LET YOUR WOMEN KEEP SILENCE?  

Frances Swaggart gives insight on women ministering to the body of Christ.

Jesus died in the believer’s place as his or her corporate head just as Adam sinned in humanity’s place and for humankind.
Of all of these Scripture albums that we have made, I do believe that this is the best yet. Whatever you do, you must get a copy for yourself. It will drive evil spirits out of your house, from your place of business, and from your person—of that I am certain (I Sam. 16:23).

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- The Last Mile of the Way
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- I'll Never Be Lonely Again
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- I Am Thine, O Lord
- Room At The Cross
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FEATURES

The Beginning Part VI .................. 4
By Jimmy Swaggart

Let Your Women Keep Silence? .................. 10
By Frances Swaggart

A King Is Coming To Town..... 16
By Donnie Swaggart

The Doctrine of Giving Part I ...................20
By Gabriel Swaggart

The Judgment Seat of Christ .......................36
By Bob Cornell

Sitting At His Feet .........................38
By Loren Larson

All Israel Shall be Saved Part V ..........................40
By John Rosenstern

Is It For Today? ..........................42
By Mike Muzzerall

The Elder Brother ..........................44
By Dave Smith

From Me to You ..........................46
By Jimmy Swaggart

DEPARTMENTS

SonLife Radio Stations & Programming 7
SonLife Broadcasting Network Programming & TV Stations 24
2018 Thanksgiving Campmeeting Schedule 32
Letters From Our Audience 34
JSM Ministers’ Schedule 50

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“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.” —Genesis 1:26

By Jimmy Swaggart

The Cross

If the believer doesn’t understand God’s prescribed order of victory, in other words, how to live this Christian life, he will try to do it the wrong way, even as Romans, Chapter 7, outlines. This guarantees failure and the ascendancy of the sin nature once again. In fact, this is the great struggle of the Christian.

There is only one way that the believer can maintain ascendancy over the sin nature, in other words, the divine nature ruling rather than the sin nature (II Pet. 1:4). If the believer doesn’t function God’s way, his situation will be, “O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?” (Rom. 7:24).

In fact, Romans, Chapter 7, is the example of the believer attempting to live for God but trying to do so in the wrong way. It is Paul’s own personal experience.

Paul

After Paul was saved and baptized with the Holy Spirit, and even called to be an apostle, which means that at the time in question, he was an apostle, not knowing the victory of the Cross, he set out to live for God in the only way he knew. That way was the effort of trying to live for God by his own strength and ability, which he came to refer to as “the flesh.”

In his defense, there was no one else in the world at that time who knew of the victory of the Cross, for the explanation of the new covenant had not yet been given. In fact, it was given to Paul. Actually, the explanation of the Cross is the explanation of the new covenant. To simplify the issue, one need only look at the emblems of the Lord’s Supper (I Cor. 11:24–25).

So, if the great Paul couldn’t live this life by his own strength, how do you think you can?

God’s Prescribed Order Of Victory

The Lord has devised a means and a way for the believer to live a holy, pure, and godly life, meaning that sin will not have dominion over him (Rom. 6:14). As stated, it is the victory of the Cross, which refers to what Jesus did there.

Some have said that all revelation is preceded by desperation. Perhaps that is true. I know it was with Paul, and I know it was with me as well!

The Lord gave to the apostle this prescribed order, which he gave to us in Romans, Chapter 6. Someone has well said that Romans, Chapter 6, is the mechanics of the Holy Spirit, which tells us how He works. Romans, Chapter 8, is the dynamics of the Holy Spirit, which tells us what He does after we understand how He does it.

The apostle explained to us that at the time of conversion, we are literally baptized into the death of Christ. Now, of course, we were not there when Jesus was crucified; however, when the believing sinner evidences faith in Christ, in the mind of God, Jesus Christ becomes our substitute in all things. When He died, we died with Him and were literally baptized into His death (Rom. 6:3). This is all done by faith on our part. In other words, when the sinner expresses faith in Christ, we are placed by God into the death of Christ.

Now, please understand that when Paul said that we are baptized into His death, he was not speaking of water baptism, as many think. He was speaking of the crucifixion of Christ, but it didn’t stop there; it continues.

Paul then said, “Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death,” meaning that when Jesus was put in the tomb, in the mind of God, Jesus Christ becomes our substitute in all things. When He died, we died with Him and were literally baptized into His death (Rom. 6:3). This is all done by faith on our part. In other words, when the sinner expresses faith in Christ, we are placed by God into the death of Christ.

Now, please understand that when Paul said that we are baptized into His death, he was not speaking of water baptism, as many think. He was speaking of the crucifixion of Christ, but it didn’t stop there; it continues.

Paul then said, “Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death,” meaning that when Jesus was put in the tomb, in the mind of God, we were placed in that tomb with Him. This means that all of the old man is not only “crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed,” but buried with Him, meaning that the old you is gone forever (Rom. 6:4, 6).

However, it doesn’t stop there. When Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we were raised with Him that “we also should walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4–5).

This which I’ve just explained to you is...
times in his 14 epistles. More than any other short phrase, the words "in Christ Jesus" define the Christian faith.

Faith

The Holy Spirit is the only one who can help us to live this life as we should. For Him to work within our lives and to do so on a constant basis, which alone guarantees us victory, we must evidence faith in Christ and what Christ did at the Cross. Paul said, "Likewise reckon you also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin (dead unto the sin nature), but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord (what He did for us at the Cross)" (Rom. 6:11).

We are to reckon ourselves, or to account ourselves, according to what Jesus did at the Cross. We are to understand that He did it all for us, and for us exclusively, and that when He died, we died with Him, were buried with Him, and were raised with Him in newness of life (Rom. 6:3-5).

When this is done, we have the promise that "sin shall not have dominion over you: for you are not under the law (that having been satisfied by Christ at the Cross), but under grace" (Rom. 6:14; Col. 2:14-15).

The Method

Perhaps the following, which abbreviates all that I have just said, will be of some help. To live a holy life, this is what the Christian must continually do:

We must understand that Jesus Christ is the source of all things that we receive from God (Jn. 1:1-3, 14, 29; 14:6, 20).

We must understand that the Cross of Christ is the means by which all of these wonderful things are given to us. In other words, it's the Cross that made it possible (Rom. 6:1-14; I Cor. 1:17, 18, 23; 2:2; Gal. 6:14).

Understand that Jesus is the source, the Cross is the means, and the object of our faith must be Jesus Christ and Him crucified (Col. 2:10-15).

Understand that Christ is the source, the bedrock of the Christian faith. It is what Christ did for us at the Cross and is the very reason that Paul also said, "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world" (Gal. 6:14).

The believer is to ever understand that everything he receives from God comes to him exclusively by and through the Cross of Christ. While everything that Christ did is of utmost significance, still, it is what He did at the Cross that redeemed us. In other words, we live "in the likeness of His resurrection" only as we understand that "we have been planted together (Christ and ourselves) in the likeness of His death" (Rom. 6:5).

