 25, 2020 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 324.12
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 10/25/20:	\$ 324.12

- Week of October 19, 2020 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 158.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 10/19/20:	\$ 158.00

- Week of October 11, 2020 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 683.94
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 10/11/20:	\$ 683.94

- Week of October 4, 2020 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 1,030.00
Insurance Fund -----	\$ 60.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 10/04/20:	\$ 1,060.00

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed to operate the church EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00

**PLEASE BE FAITHFUL TO GIVE,
- ESPECIALLY NOW**

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. Admit that you are a sinner.
2. Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.
3. Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.
4. You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).
5. By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.



THANK YOU For Your Continued Faithfulness In Giving!

During the early part this pandemic, we were unable to meet in the church-house. But - that did not mean that the expenses of having a church-house were suspended. We still had bills to pay - electricity, gas, water, trash pickup, phone, internet, facility insurance, copier lease, office supplies, etc., and, praise the Lord, His people kept praying, watching online, & supporting their church with their giving.

Some people only give when they are in attendance at church - sort of like paying for "services rendered" - but the truth is that they are robbing THEMSELVES of God's blessings when they withhold their tithes and offerings and only give when they are here (see Malachi 3:10). Thankfully, our people have remained faithful, in so many ways, during this crisis, including financially.

WE HAVE 3 WAYS YOU CAN GIVE DURING THIS CRISIS:

1. **By mail** - 23 East Wells Blvd., Sapulpa, OK 74066
2. **Drop it off** - call the Church Office to arrange it. 224-1924
3. **Online** - Go to the link below and give electronically:

<https://tithe.ly/give?c=433047>

WE ARE GLAD WE CAN NOW GATHER TOGETHER TO PRAISE GOD & STUDY HIS WORD TOGETHER IN THE CHURCH-HOUSE! YOUR GENEROUS GIFTS WILL HELP US KEEP UP WITH THE BILLS AND CONTINUE OUR OUTREACH EFFORTS!

Church Directory

Todd W. White -----	Pastor
Lois Mae Floyd -----	Pianist/ Organist
Mickie Shatwell -----	Evening Pianist
VOLUNTEER NEEDED! -----	Greeter
Larry Byars -----	S.S. Teacher
Larry & Mary Byars, Susan Strain -----	Outreach
Bertha Segebarr -----	Custodian
Flowers -----	Shirley & Brenda White
Sound/Video -----	Seth White



CHURCH INSURANCE FUND

Monthly Premium, Due 12/05/20-----	\$ 506.00
Amount Received To Date -----	\$ 0.00

TOTAL STILL NEEDED BY 12/05/20 ----- \$ 506.00

Thank You For Your Faithful Help With This Need!

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY
REMINDER

Volume XXVI

November 15, 2020

Number 24



Cliff Palmer

**How To Retain Your Sanity
In A World That's Gone Insane**

by Cliff Palmer, Pastor (ret.)
First Baptist Church - Springdale, Ark.
- preached around 1990 -

This world has gone insane, and everyone thinks that they have the answer. Many think that government can solve the problems of man, but, quite frankly, I don't have much hope of that. Now, I know that's pessimistic, and I know you're not wanting to hear that. I don't want to hear it either.

This world is on a fast track away from God, and let me tell you the solution - if America turns, I don't think it's going to be because of lay people in the pews of our churches. If America is going to turn around, it's going to have to start in the pulpits of our land. Our pastors are going to have to become prophets.

We pastors are going to have to do what Paul instructed Timothy to do - we are to preach the Word, yes, we're to be instant and season out of season. But listen - **we also are to improve, we are to rebuke.**

GOD'S PEOPLE MUST HEAR AGAIN A WARNING FROM THE PULPITS OF OUR CHURCHES IN AMERICA!

We're going to have to stop preaching our little sermonettes on how to win over worry, how to be financially free, how to cope with this, that and the other. If I understand the Bible correctly, God never intended for his people to cope with anything. We are to be victorious over the trials of life. But most of our preachers today won't do it because we're being told by the church growth "experts" that people won't come to your church unless you meet some particular need that they have in their lives.