The Object Of Our Faith

The idea is that the Cross of Christ must ever be the object of our faith. This is so very, very important! While everything that God has and does is, of necessity, of vast significance, still, it is what He did at the Cross that redeems us. In other words, we live "in the likeness of His resurrection" only as we understand that "we have been planted together (Christ and ourselves) in the likeness of His death" (Rom. 6:5).

The words "in Christ Jesus" tell us how the Spirit of God works within our lives. In other words, all that He does for us, to us, in us, and of us is done totally and completely within the parameters of the sacrifice of Christ, which gives Him the legal right to do these great things. There's only one law in this world that is greater than the law of sin and death, and that is the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. In fact, Paul uses this term "in Christ Jesus," or one of its derivatives, such as "in Him," etc., 170
Cross is the means, the Cross of Christ is the object of our faith, and that the Holy Spirit, who works exclusively within the parameters of the finished work of Christ, i.e., the Cross, will work mightily on our behalf. The Holy Spirit is God, and that means He can do anything. However, we must not forget that He works exclusively through and by the Cross of Christ. So, this means that our faith must ever rest in Christ and the Cross (Rom. 8:1-11; Eph. 2:13-18).

The Key
Faith is the key to the great treasure house of God. Most every Christian would agree with that statement; however, beyond that simple statement, most have very little understanding. In other words, most Christians don’t have the foggiest clue how to put faith to work.

I suppose that if most Christians had to give a definition of what we’re talking about here, their minds would go to various Scriptures, thinking that quoting them by rote would somehow generate faith, etc.

While quoting the Word of God is always good, that within itself, at least as we have stated it, will never build faith. While faith definitely “comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God” (Rom. 10:17), we must know what that means for it to be effective within our lives.

To make it brief, we must understand that the Word of God is actually the story of man’s redemption. This redemption was carried out by the Lord Jesus Christ and what He did at the Cross. That’s why Paul said, “We preach Christ crucified” (I Cor. 1:23).

Faith Anchored In Christ
In the gospel according to John, we are told: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (Jn. 1:1). This tells us that Jesus is the living Word.

John said, “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us” (Jn. 1:14). This speaks of the incarnation, and then we are told what the incarnation was all about.

Then, as he introduced Christ, the apostle said, “Behold the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world” (Jn. 1:29). In abbreviated form, we have here the total picture of the Word of God. We are introduced to Christ, who is the living Word. We are told that this Word was made flesh. We are then told what it was all about, which was the Cross.

So, our faith must be anchored in Christ, but for it to be properly anchored in Christ, we must understand that it is Christ crucified. We must never separate Christ from His finished work or the finished work from Christ. Of course, we know that Jesus is no longer on the Cross. In fact, He is presently in heaven, seated by the right hand of the Father (Eph. 2:6; Heb. 1:3). What we are actually talking about are the results of the Cross.

The total meaning of the crucifixion is something that happened in the past, was done so well that it will never have to be repeated, and has continued results. In fact, the results will never be discontinued. It’s those results of which we speak.

It’s like the Constitution of the United States. We don’t go back and rewrite the Constitution constantly, but we do constantly enjoy its benefits.

It is the same with the Cross! It does not have to be repeated because what Jesus did there will eternally suffice. That’s the reason that Paul referred to it as “the everlasting covenant” (Heb. 13:20).

So, when we speak of faith, we must always understand that Christ and His Cross must ever be the object of our faith. If it’s not faith in Christ and what He did for us at the Cross, then it’s faith that God will not recognize.

In this manner and this manner alone—and I speak of functioning according to God’s prescribed order of victory, which is the Cross—can the believer live a victorious, overcoming, Christian life. In this manner alone can the human body be a proper temple, overcoming every power of darkness (Eph. 2:13–18; Col. 2:10–15).

Faith In The Cross
That’s the reason that we must never allow anything else, no matter how holy it might be in its own right, to come between us and our faith in the Cross. Concerning this, Paul said, “For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the Cross of Christ should be made of none effect” (I Cor. 1:17).

Was Paul denigrating water baptism? No, he wasn’t! He was merely stating that we must not allow anything to be preeminent, in other words, to take the place of the Cross.

 Fallen From Grace
If we do this, the apostle then says, “Christ shall profit you nothing” (Gal. 5:2).

We must remember that Paul was speaking to believers. He plainly tells us in Chapter 5 of Galatians that if we place other things ahead of the Cross, claiming those

Continued on page 8
FULL-POWER STATIONS

Fulton, AL .........................................89.3 (WJKI)
    Covering Fulton, Thomasville, and Grove Hill

Mobile/Citronelle, AL .....................102.1 (WQUA)
    Covering Mobile, Alabama

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    small part of Southern Missouri

Camden, AR ....................................1450 AM (KNHD)
    Covering parts of Southern Arkansas

Lake Village, AR/Greenville, MS .... 95.9 (KUUZ)
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    Eastern Arkansas

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    Covering Southwestern Arkansas

Palm Springs, CA ...................... 90.9 (KPSH)
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    Covering Panama City, Florida

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Ottawa, IL ............................. 88.9 (WWGN)
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Bastrop, LA ............................ 88.3 (KJGM)
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    Northeastern part of Louisiana

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Lafayette/Church Point, LA .... 91.9 (KCKR)
    Covering Southern and Western Louisiana

Desoto/St. Louis, MO .............. 100.1 (KDJR)
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    Missouri, and Western Illinois

Benton/ Yazoo City - Jackson, MS ... 92.1 (WJNS)
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    Louisiana

Grenada, MS ............................... 95.7 (WTGY)
    Covering parts of Northwestern Mississippi

Beatrice/Lincoln, NE ............... 88.9 (KNBE)
    Covering South Eastern Nebraska

Grand Island/Hastings, NE ........ 90.7 (KNFA)
    Covering South Central Nebraska

Albion/Rochester, NY ............. 102.1 (WJCA)
    Covering North Western New York State

Lakewood/Jamestown, NY ......... 88.9 (WYRR)
    Covering Lakewood and Jamestown, NY

Bowling Green/Toledo, OH ...... 730 AM (WJYM)
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    Eastern Indiana, and the Southern tip of Michigan

Ada, OK .................................... 88.7 (KAJT)
    Covering South Central Oklahoma

Bristow, OK ............................ 104.9 (KREK)
    Covering Bristow, Sapulpa, Cushing, Drumright,
    Okmulgee, Chandler, and the southside of
    Tulsa, OK

Guthrie, OK ......................... 1490 AM (KMFS)
    Covering Oklahoma City, Edmond, and parts of
    Central and Northern Oklahoma

Norman/Oklahoma City, OK ....... 89.3 (KSSO)
    Covering Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Graysville, TN ....................... 95.7 (WAYB)
    Covering parts of Southern Tennessee and
    Northern Georgia

Atlanta/Texarkana, TX .......... 100.1 (KNRB)
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other things as the way to victory, “Christ is become of no effect unto you” (Gal. 5:4).

That’s the terrible problem that affixes itself to most Christians. They are trusting in things other than the Cross, making Christ of no effect. This guarantees spiritual failure. In fact, when the believers do this, they fall from grace. In other words, the goodness of God, which, in effect, is the grace of God, can no longer be extended to such Christians. The end result of such a position is bleak indeed!

However, if the Christian doesn’t understand the Cross, which means that he is placing his faith in other things, the grace of God simply cannot come to him. In other words, as Paul also said, such a position “frustrate(s) the grace of God” (Gal. 2:21). The sadness is, most Christians know almost nothing about the Cross. Actually, almost all Christians think they do, but the truth is, they don’t! As a result, they are trying to live this life in all the wrong ways, which frustrates the grace of God and guarantees failure.

When the focus of Christians is on works, with the object of faith being their performance, which means the power source is self, this guarantees defeat.

Total and complete trust in Christ and what Christ has done for us at the Cross guarantees a continued flow of the grace of God, which guarantees victory. There is no other way, as there doesn’t need to be any other way.

**Image And Likeness**

The phrase, “In Our image, after Our likeness,” refers to true righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians 4:24 says, “And that you put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”

The Pulpit Commentary says that the precise relationship in which the nature of the “Adam” about to be created should stand to “Elohim” was to be that of a tselem, which means “shadow.” It denotes the shadowy outline of a figure.6

The image and likeness also enable us to have fellowship with God, but it does not mean we are gods or can become
gods. We were created dependent beings (Ps. 8:5), and even in the new heavens and the new earth, we shall continue to be dependent on the light and energy that God provides through Christ as we both serve God and reign with Christ (Rev. 21:23; 22:3–5).

Man created in the image and likeness of God makes him totally different from the animal creation and, in fact, light years ahead of that creation in every capacity. The Bible nowhere links man with animals. In fact, man is not an animal. He is a human being, created, as stated, in the image and likeness of God. This is not said about any of God’s other creations. In fact, we blaspheme when we put man in the category of animals because in so doing, we have placed God in the same category.

**Exactly How Is Man In The Image And Likeness Of God?**

Man created in the image and likeness of God pertains to the spiritual and not the physical. In fact, the human body is but a tent or a tabernacle that houses the soul and the spirit, which are indestructible and eternal. While the human body is to be looked at as a temple, even as we’ve already explained, it is the least of man’s triune makeup of spirit, soul, and body (1 Thess. 5:23). This image and likeness of God in man, and created that way, pertain to man’s ability to reason, to love, and to serve. These amazing faculties were meant to function entirely in the realm of service to our Creator. In this image and likeness, man is given an amazing degree of latitude. He was created as a free moral agent, but the fall ruined all of this. Man died spiritually, and as such, at the fall, he lost the image and likeness of God.

We must understand that at the fall, man was not merely wounded in a spiritual sense, or even wounded severely. Spiritually, he died, and we must not forget that dead is dead. This means that man has nothing left in him that pertains to God. He has fallen all the way from total God-consciousness down to the far lower level of total self-consciousness. As a result, he has little regard for others, only that for himself.

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I’ve been a woman in church for some time now, and one thing that has always bothered me—actually irritates me—is when I hear men say how women shouldn’t preach or pastor but rather be silent in church like the Bible says. Baloney!

LET YOUR WOMEN KEEP SILENCE?

By Frances Swaggart

The Lord calls women the same as He calls men to preach, teach, sing, and minister to the body of Christ. Personally, I love to receive from the Lord through the ministry of women. Without them, the church would not be what the Lord intended it to be.

Nevertheless, let’s address this contention around women in ministry. We’ll begin with the Scripture that is most misunderstood on this topic.

1 Corinthians 14:34 says, “Let your women keep silence in the churches; for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law.”

Not only is it helpful to read this verse in the context of the entire chapter, but it’s also worth noting what kind of church Paul was addressing, as well as the place where this church was located. In Paul’s day, Corinth had a horrible reputation. It was a busy complex of commerce with trade ships crowding its harbors drawing multitudes of people from different countries to transport goods and services. This metropolis was known for its chaos, carousing, and chief sins of dishonesty, sensuality, and worship of Aphrodite—the Greek goddess of love, beauty, and pleasure. You could say that its citizens were out of control. In fact, the phrase, “to behave as a Corinthian” meant the same as calling someone “low, shameless, and immoral.”

Thank God the gospel came to Corinth and for those who heard and received God’s gift of salvation. But as we know, after salvation comes sanctification—a lifelong process—which was no different for the Corinthians than it is for us today.

Church life is crucial to the sanctification process. That’s why, when a person is first saved, it’s important that he get into a good, Bible-believing church where the Word of God is preached.

Keep in mind that when a person first comes to church, even though he’s saved, he can still feel like a sinner. He sees everyone dressed nicely when maybe he doesn’t have nice clothes, or, if he does have them, he doesn’t want to wear them. Remember, he’s saved, but just starting the process of sanctification and not completely sanctified. In other words, he might, in some ways, still “behave as a Corinthian.” What do I mean by that? Well, just because a person is born again, that’s only the starting point of Christianity. It doesn’t mean a person automatically knows how to “be” in church—how to dress, how to respect the presence of the Lord, or how to hush during the moving and operation of the Holy Spirit.

While this is true of both men and women, the female gender seems to take more criticism in these areas. We’ve had many young girls and women new to church who, when they first started attending Family Worship Center, dressed inappropriately—their tops too low or dresses too high. Girls tend to giggle and talk more among themselves. They simply do not yet know (because they haven’t yet been taught) to respect the presence of the Lord. Once saved, there is a greater desire to please the Lord, but girls and young women still
need to be taught how to be young Christian ladies. (The same goes for young men, but the focus of our text is on women.)

Understand, I am not suggesting any type of legalism in my statements about dress. I’ve been in churches that will measure the length of a lady’s dress, criticize the amount and value of the jewelry she wears, and verbally judge her hairstyle and make-up. Folks, legalism is not of the Lord.

Hear me on this, we want people—saved and unsaved—to come to church and come to the Lord like the song says, “Just as I am.” We believe that as the Word of God gets into their hearts, the Holy Spirit will teach them proper behavior and modesty. However, God also intended for His church—the family of God—to help as well. Our young brothers and sisters need their older, mature brothers and sisters in Christ to help them in some of these practical areas. The second chapter of Titus explains this so well.

But going back to the Corinthians, they wanted—and needed—the apostle’s help concerning certain church practices and a greater understanding of the spiritual gifts and how they worked, which he addressed in the fourteenth chapter of I Corinthians.