Well, I tell you, folks, the greatest need we have - I don't think you all believe it - **but the greatest need we have is to repent of our sins and come back to God!** That's the greatest need we have!

I want to talk to you tonight on how to retain your sanity in a world that has gone insane.

Open your bibles if you will, please, to Philippians Four. While you're turning, let me say that, as I sat here tonight, as I listened to the singing, I thought, "*Man, this is about as close to heaven as you're going to get on Earth, having sweet fellowship like this in the Lord, and, and the music that just is so thrilling and exciting to believers.*"

But there is this haunting thing that just plagues me - for, I know, in my heart, that not long from now, our joy is going to turn to sorrow. Our laughter is going to turn to tears. Because the judgment of Almighty God, if it already hasn't fallen, is going to, and when it does, what are we going to do?

When it hits - when it's full blown, what are we going to do?

You see, I'm convinced that there is a law that runs all through Scripture, called the **Law of Sowing and Reaping** - "**Whatever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.**" That's a Scriptural principle, and it runs all through the Bible.

Now, if that principle is true, and I know it is, then the judgment of God is going to hit us. Listen to me, it's going to hit us, not in our bodies. I'm not saying that God's gonna send some terrible, horrible plague upon us. Some are saying that the disease of AIDS is God's judgment upon a promiscuous lifestyle. I think that's probably true.

But let me tell you, the judgment of God is going to hit America.

In the area of economics, this nation has sinned mostly in the area of materialism. You see money, and the things that money will buy, have become our God. More and more the people of this country are expecting, from the government and other sources, things

(continued inside)

God never intended for the government to provide. But people are greedy. We are covetous, we are selfish. We are wanting always more and more and more and more. And if you ask, “*What do you mean by that?*” ***What I mean is we want more material things.*** We want a bigger house, we want a better car, we want more of everything having to do with the material. We’re on a materialistic binge, and have been for years in this country.

Now - the reason I maintain that we’re going to wake up one of these days, right here and dear America, and all that we have built up economically, is going to be gone overnight. I’m old enough to remember the days of the Great Depression. Most of you do not remember that. Most here had not even discovered America yet - you can’t relate to what I’m about to say. But folks, I know what it is not to have enough to eat. I know what it is not to be able to have shoes to wear. I remember my dad, bless his sweet heart - and I have wished a thousand 1000 times - my mother and father were killed years ago, and I’d give anything to be able to say to them, “Thank you! Thank you for what you did during those years in just preserving our lives.”

Folks, I know what it is for a father, not to be able to find work and honest, hard working man, leave the house before dawn. We had no car - we had horses and a wagon - and my dad would leave the house before dawn and drive that team for miles and miles, looking for work. He finally got a job out at the stockyards in Lincoln, Nebraska, and do you know what he was doing? His job was killing cattle, sheep, pigs, and every kind of an animal, because just in order to in order for people to live in those days, the government decided to buy the animals that the farmers had. And, by selling their cattle and their pigs and other animals, then they would have a little bit of money to survive on. But the government had no need for all of those animals, so they dug with bulldozers unbelievably large trenches - pits - out in the fields.

My dad’s job was to knock cattle in the head from morning until night. Then those animals were dropped into those pits, along with thousands and thousands and thousands of other animals. My dad has said to me many times, “Son, I can’t hardly stand it. When I come home,” he said, “when I leave that field, where all of those animals have been buried, the ground is just heaving, because the animals weren’t dead. They were simply knocked in the head and put into these huge pits.” That was his job. That was all he could find to do.

Folks, let me tell you, we have never had it so good.

You had better quit your belly aching. You had better quit your complaining about how bad times are and how bad things might become. You have never had it better in your life.

Let me tell you - you’re going to get up one of these mornings, and it’s all going to be gone.

Can you imagine what it’s going to be like this time? You see, back in my dad’s day, there were many millions less people in this country, and they had a standard of morality that does not exist today.

Let me tell you - the next time, when everything materially is stripped from us, and millions upon millions upon millions are without work, you won’t be able to gather enough guns and ammunition to keep the wandering hoards m from coming and taking everything you have.

You see, people have a different mindset today from what they had in the late 20s and early 30s. People today don’t care. They consider what is yours is theirs, and they’ll get it anyway they can.

You say, “But preacher, we don’t want to hear that. We don’t believe that!”

Well, open your Bible to Revelation 18. This is not what I want to preach on at all - this is just introduction - Revelation Chapter 18. You’ve got to know something from this chapter.

In the Bible, in the Book of Revelation, a couple of Babylons are mentioned. One is an ecclesiastical or a religious system called Babylon. There is another Babylon - it is economic. It is a materialistic Babylon, or system.

Now in Revelation Chapter 18, we have a vivid description of a total - *listen - worldwide economic collapse.*

It isn’t a matter of if, it is simply a matter of ***WHEN.***

There is coming one of these days a total economic collapse. I personally believe that it will be it will follow the so-called domino effect. The first default, economically will be the United States, as the United States goes economically, so will go the world.

America has sinned at the point of materialism. Money and the things that money will buy have become our gods, and God is not going to allow that! God is going to strip it all away from us, ***we’re going to reap right in the area where we have sown.***

In Revelation, Chapter 18, I want you to notice in verse 10, where it says, “***Alas, alas, that great city Babylon.***” Now that word, Babylon, is simply a synonym for a worldwide economic system.

“Alas, alas, that great system” - monetary system - ***“that mighty city it is called for in ONE HOUR is thy judgment come.”***

Look at verse 11 - ***“And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her for no man by up their merchandise anymore.”***

Now, continuing down through verse 14, we have a picture of this total economic collapse, until we get down to verse 15 - ***“The merchants of these things, who were made rich by this system, shall stand a far off”*** - I can hear them - ***“standing afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing and saying,”*** - listen to big business. These are the people who have been such a part of this materialistic system, and they’re going to cry out:

“Alas, alas, that great city, that great system that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and bedecked with gold and precious stones and pearls!”

You see, that’s a picture of where we are economically today. Never had so much never had it so good. But listen, it’s all gone

in verse 17 - and in one hour, so great riches are coming to nothing!

“And every ship master and all the company in ships, and sailors in as many as trade by sea, stood afar off in pride, when they saw the smoke of our burning,” - when they saw it all come to an end, when they saw that it’s all over, ***“saying what city is like under this great city,”*** - and here’s how they’ll respond - ***“And they cast dust on their heads. And they cried, weeping and wailing and saying the last the last that great city in which were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness. For IN ONE HOUR, she is made DESOLATE.”*** That means it all came to and end.

You say, “But wait a minute preacher - that’s going to happen after the church is gone. You’re talking about something that’s going to happen after the Rapture - you’re talking about something that’s going to take place during the Great Tribulation.”

Let me tell you - we are already beginning to feel the birth pangs of the Tribulation, and judgment must begin at the House of God, and the church is as guilty as the world and sinning in the area of materialism.

So - it isn’t a matter of ***IF***, it’s just a matter of ***WHEN.***

And when we get up one of these mornings, and we find that it’s all gone.

There’s no job.

There’s no gas to buy, and your money will be worth nothing.

What are you going to do?

How are you going to respond?

Are you going to be like these people and cast dust in the air, which is simply their way of expressing their frustration, and their inability to do anything at all? How are ***you*** going to survive when it happens?

Well, I am convinced it all depends on how you have come to relate to the Word of God. That’s why I’m pointing you now to Philippians Chapter Four -

I believe that Philippians Four was written so that we might retain our sanity in a world that has gone insane, and I don’t think the insanity of the world is going to suddenly go away - it’s going to get worse and worse and worse, and worse.

Praise God, there is a way, as Christians, to retain their sanity as things spiral rapidly downward.

Now - I have no word for the unsaved at all, except you’d better get saved. I mean, if you’re not a Christian, you’d better get saved. You say, “Why - just so I can go to Heaven?” No friend, just so you can retain your sanity in the day that’s coming.

Now, if you’re a Christian, you’d better be more than just a typical church member - you’d better get into the Word of God and learn for yourself and put to practice in your life these great biblical truths, or you won’t make it! Instead, you will be like thousands back during the or hundreds back during the Great Depression - and you’ll blow your brains out!