In his commentary on this, my husband writes how the spiritual gifts were still new to the early church, so there was a learning curve:

“Of all the gifts, tongues was the most prominent and exotic. For someone to speak in tongues out loud in the assembly created a greater sensation than any of the other gifts, and for the obvious reasons. Consequently, more people wanted this gift, thereby yielding to the Holy Spirit in this capacity more so than in other directions, which of course caused an imbalance. As well, they had no regulation or order, it seems, as to how this gift should be used; consequently, with a lack of order, which Paul will address in this very chapter, at times, it seems there was confusion.”

The Holy Spirit through Paul spends most of this chapter dealing with prophecy and tongues, which again focuses on order: “For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints” (1 Cor. 14:33). This connects to the very next verse which says, “Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law.”

And women were not the only people Paul tells to be silent in this chapter. In verse 28, he said, “But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.” And in verse 30, Paul said, “If anything be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace.”

So we find the Holy Spirit through Paul addressing issues of order in the church service, which would, at times, require temporary—but not permanent—silence.

If the word speak used in verse 33 was taken literally, then it wouldn’t be proper for a woman to pray, prophesy, preach, teach, or even sing in church. Actually, it wouldn’t be proper for a woman to say anything in any capacity, which is absurd. Yet isn’t it interesting that in nearly every church on the planet it’s perfectly fine for women to teach children in Sunday school?

But just as new converts—both male and female—need correction at times on proper church behavior (and if you don’t believe me, just ask any church usher), so did members of the early church. This was especially true of women who apparently were interrupting the service by talking—either to each other or loudly addressing their husbands on the other side of the church where the men most likely sat. Some women may have done this because they honestly—and instantly—wanted to learn, while others may have been motivated by emotion or even the flesh.

“So we find the Holy Spirit through Paul addressing issues of order in the church service, which would, at times, require temporary—but not permanent—silence.”
Consider the woman in Luke 11:

“And it came to pass, as He spoke these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto Him (the Lord was teaching the most solemn truths about the terrors of the spiritual world of darkness, and this woman rudely interrupted with her carnal thoughts), Blessed is the womb that bear You, and the paps which You have sucked (it was true what the woman said, but out of place at this time). But He said, Yea rather, blessed are they who hear the Word of God, and keep it (the Lord gently reproved her, pointing out that the natural man and natural relationships cannot be recognized in the kingdom of spiritual realities)” (Luke 11:27-28, The Expositor’s Study Bible).

This woman flat out interrupted the Lord Jesus Christ while he was speaking on a very serious subject. Think of that. Clearly she was out of order, and yet look at the Lord’s response. He didn’t embarrass her or tell her to shut up. He let her speak, but He also corrected her—He taught her—by turning her attention back to the Word of God.

And that’s all Paul was doing in this verse about women being silent. The Holy Spirit, through Paul, was teaching order to the early church. Otherwise, how could women ordered to silence prophecy?

I Corinthians 11:5 says, “But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth...” And we know that women served in this role in both the Old and New Testaments (Judg. 4:4, II Kings 22:14, Neh. 6:14, Lk. 2:36, Acts 2:17, and Acts 21:9).

The Lord approves of His daughters prophesying. He also allows them to preach.

Jesus Told Women To Go And Tell
His disciples marveled that Jesus spoke to the woman of Samaria. My husband notes, “There were no dealings normally between Jews and Samaritans, and even above that, rabbis did not converse with women in public or instruct them in the law.” (This supports why women of the early church probably had so many questions—they were not taught as the men were.)

During this spiritual conversation, not only does the Lord tell this woman of Samaria that He is indeed the Messiah—a powerful revelation—but afterward she becomes the first preacher of the gospel to the Gentile nations. She told the Samaritans, “Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did,” and her preaching caused a revival! John 4:39 says, “And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified.”

Then there is Mary Magdalene, whom the Lord gave the distinct privilege of being the first person to herald His resurrection. What an honor! “Jesus said unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God” (Jn. 20:17).

Mary told the disciples that she had seen the risen Lord. Unfortunately, they did not believe her.

Submission
Two other verses often used by the “men only ministry” doctrine are I Timothy 2:11-12: “Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.”

Since we’ve already addressed the issues regarding women teaching and silence, let me say a few things about submission.

We know that after the fall, part of woman’s punishment was that her husband, rather than God, would rule over her (Gen. 3:16). Since then, it seems there have been religious men who have used these and other Scriptures on “submission” to amplify man’s superiority over women in a non-biblical way. This misinterpretation of his role in the home and in society has oppressed countless women, and in some cases has resulted in women being physically or verbally abused.

Listen, if a woman is being made to do anything that goes against the Word of God, then that is not anywhere close to the type of submission that God intended in His creation model.

In Genesis 2:23, Adam says of Eve, “She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” Notes on this verse from The Expositor’s Study Bible read, “God did not take the woman out of man’s feet to be stepped on as an inferior; nor out of his head to be put on a pedestal as a superior; but from his side, close to his heart as an equal.”

Any wife who is repeatedly beaten down by her husband physically or verbally and made to feel worthless is not required to stay in that marriage. Let me say it plain: If a woman or her children are being abused, that woman has a responsibility to her kids and herself to leave, for the health and safety of all. The Lord does not condemn any woman who is being abused to stay in such a relationship.

The Bible says, “Submitting yourselves one to another (this tells us that proper spiritual submission is always horizontal and never vertical as it refers to believers, meaning that we submit one to another) in the fear of God (meaning that all vertical submission must be to God alone, never to man)” (Eph. 5:21, The Expositor’s Study Bible).

Going back to where I started, the book of I Corinthians lays the foundation, my husband says, for victory over sin and purity within. And that’s what every man and every woman in the body of Christ should believe for through His cross. 🕊
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The very moral fabric of our nation is being torn by unseen forces at work around us. These malicious forces have names but no faces. But what are these unseen forces at work? What can we do to stop them? Until now these questions hung in the still air without reply. This powerful book by Evangelist Jimmy Swaggart lays bare the truth behind the terrible effect these unseen forces are having on our nation. It uncovers the root causes of these forces and what we can do to curb their malevolent influence. This is a book that every citizen of the United States should read, but perhaps more importantly, one that every Christian must read. It is a potent book that pulls no punches—one that is as uncompromising in its reach as the author himself. This book sounds a clarion call to awaken believers to the realization that the only answer for America is Jesus Christ and Him crucified. (Over 400 pages, hardcover)

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Elijah first cast his mantle on Elisha as he plowed a field with 12 yoke of oxen—an indicator of God’s true calling. Years later, Elisha would pick up the same mantle that fell from the prophet who was suddenly taken to heaven in a whirlwind by a chariot and horses of fire—a sign that Elisha had received a double portion of God’s anointing. In this book, Brother Swaggart replays the miracles that God did throughout Elisha’s ministry: dividing the waters of Jordan, healing the poisoned waters of Jericho, and raising the dead son of the Shunammite woman. Believers are reminded that we serve a miracle-working God and that we should live—as Elisha did—in a state of expectation that cries out, “Where is the Lord God of Elijah?” (400 pages, hardcover)

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In Exodus, we find Moses before Pharaoh with this message from God: Let My people go. Pharaoh heard the word and saw God’s mighty miracles, but his hardened heart would not obey. Deliverance of the children of Israel came when they applied the shed blood of the lamb—a type of Christ—to their doorposts. When the Lord saw the blood, He passed over them as He smote the Egyptians. In this powerful book, Brother Swaggart takes his readers inside those houses where the blood was applied and where God’s people—whether spiritually weak or spiritually strong—were all saved. The same is true today—when people place their faith in Christ and Him crucified, they are saved and every sin is washed away by the precious blood of the Lamb. (287 pages, hardcover)

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Not long ago, I was preaching in Wichita, Kansas, at Berean Assembly, which is pastored by Jim Hashbarger. It was Sunday morning, and during the praise and worship, the worship leader shared with us a wonderful testimony that I feel will be a blessing to all who read this article.

The story took place in the country of South Africa, in the early 1920s, in a small town where there was a fledging Pentecostal church of maybe 35 people, at most. There was a young teenage girl who became very ill, to the point of having to be put in the hospital. After extensive tests, the doctor told her parents she was going to die and there was nothing that could be done for her. A couple of days later, she slipped into a coma, and the doctors told her parents that she could die at any time.

In that small Pentecostal church, there were a few teenagers who decided to start going to the hospital to pray for a miracle of healing. At first, the doctors thought they were fanatics and tried to stop them, but the girl’s parents insisted that they be allowed to come and pray for their daughter.

About three days later, during their time of prayer in her hospital room, all of a sudden the girl opened her eyes and began to speak. The hospital staff came running to her room. They were in shock. They called the doctor, who had gone home for the day, and told him how the young lady was awake, talking, and asking for something to eat. He jumped into his car and rushed to the hospital. When he got there and examined her, all he could say was, “This is a miracle.”

For the next two days, she was put through a series of tests. The doctor finally told her parents that he was releasing her to go home. However, he also told her parents that on the last x-ray he had taken, he noticed that her reproductive organs had been destroyed, and she would never be able to have children. Naturally, they were happy she was coming home, but also sad that she would never be able to have children.

The brother who was sharing this story that morning paused and said to the audience, “For those who are visitors, I want to introduce my brother who was part of the worship team.” Then he said, “That young
lady in South Africa who the doctors said would never have children was our mother."

When he said that, the Spirit of the Lord swept over the audience. People began to weep, and others began to praise the Lord. I’ve shared this testimony because I want you to understand that whatever problem of life you are facing can be changed by Jesus Christ.

He Went Into A City Called Nain
One must understand that the city of Nain was not a town that was easy to get to. It was a town that was out of the way. Today we would say that it was by design because a mother needed help. You may not know how to get to Jesus, but He knows how to get to you.

There Was A Dead Man Carried Out, The Only Son Of His Mother, And She Was A Widow
This phrase plainly tells us that this was the second heartbreaking death she had to endure—first her husband and now her son. I can only imagine the heartbreak and emotional pain this dear lady was experiencing.

The Lord Saw Her
I find these four words to be words of comfort. Satan is very adept at making believers think that they’re not important in the eyes of God—that the Lord doesn’t see our hurt or our suffering. But these four words state emphatically, “The Lord saw her." Therefore, take comfort that the Lord sees you. He sees your tears, He sees your needs, and He sees your hurt.

He Had Compassion On Her
By the use of the word compassion, we see the love of God, not only for this dear woman, but also for all of humanity. In the Greek, the word compassion means “bowels of mercy.” The idea is that one feels the pain and suffering of another deep inside his innermost being. As the Lord had compassion on this mother, He also has compassion on you.

He Said Unto Her, Weep Not
He was telling her that her time of grief was over. He was saying, “Wipe your tears, for a King has come to Nain.” He was telling her, “I can change your situation.” And He is saying to you, “Weep not. I have everything under control.”

He Came And Touched The Bier
A bier was a wooden frame which the dead were laid upon as they were taken to their graves. The law of Moses stated that if the living touched a dead person, they became defiled. So why didn’t the Lord become defiled? The answer: Jesus Christ was perfect, and His perfect life could not be defiled as His touch would bring the dead to life. As well, when life would come to him, where would the evidence be?

He Said, Young Man I Say Unto You, Arise
The words, “I say unto you,” proclaim the deity of Christ, for only God has the power to speak the words of life. The word arise speaks of the resurrection of the soul, and, as well, the coming resurrection of the body of Christ—the rapture. At salvation, one is literally raised from spiritual death, and at the resurrection of life, the sainted dead will come forth at the trump of God to receive their glorified bodies (I Thess. 4:16).

And He That Was Dead Sat Up And Began To Speak
Only Jesus Christ can bring life out of death. When the King comes to town, miracles are going to happen. Receive this word: Your dreams are not dead and your prayers are not falling on deaf ears. Things are not going to be the way they used to be—a King is coming to town! 🏜
Professing Themselves To Be Wise, They Became Fools
Just days following the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision to legalize same-sex marriage in all 50 states, Pastor Donnie Swaggart points believers back to the Bible and the Supreme Judge over all the earth—the Lord Jesus Christ—and His righteousness.

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Psalms is not only a book of songs, it’s also a book of prophecy. In this anointed message, Pastor Donnie Swaggart draws from Psalm 30 to preach on the power of praise before, during, and after a night of weeping.

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Upon This Rock I Will Build My Church And The Gates Of Hell Shall Not Prevail Against It
In this anointed message, Pastor Donnie Swaggart takes believers and unbelievers to Matthew 16, back to the rock—the Lord Jesus—and the true church. He then reminds Christians who they are in Christ—the church of the living God.

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- Praise & Worship (Joseph Larson)
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The message in this book is personal and addressed to every believer who has tried to live for God but failed. It was written for those who were told by elders to just try harder to overcome sin. It's for the people of God who trust their own abilities, strengths, and talents because they don't know how to trust God. Read this apostolic revelation from God to Brother Swaggart and how it changed his life and ministry. In these chapters, he shares God's prescribed order for victory through faith in Jesus Christ and Him crucified, which is the story of the Bible. Learn how the Holy Spirit works within the parameters of the finished work of Christ to help believers gain victory over the world, the flesh, and the Devil. (Over 250 pages, hardcover)

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DONNIE SWAGGART’S NEWEST BOOK
LIGHT OF LIBERTY

If you want to know how this nation—the United States of America—came into being, then this book, I think, will open the door as nothing else that you’ve ever read. It is something that every believer, in fact, every person, needs to read. I urge you, don’t fail to get this book.

Light of Liberty (09-147)
Men and women came to the New World in hopes of establishing a new nation—a free nation unbound by kings, popes, and religious oppression, and a nation whose cornerstone was God’s Word alone, in which freedom and liberty were rights for all. An overwhelming majority of America’s Founding Fathers were Christian, but even those who were not understood that the foundation of this fledgling country was rooted in Christian doctrine. In his book, Evangelist Donnie Swaggart leads his readers from Plymouth Rock to Pennsylvania Avenue and from the Declaration of Independence to the Bill of Rights showing how the United States of America was not a grand experiment but rather the ultimate testament to any nation founded on the Word of God through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ (264 pages, hardcover).