Now, the key word in this chapter is verse 11, where the

Apostle Paul says, “Not that I speak in respect of want, I have learned, in whatever condition I am, in this to be content.”

Now, the key word, here, is ***CONTENT.*** In the original language, the word content means ***to be self contained.***

Do you know what a motorhome is? Sure you do. They’re also called RVs. We say that RVs are *self contained*, and by that, we mean they supposedly have everything needed on board for the trip - there isn’t anything else that is needed. It’s self contained. Literally, this word, ***content***, in Philippians 4:11 means to be ***self contained.***

Now - you and I know that in and of ourselves, we are not self contained. We are not self sufficient. Paul says our sufficiency is in the Lord - ***As Christians, we already have everything we need, because we have Jesus Christ!***

Now what we’ve got to do is ***learn*** what we have, by virtue of the fact that we have Jesus. You see, most people do not understand what they have. Even though they have placed their faith and their trust in Jesus, they don’t understand that the moment they were saved, God did at least 34 wonderful, fantastic things for them, and that all of those wonderful things are already ours. But - in order for them to be practical in our lives, we must put them to work for us.

So, in the first three verses, what we’re going to do is just study through this a little bit, ad keep in mind my purpose in this.

And you might think, “Well, I don’t know...” Listen! One of these days, you’re going to need what I’m telling you tonight! I know you don’t think so. I don’t want to think about it, either, but one of these days, ***IF*** you retain your sanity, it will be because you tuned in and began learning something from the Word of God again!

The first thing that you and I need to learn is what God’s purpose is for the Christian, or what God is up to, in our lives as Christians. Why would God allow this judgment that we’re talking about, even to come? Does God have a purpose in that? What is God trying to do?

Listen, I’ll tell you what God is not only trying to do - I’ll tell you what God is doing. You may not be aware of it, but if you’re a Christian, this very moment, God is doing things in your life! He’s allowing certain things to come into your experience, all because He has one overriding purpose in everything that he’s allowing to happen in your life: ***He is conforming you to the image of Jesus Christ!***

This very moment, God is at work in you, making you to become like his Son. From now on, if somebody ever asks you, what your primary purpose in life is, if you were to answer biblically, you will be able to say, “My purpose, primarily, is to become like Jesus Christ!”

Turn with me to Romans, Chapter Eight. There are many other passages that we could look at, but this will suffice. I just want to zero in on the truth, that God is at work in your life, this very moment. Do you realize that? I don’t know where what all is going on in your life today, or this past week, but God IS at work in your life if you’re saved!

Now, you may be like one guy who told me just yesterday, or the day before, he said, this has been the worst week he'd ever experienced in his life. Several have told me lately, that this past year has been the most terrible year of their lives. Now many of them, we're talking about business wise, but others of them are just expressing how they feel.

You've got to understand that everything that God is allowing in your life has primarily one purpose, and that is to see that you become like Jesus Christ. Now, if you're a Christian, you better you might as well quit digging in your heels - you might as well quit rebelling. God **IS** going to bring you to Christ likeness!

That's what God's up to. God did not save you to become a benchwarmer somewhere in the church! God saved you precious friend, that you might become **just like his Son**. And, I promise you, on the authority of this Book, God **WILL** do it! He'll do whatever he has to - He'll take from you whatever He must! He'll bring to pass in your life whatever He must, but you **WILL** become like Jesus Christ!

Listen to him in Romans, Chapter Eight, verse 28: **"We know..."** isn't that good! **"We know"** - we don't have to wonder about it, we don't have to ask questions about it. **"We KNOW that all things work together for good to them that love God..."**, and most of you stop reading right there, and if you do, that just isn't so. All things that happen **aren't** good.

But he doesn't stop there - **"We know that all things work together for good to them that love God to them who are called according to His purpose"** - don't stop there! Don't reread just verse 28, because it should NEVER be read without verse 29. Without verse 29, verse 28 doesn't make sense. It isn't so without verse 29. It isn't complete.