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When it comes to the subject of giving, most Christians do not truly understand its scriptural significance, neither do they grasp just how important it is. Granted, many believers have been duped by so-called preachers, and, as a result, have become cynical, jaded, and skeptical of any preacher who takes up an offering. Others have not been taught the benefits of giving to the work of God, and therefore fail to take advantage of what the Bible teaches. I hope and pray that you, dear reader, would not meet this truth with skepticism, but rather with an open heart, truly asking the Lord for His understanding regarding our giving. God could have chosen many and varied ways to finance His work, and it gives Him the opportunity to bless those who give (II Cor. 9:6-7).

**Tithing Under Abel**

I want to take this moment to look at what the Word of God says about giving, for the Bible must be the criteria for everything that we do. The Word of God has the answer for every one of life's questions, no matter how small or great the question may be, the Word of God alone holds the key to what you need.

Many would say that tithing is not under the new covenant. However, if the truth were to be known, tithing is and has been a part of every covenant that God has made with man. Let's take a look at tithing before the law. To do this, we must first look at Genesis 4:4: "And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering."

The word *firstling* refers to the firstborn of the flock that was to be offered in sacrifice, which is what the Lord instructed Abel to do. This was done by God to establish the principle that every firstborn male belonged to God (Ex. 13:2-15). By doing this, God exercised His right of ownership, not by killing, but by giving life, for when the firstborn clean animal was offered to God, the firstborn son was redeemed. You may ask, What does this have to do with tithing? With Abel's instruction to use the firstborn of his flock as a sacrifice, it pictured Christ as well as tithing. God gave his best that we might be redeemed, and we should in turn give God our best to receive his blessings. As the Scripture proclaims, we are to "seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33).

**Tithing Under Abraham**

Here, we find the very first mention of the word *tithe* in Scripture, and it’s found in Genesis 14:17-20:

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.” —Malachi 3:8-12

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**The Doctrine of Giving | PART I**

GDW
“And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that were with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which is the king’s dale. And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: and blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.”

We find in this text that Abraham paid tithe to Melchizedek, who was a priest and king, and therefore, a type of Christ. We really do not know who Melchizedek was. Some say that he was actually Shem, who was one of the sons of Noah, but we just do not know. He appears unexpectedly after the destruction of the kings, which means that he was actually hidden to everyone up until this point, but appears in blessing.

In this meeting, we see that Melchizedek brings Abraham bread and wine, which is symbolic of the crucifixion of Christ, for it was at the Last Supper that the true Melchizedek brought forth bread and wine, which symbolized His broken body and His poured out blood. As well, we see that Melchizedek blessed Abraham, which Paul says, “and without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better” (Heb. 7:7).

He, Melchizedek, stood in a higher position than Abraham because he was raised up by God to be a type of Christ as a king and priest.

Now, we must ask this question: where did Abraham learn about paying tithes? We’re not for sure, but it could have been that the Lord Himself revealed this truth to Abraham, or it could have been passed down from generation to generation, starting with Abel, and then subsequently passed down to others who lived for God at that time. Either way, it really doesn’t matter how it was revealed to the Patriarch; the most important thing is that it was implemented.

Abraham paying tithe to Melchizedek set the standard for the implementation of tithing, and was meant to be continued to this very hour. This is of extreme importance because it was to Abraham that God would give the meaning of justification by faith, or what we now know as the Abrahamic government, which is God’s method of regeneration.

We are justified by faith in the sight of God, through the finished work of Christ, and insomuch that we are children of Abraham—all by faith—we pay tithe to those who are called of God to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. This must not be overlooked, but the fact is that most Christians do not support the work of God at all, and seeing that we are children of Abraham by way of the doctrine of justification by faith, we should follow in the path of Abraham and support those who are doing what God has called them to do.

Tithing Under Jacob
Next, we come to tithing under Jacob. Once again, this is coming from the Word of God (Gen. 28:15-22), and that predates the law. We find Jacob alone, with a rock for a pillow, and yet God would give Jacob a dream of a ladder with angels ascending and descending from that ladder, which is Christ. However, it must be established that God Himself descended this ladder from heaven and stood beside Jacob.

Here God expressed a promise of tremendous proportions to Jacob: as He was with his father and grandfather, so would He be with Jacob. What a promise! It was at this time that Jacob vowed a vow unto the Lord—the very first recorded vow outlined in Scripture. The path of faith is now opened to Jacob, and he expresses his intention of giving a tenth of all of his wealth to God.

Now, there are a couple of questions that must be asked: First, who would Jacob pay tithe to? Second, a tenth of what? I’ll address these questions and much more on the topic of tithing in next month’s issue of The Evangelist.
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• It’s Real
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hour (CT)</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:00 AM</td>
<td>Jimmy Swaggart</td>
<td>Jimmy Swaggart</td>
<td>Family Worship Center - Associate Pastors</td>
<td>Jimmy Swaggart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30 AM</td>
<td>FWC Music</td>
<td>Living Waters w/Gabriel Swaggart (Repeat)</td>
<td>FWC Music</td>
<td>FWC Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 AM</td>
<td>Jimmy Swaggart Crusade Classics</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 AM</td>
<td>Family Worship Center - Associate Pastors</td>
<td>A Study In The Word</td>
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<td>A Study In The Word</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 AM</td>
<td>FWC Music</td>
<td>Insight (Live)</td>
<td>Insight (Live)</td>
<td>Insight (Live)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 AM</td>
<td>A Study In The Word (Repeat)</td>
<td>Frances And Friends (Live)</td>
<td>Frances And Friends (Live)</td>
<td>Frances And Friends (Live)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 AM</td>
<td>FWC Music</td>
<td>FWC Music</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30 AM</td>
<td>Family Worship Center Sunday Morning Service (Live)</td>
<td>A Study In The Word (Repeat)</td>
<td>A Study In The Word (Repeat)</td>
<td>A Study In The Word (Repeat)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00 AM</td>
<td>FWC Music</td>
<td>Generation Of The Cross (E/I) (Repeat)</td>
<td>Jimmy Swaggart</td>
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<td>5:30 AM</td>
<td>Living Waters w/Gabriel Swaggart</td>
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<td>Jimmy Swaggart Crusade Classics</td>
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<td>7:00 AM</td>
<td>Crossfire Service (E/I) (Repeat)</td>
<td>A Study In The Word (Repeat)</td>
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<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>Family Worship Center Sunday Evening Service (Live)</td>
<td>Frances And Friends (Repeat)</td>
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<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>FWC Music</td>
<td>The Message Of The Cross (Repeat)</td>
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<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Family Worship Center Sunday Morning Service (Repeat)</td>
<td>Donnie Swaggart</td>
<td>Jimmy Swaggart</td>
<td>Frances And Friends (Repeat)</td>
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<td>Backstage (Repeat)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crossfire Service (E/I)</td>
<td>Donnie Swaggart</td>
<td>Family Worship Center Wednesday Night Service (Replay)</td>
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</table>
### UNITED STATES CABLE, SATELLITE, & DIGITAL LISTINGS NATIONWIDE

**DIRECTV® NETWORK**  
24/7 .................................................. 344

**DISH NETWORK**  
24/7 .................................................. 257

**VERIZON FIOS**  
24/7 .................................................. 297

**GLORYSTAR Covers:**  
US/Canada/Mexico/ Central America  
24/7 .................................................. 125

**GALAXY 19 Covers:**  
US/Canada/Mexico/ Central America  
24/7 .................................................. 125

**APPLE TV AND ROKU**  
24/7

**AT&T U-VERSE**  
24/7 .................................................. 580

**SPECTRUM**  
24/7 ... Check Local Listings

### UNITED STATES CABLE AND *OVER-THE-AIR* (DTV) LISTINGS

**ARKANSAS**
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- OTA ............................................ 49.5

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- Miami  
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- Tampa  

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- Honolulu  
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- Tucson  

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- Phoenix  
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- Birmingham  
- Hattiesburg  

**ALABAMA**
- Montgomery  
- Mobile  

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- Fairbanks  

**ALASKA**
- Juneau  
- Sitka  

**ALASKA**
- Kodiak  

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- San Rafael  
- Lucas Valley Cable  
- San Francisco  

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- Little Rock  

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- Los Angeles  
- Fresno  
- Palm Desert, San Diego  
- Redding/Chico  
- Sacramento  
- Salinas  
- San Rafael  
- Lucas Valley Cable  
- San Francisco  

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- Denver  

**CONNECTICUT**
- Hartford, Newtown, North Haven  

**IDAHO**
- Boise  
- Pocatello, Idaho Falls, Twin Falls  

**ILLINOIS**
- Champaign  
- Chicago  
- Peoria  

**INDIANA**
- Indianapolis  

**IOWA**
- Des Moines, Aimes  

**KANSAS**
- Dodge City  

**LOUISIANA**
- Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Lafayette  
- Shreveport  

---

**MAY 2018 THE EVANGELIST**
MAINE
Augusta, Bangor, Portland,
York, Saco
Spectrum .............................. 489

MASSACHUSETTS
Boston
RCN ...................................... 21 / 270
Spectrum ......................... 17 / 25 / 1231 HD
MetroCast Cablevision .......... 20
Shrewsbury
Community ........................ 24 / 1231
Beld Broadband ........................ 20 / 520
Telephone & Data Sys. 62 / 1062
Comcast ............................. 20 / 813

Worcester
Spectrum ............................. 129 / 854

MICHIGAN
Detroit
Comcast .............................. 389
Spectrum ............................ 158
OTA ................................... 14.5 / 19.2 / 47.3

MINNESOTA
Minneapolis
Comcast .............................. 191
OTA .................................. 32.3

Minneapolis, St. Paul
OTA ...................................... 25.2

Rochester
Spectrum ............................. 150 / 705

THIEF RIVER FALLS
Sjoberg’s Inc. .......................... 182

MISSISSIPPI
Biloxi, Columbus, Grenada
Cable One ............................ 91

MISSOURI
Higginsville
Citizen’s Cablevision ............... 122

Joplin, Pittsburg
OTA ..................................... 49.3

KANSAS CITY
Spectrum ............................. 470
OTA ..................................... 21.3

KIRKSVILLE
Cable One ............................. 91

ST. LOUIS
Spectrum ............................. 109 / 775
OTA ..................................... 7.2

EXCELSIOR SPRINGS
New Dawn Fiber ..................... 15

NEBRASKA
Auburn, Columbus, Fremont,
Lincoln
Spectrum ............................. 470

Norfolk
Cable One ............................. 91

Omaha
OTA ..................................... 48.4

NEVADA
Las Vegas
OTA ..................................... 30.3

Reno
Spectrum ............................. 139 / 890

NEW ENGLAND
Regionwide
Spectrum ............................. 470

NEW JERSEY
Audubon, Burlington, Central
Gloucester, Jersey City,
Meadowlands, Monmouth,
Ocean County, Plainfield,
Pleasantville, Princeton,
Somerset, Hillborough, Trenton,
Union, Vineland
Comcast ............................. 190

NEW JERSEY
Long Beach Island
Comcast ............................. 22

Northwest
Comcast ............................. 280

Toms River
Comcast ............................. 19

NEW MEXICO
Albuquerque
Comcast ............................. 91

OTA ...................................... 32.3

Rio Rancho
Cable One ............................. 91

NEW YORK
Albany, Binghamton (Montros,
Bath, Jamestown), Buffalo,
Syracuse, New York
Spectrum ............................. 470

Buffalo
OTA ...................................... 56.6

Spectrum ............................. 470

Coblekill
OTA ...................................... 41.4

Carmel
Comcast ............................. 191

New York
Cablevision .......................... 15

Spectrum ............................. 22 / 470

Comcast ............................. 22 / 470

Frontier ............................. 19 / 27 / 15

RCN .................................... 39 / 270

OTA ..................................... 42.1 / 43.1

ROCHESTER
Spectrum ............................. 470

PENNSYLVANIA
Philadelphia
Comcast ............................. 24 / 25

OTA ...................................... 51

Pennsylvania
RCN .................................... 17 / 51

Service Electric Cable TV 22 / 26
Blue Ridge Comm .................. 8 / 24

PUERTO RICO
Region Wide
Claro ..................................... 24

Dish ..................................... 7

Liberty Cable ......................... 41

Choice Cable ......................... 41

San Juan
OTA ..................................... 25.2 / 42.1

RHODE ISLAND
Providence
Cox Cable ............................. 70

SOUTH CAROLINA
Charleston
Comcast ............................. 270

Columbia, Statewide
Spectrum ............................. 470

Rock Hill, Fort Mill, Lancaster,
York, Chester, Clover, Lake Wylie
Comporium Cable ................. 391

Spartanburg, Greenville
OTA ..................................... 16.3

SOUTH DAKOTA
Beresford
Beresford Cablevision .......... 487

TENNESSEE
Dyersburg
Cable One ............................. 91

Jackson
OTA ..................................... 27.4

Memphis
OTA ..................................... 26.5 / 44

Nashville
OTA ..................................... 31.3

TEXAS
Abitiene
Harris Broadband ................. 17

Alma-Garret
Spectrum ............................. 12

Amarillo
Cable One ............................. 91

OTA ..................................... 22.3

Austin, Corpus Christi, Dallas,
Fort Worth, San Antonio,
Waco, Killeen
Spectrum ............................. 470