"For" - and that's a connecting word - **"For whom He"** (that is God) **"...did foreknow, He also did predestinate"** - do you know what that word means? That word simply means **to mark out beforehand**. Dear friend before you were ever saved, you were marked out beforehand, **to become just like Jesus Christ!** **"...for whom He did foreknow, He also did mark out beforehand to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren, moreover, whom he did predestinate, them He also called..."**

Then, he goes on then to talk about the completion of our salvation, but the point is: **if you want to know what God's purpose for you is, this moment, it is for you to become like Jesus Christ!** God is at work this moment, if we're saved, in our lives, accomplishing that purpose, and He will NOT stop! He'll go to any length to see that we become like Jesus!

So in the first three verses of Philippians Four, he's talking there about the PURPOSE - the overriding, overruling purpose that God has, for every one of his children. He talks here about this church being his joy and crown, and he talks about the importance of standing fast. He also talks about the importance of having the same mind in the Lord, and the importance of having our names in the Book of Life. All of these terms speak of God's purpose for our lives.

Skip down to Verse 8 - **"Finally, brethren..."** I love Paul. He says "finally", but it doesn't mean he's coming to the end soon. I know he's a Baptist preacher, because that's the way we operate. We say *Finally*, you get your hopes up, and we're not even about through. But, he says, **"Finally, Brethren, whatever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just whatever things are pure, whatsoever. Things are lovely, whatever things to be a good report, if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things which you have both learned and received and heard and seen in me, do."** (Paul says, "Listen - you just you just watch me and do what I do") **"And the God of peace,"** not the peace of God, **"the God of peace, shall be with you."**

Now, the first thing that God gives us, in order that we might retain our sanity when this thing all blows up, is to know that regardless of what comes or goes, God has one overriding purpose in it all, and that is that we become like Jesus. So, instead of blowing our brains out, what do we do?

WE'RE TO THANK GOD FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF BECOMING LIKE JESUS CHRIST.

We're just to rejoice in the fact that God has allowed this thing to happen, because without it, we probably would never have become the kind of a believer God designed us to be.

Now - the SECOND THING thing that will enable us to keep our sanity is what I call nothing more or less than just **knowing the presence of God - just knowing that God is here. He's with me**. I'm not talking about in the sense that God is omnipresent: that He's everywhere. Did you know that, at the moment that you were saved, God came to in dwell your physical body, in the person of the Holy Spirit? Did you know that, at this very moment, Jesus Christ, lives in you?

Also there is no way that you can ever get out of the presence of God - you are not going to get away from God. When you came tonight, Jesus came with you. When you leave here tonight, and you get in your car, Jesus is going to be in that car. When you get to your home tonight, Jesus is going to be in your house. When you get up in the morning, Jesus is going to be not with you but **IN YOU!** He is in you! Listen, folks, when you go to work, Jesus is going to be there with you in your work. If you're in the home, taking care of the children, whatever you're doing, listen, rejoice. **CHRIST IS IN YOU - YOU CAN'T GET OUT OF HIS PRESENCE!**

Don't ask God, "Lord be with me" - He's always with you.

Now, here's what we need to do:

If you want to retain your sanity, regardless of what comes or goes, understand and begin practicing the presence of God.

So - HOW do you do that? I'll tell you how you do that. When you get in your car. Say, **"Lord, I thank you that you are right here."** When you get to the job in the morning, know, regardless of how unfriendly fellow employees are, how bright the employer may be, you ought to be the most joyful believer in all of the world. Why? Because Jesus is there. **Acknowledge his presence!**

Say, **"Lord, I thank you that you're here with me this morning on the job, Lord helped me to be the best Christian I possibly can. Lord, don't let me embarrass you today. Don't let me say anything or do anything that would discredit You. Lord, I want to exhibit you today. In everything that I do. Lord, I thank you that you are with me right now."**

You see, you can't get away from His presence.

What a joy!

Man, I don't know what that does to you. But that's **exciting** to me to know that the God of the universe - the God of the universe: the One who spoke everything that there is into existence out of nothing - He's in MY physical body! I may not look like it, but I want you to know, I am a suit of clothes for Jesus Christ to walk about in!

Look at Verse 10 -

Paul says, **"But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at the last your care of me has flourished again."** Do you know what that word **flourish** in the original language means? It means "to blossom out."

So, Paul is thanking these Philippian believers for blooming again, **"...of which you were also mindful, but you lacked opportunity."** There was a time when these Philippian believers wanted to minister to Paul physically, but they were unable to do so for whatever reason, and now circumstances have reversed for them. They're actually able to do now what they previously wanted to. I don't know in what way, but evidently in some way, they are ministering to Paul.

But now let's look at one of the most remarkable statements in all in the Word of God. **"Surely,"** Paul says. Now you got to remember where he was. You've got to know something about his circumstances. When Paul writes this most joyful letter in the Bible. Look over at verse four, **"Rejoice in the Lord always. And again, I say, REJOICE!"** Do you see that? I mean, Paul's on a spiritual high. He's just having a shouting good time.

You say, "Well, boy, he must be in the midst of a revival somewhere - he must be in a church like ours somewhere. " Do you know where he was? He was in the Mamertine Prison. He was, without question, standing or sitting knee deep in human filth. Now, some of you, perhaps, as have we, have been in the Mamertine Prison in Rome. Folks, it's indescribable. It is nothing but a pit in the ground. In order for the prisoners to get into that pit, they had to be lowered with ropes. And this place-this prison-was somehow tied in with the sewer system of Rome, so that when they wanted to kill the prisoners, they would simply open certain floodgates and allow the filth of that city to flow in and they were drowned in it - they would open up the floodgates let all the filth out, go in and drag out the bodies and put more in.

Now, that's where the Apostle Paul was. **THAT** was the condition under which he was in when he said, look at verse 11, and here's one of the purposes for the writing of this letter is to thank that church for whatever they were doing for him, but then he says, **"Not that I speak in respect of want..."**

Every time I read this, I want to fall on my face and say, **"God, forgive me forever whining, forgive me forever griping about anything. Forgive me God for ever complaining - oh God, don't let me ever do it again!"**

Listen to this - Paul, in prison, awaiting his sentence to have his head cut off, if he survives the prison itself, says, **"Not that I speak in respect of want..."** Paul says, **"I can't think of a thing I need - I appreciate what you've done for me in the past and what you're trying to do for me now, but, church, I just want you to know that I am perfectly satisfied Where. I. Am."**

"For I have learned in whatever state" - in whatever condition I find myself - **"therewith to be content."**

Remember the meaning of the word, content, is "to be sufficient" in Jesus Christ. Paul says, **"I can't think of a thing I need - I appreciate what you've done for me in the past and what you're trying to do for me now, but, church, I just want you to know that IN JESUS, I have it ALL"**

You think about that the next time you complain about the weather, or you think somebody is treating you unfairly. Think about that the next time you're tempted to complain about this, that, or the other. Let me tell you something, church - **one of the greatest things we could ever learn is to be CONTENT, with where we are, and what we have.**

I don't find any difference, much, between the professing Christian these days and the atheist who has no faith at all, with regard to how much they desire things, how discontent they are with the way things are, or how they express their dissatisfaction with this thing or the other. Let me tell you, folks, we ought to be the most rejoicing people on the face of the earth, just because we have Jesus! **What do we need more than Him???**

Look down at verse 12 - **"I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need."** He says, **"I've been on both ends of this thing. I know what is not to enough to eat, to be cold, to suffer privation. But I also know what is to have those things, but let me tell you what I've learned - I've learned that the most important thing in life is not what I have, but Who I know."** Did you hear that? **"Not what I have, but WHO I KNOW!** And I know Jesus, and He's all I need!"

So He comes to Verse 13, which is probably the most abused verse in the Bible -

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Have you ever quoted that?

Listen - Paul is not speaking in generalities, here. He is NOT saying that anyone can do everything, even in Jesus. That's NOT what he's talking about - leave the text in the context! What's he talking about? This man is in JAIL, expecting to have his head cut from his body. This man is experiencing all manner of privation. And, yet, in the midst of it, he's the most joyful person in the world, Paul says, "Let me tell you - even in THIS circumstance, or WHATEVER circumstance God may bring me

into, I have learned this: I can make it, through Jesus Christ.