AUSTIN
OTA ..................................... 17.3

Balch Springs
Suddenlink 20 / 107HD

Bryan
OTA ..................................... 34.6

Carrollton
Spectrum ............................. 14

Dallas
Rio Holdings 17 / 8147

Greenville Electric Utility 22 / 222

North Texas Comm Co. 21 / 212

Northland Cable
Television ............................. 12 / 96 / 10
### WEST VIRGINIA
- **Riverton**
  - SKSRT .................................. 34
- **Wheeling**
  - Comcast ................................ 190

### WISCONSIN
- **Green Bay**
  - Spectrum .................................. 388 / 1388 HD
- **Madison**
  - OTA ...................................... 8.3
- **Milwaukee**
  - Spectrum .................................. 388 / 1388 HD
  - AT&T ...................................... 68 / 1068
  - OTA ...................................... 68.8

### U.S. OVER-THE-AIR (OTA), LISTINGS
For those of you who are not familiar with digital television, these are free "old fashioned TV channels" that are able to be picked up with a digital tuner and antenna. Most new televisions are equipped with built-in digital tuners or you can purchase a tuner from your local electronics store (Best Buy®, Radio Shack®, etc.). As well, you can purchase the proper antenna at your local electronics store. Many viewers under the broadcast signal of the television station can use a small, digital antenna inside the home. For those on the outer edge of the signal or to receive the best signal, an outdoor antenna may be required. Both indoor and outdoor antennas are available for less than $50!

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  - ABS 1 sonlifetv.com for more info
- **AFRICA**
  - Intelsat 20
  - Thaicom 5
- **Northern Africa**
  - Hot Bird 6 sonlifetv.com for more info
- **AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND**
  - OPTUS D2 sonlifetv.com for more info
- **AUSTRALIA**
  - Foxtel® .................................. 186
  - New South Wales
    - Canberra, Wollongong, Orange, Dubbo, Wagga
    - Excludes Sydney ...................... 55
  - Northern Territory
    - Darwin, Central ...................... 74

#### B
- **BARBADOS**
  - Lime TV .................................. 4
- **BELGIUM**
  - Télésat .................................. 532
  - TV Vlaanderen .......................... 356
- **BRAZIL**
  - NATIONWIDE:
    - StarOne C2 Satellite
      sonlifetv.com for more info
  - Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo
    - Net Cable ............................... 188
  - **BULGARIA**
    - Dcable, 3 Air Media

#### C
- **CAYMAN ISLANDS**
  - Lime TV .................................. 104
- **CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA / CARIBBEAN**
  - Hispasat 1E sonlifetv.com for more info
  - **CZECH REPUBLIC**
    - Skylink .................................. 265

#### D
- **DENMARK**
  - Viasat .................................. 205

#### E
- **EUROPE**
  - Hot Bird 6 sonlifetv.com for more info

#### F
- **FINLAND**
  - Viasat .................................. 205

#### G
- **GERMANY**
  - Kabel Deutschland .......................... 847
  - Unity Cable ................................ 238
  - Kabel BW .................................. 302
  - Sky Deutschland .......................... 975
  - Stadtwelle ................................ 442
  - Zattoo
    - Astra 1 sonlifetv.com for more info
    - Cologne, Dusseldorf, Bonn & Aachen
      - Net Cologne ............................ 409

#### I
- **ISRAEL**
  - Hot Cable ............................... 180
  - Hot Bird 6 sonlifetv.com for more info

#### M
- **MIDDLE EAST**
  - Hot Bird 6
  - Eutelsat 25 sonlifetv.com for more info

#### N
- **NETHERLANDS**
  - Canal Digital ............................. 208

#### P
- **POLAND**
  - Korbank
    - MGK

#### R
- **RUSSIA & EASTERN EUROPE**
  - Amos 2 .................................... 4° West
- **RUSSIA WEST**
  - Yamal 1 sonlifetv.com for more info

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- He's All I Need
- I'm Going Home
- Just A Simple Word
- It's Not The First Time
- My Shepherd
- One Pair Of Hands
- The Rock Medley

En La Cruz - Marcelo Guidi (22-035)
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- Porque El Vive
- A Quienes Cristo Libertó
- Es Mi Deseo
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Push Media
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
Air Link Communications ......... 25

UNITED KINGDOM
Sky Satellite .............................. 594
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- I’ve Got A New Song (FWC Choir)

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Includes:
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- Sing A New Song (FWC Choir)
- Until You’ve Known The Love Of God (Martha Borg)
- His Blood Still Sets Men Free (Jimmy Swaggart)

I Lived To Tell About It (15-680)
- I Lived To Tell About It (Donna Carline)
- Holy Spirit Flow Through Me (Jimmy Swaggart)
- When My Savior Reached Down For Me (Randy Knaps)
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- I’m Going Home With Jesus (FWC Choir)
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FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER

Thanksgiving Campmeeting 2018

November 21-25, 2018

A MEETING FOR ALL AGES
# JSBC PRECAMPMEETING SESSIONS

*(Please Note - JSBC precampmeeting sessions are held in the FCA AUDITORIUM)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MON</th>
<th>TUES</th>
<th>WED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 PM-2 PM</td>
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<td>9 AM-10 AM</td>
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<td>• Dave Smith</td>
<td>• Joseph Larson</td>
<td>• Sharon Cornell</td>
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<td>2:30 PM-3:30 PM</td>
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<td>10:30 AM-11:30 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Carl Brown</td>
<td>• Dan Burritt</td>
<td>• John Rosenstern</td>
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<td>• Mike Muzzerall</td>
<td>• Jim Woolsey</td>
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# CAMPMEETING SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

*(Located in Family Worship Center)*

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<tr>
<th>WED</th>
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<td>7 PM</td>
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<td>• Gabriel Swaggart</td>
<td>• Loren Larson</td>
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<td>7 PM</td>
<td>• Donnie Swaggart</td>
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Services for children at Salvation Station run simultaneously with each regularly scheduled campmeeting service.

# ACCOMMODATIONS

*(Call for special rates during JSM Campmeetings)*

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- **Fairfield Inn by Marriott**
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- **Hampton Inn**
  - Commercial Rd., Port Allen, LA • 225.389.6655
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- **Baton Rouge Acadian Centre/LSU South Acadian Thwy.**
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“Your worship services on Sunday are just a blessing. I cannot tell you how much I am blessed by them. The singers and band are the best. There is nothing else out there that I have found any better. It is a great blessing that you have the Lord’s Supper the first Sunday of the month. The church I have been attending doesn’t do that but maybe once a year, if that. I took communion with you this morning and what a blessing. God bless you all for your service and sacrifice for the Lord Jesus.”

—FLORIDA

Message of the Cross Brings Victory

Dear Evangelist: I just want to thank you for *The Evangelist* magazine and SBN. I pray for the ministry daily. I accepted Christ at a young age and was raised in the church. As a teen, I started to pull away, still believing, but habitually sinning. This continued for some years and brought much guilt. In the past year, I’ve turned back to God! The Holy Spirit is at work in my life and, through the Message of the Cross, I’m learning so much. The