Do you want to be able to retain your sanity in a world that's gone insane? And - if you think it's insane now, friend, you just wait - one day we're going to wake up and find that it's all gone. Wait until everything we have worked for, strove for, materially, is all gone, and the only thing left, dear friend, is Jesus, and our hope in Him.

At THAT moment - probably for the first time - we're going to learn the truth of this statement - **"I CAN make it, through Jesus Christ."**

That's what he's saying. He's not saying anyone can do anything and everything. He's saying that, **"regardless of the circumstances, regardless of the economic distress, family problems, whatever,"** Paul says, **"I have learned this: that through Jesus Christ, I can make it. I can handle anything and everything that comes. Through Jesus Christ."** That's what he's talking about.

Look over at Verse 5 - he says, **"Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand."** This word, moderation, means "sweet reasonableness". So he says, **"Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful"** (that means anxious) **"for nothing** (that means don't worry about anything); **but in every thing by prayer** (general praying) **and supplication** (more specific prayers always to be mixed) **with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."**

When my telephone rang many years ago, and the voice on the other end of the line said, **"Cliff, I've got some terrible news for you - your mother and father have just been killed in a train wreck. We want you to come and identify the bodies and do whatever you must"**, I wasn't expecting it. I went home, identified the bodies of my parents, made the arrangements for their burial. And, when I stood in that cemetery looking at those twin caskets, as I watched them be lowered into the ground, I hadn't been saved very long. And I remember thinking, "This must be the worst thing that can happen to a young man."

Well, I am much older now, and I want to believe that I am more mature in the Lord than I was, by far, and I'm here to tell you, folks, there are a lot of things worse than that. There are a lot of things worse than seeing your loved ones placed in the ground at the cemetery. I've gone through a lot of things worse than that since then.

But I have NEVER been in a circumstance where God didn't keep His promise and send a peace that I cannot explain.

I had heard, ever since I became a Christian, that, when you get to the place where Jesus is all you have, you'll find that Jesus is all you need, and I'm here to tell you - that's the truth. I don't understand it - I can't explain it, I just know it's true.

Now - friend, listen to me: Oe of these days, you're going to need that peace that passeth all understanding.

If you desire that - you know you're going to need it - then read that verse above it that says, **"Don't worry about anything,**

but in everything, by prayer - general and specific - adding to that your voice of thanksgiving (just tell God about it)," and God says, **"I'll send a peace to you that this old world doesn't know anything about."**

Now - let me tell you how I fit this in:

I believe that, when everything is stripped from us, those of us who have learned these truths will find in that hour a peace that passeth all understanding. I don't understand it - I can't explain it - I just know it's going to be there.

You CAN retain your sanity when this insane world blows up!

Look at Verse 17 -

"Not because I desire a gift..." It's amazing to me that he says that. Paul wanted them to give him something, NOT because of what it would do for HIM, but for what it would do for THEM. That's what he means. **"Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to YOUR account."**

Paul says, **"I appreciate what you're doing for me, but I want you to know that THAT'S not the greatest need in my life, but I want you to go ahead and do it because YOU are going to get blessed by it!"**

He says, and remember where he is, **"But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God."**

And then he says, **"But my God shall supply all your need** (not your greeds - there's a vast difference between needs and greeds. God doesn't promise to supply our greeds, but our needs) **according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."**

All I can say is, "PRAISE THE LORD! HALLELUJAH!"

I know that it's coming - I don't know when, but it's coming. And, when everything on this old earth is stripped away, and all we have, as believers, is Jesus, HE will be ALL we need.

He promised to meet

Every.

Need.

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

□ **POLITICS WON'T SAVE THE NATION** - America's root problems are spiritual, and the only real solution is spiritual. The only thing that will help America in her terrible plight is a true revival, and there could be revival at some level, particularly in the churches. Revival always begins at God's house with God's people. II Chronicles 7:14, **"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land"**.

While this is a promise for Israel, but it has application to the church age. See Romans 15:4 and I Corinthians 10:11.

Nothing like a revival and lasting change will happen through Moral Majority programs or Tea Parties or Chick Fill-A Days or Trump rallies. As these have been tried repeatedly and

enthusiastically over the past few decades, the moral depravity has only increased and the power of the forces for right and liberty has only decreased, because these are carnal weapons that deal with symptoms and cannot affect the foundational spiritual issues.

These are Band-Aids on cancer. They can win political skirmishes but not spiritual wars. The heart of the tree is being eaten away even as the watchers are pleased at keeping a few leaves alive. Some type of revival could happen **IF** individual Christians and individual churches would repent of an adulterous love for this God-hating world, repent of setting the affections more on things below than things above, and earnestly beseech God's help.

Who knows how far the forces of evil could be driven back? God has never needed a majority. Gideon's vigilant few are enough. But so many churches are like Sardis; they have a name that they live, but they are dead. They are comfortable in the world, not pilgrims but dwellers, mighty for pot luck but weak for spiritual warfare, zealous for video games and sports and consuming fleeting hours on social media vanity, but not zealous students of God's Word, passionate for parties but not for prayer.

Why pray according to I Timothy 2:1-2 that we might **"lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness"** when God knows that **we** will not live such lives? It's past time for pastors to rise up and lead their churches in true revival. Better to have 30 people, if need be, with God's blessing and power, than 200 without it. Are we afraid of losing members and finances if we take God's Word seriously? If so, we are mere hirelings. **"My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation"** (James 3:1). With God's blessing and power we can have real eternal fruit; without it, there is nothing but wood, hay, and stubble.

□ **OREGON IS THE FIRST U.S. STATE TO DECRIMINALIZE "HARD DRUGS"** - Oregon became the first state to decriminalize hard drugs like heroin, cocaine and meth in a 59-41% vote as of early Wednesday morning, 11/08/20, according to the Associated Press. The "Drug Addiction Treatment and Recovery Act" will transition Oregon's drug policy from a punitive, criminal approach to "a humane, cost-effective, health approach." ... Instead of treating drug users as criminals, Oregon will now offer them addiction services funded by marijuana tax revenue, which is more than \$100 million a year in the state.

Only small amounts of drugs are decriminalized, such as less than 1 gram of heroin or MDMA; 2 grams of cocaine or methamphetamine; 12 grams of psilocybin mushrooms; and 40 doses of LSD, oxycodone or methadone. Criminal penalties for possession of these amounts are replaced with a fine of up to \$100, which can be waived if the user is evaluated at Addiction Recovery Centers.

Crimes that are associated with drug use, such as manufacturing drugs, selling drugs and driving under the influence, are still criminal offenses...There was also a fair

amount of opposition to the measure, with two dozen district attorneys in the state saying the measure 'recklessly decriminalizes possession of the most dangerous types of drugs (and) will lead to an increase in acceptability of dangerous drugs.

□ **SOUTHERN BAPTIST PRESIDENT SAYS CHRISTIANS ARE CURSED FOR NOT FIGHTING FOR "GENDER JUSTICE"** - The following is excerpted from "JD Greear Says," Reformation Charlotte, Oct. 29, 2020:

"JD Greear, president of the Southern Baptist Convention--who denounced Southern Baptists as racists and white supremacists, called on Christians to stand up for LGBTQ rights, and has a pro-choice woman leading Bible studies at his church and also says that people who are followers of Jesus will think about the 'rights of immigrants' while at the ballot box--has denounced the Church as 'cursed' like Meroz for not fighting for 'racial justice' and 'gender justice.'

Greear recently complained in a sermon that Christians today, like Christians during the time of American slavery, have a 'malaise' about matters of justice because, he says, it doesn't 'directly affect them.' 'Whether we're talking about racial justice or gender justice or what have you,' he says, 'tragically ... there's often been a malaise in the church ... because the injustice did not directly affect those of us sitting in places of privilege. Like Meroz, it didn't affect our tribe.'

Of course, he doesn't exactly explain what 'gender justice' is, however, the website, Gender Justice U.S. defines it as 'a world where everyone can thrive regardless of their gender, gender expression, or sexual orientation.' And since Greear has called on Christians to stand up for gay rights and says that using 'preferred pronouns' for transgender people is 'pronoun hospitality' and that he believes he should do it, one can draw his own conclusion as to what Greear means by the term."

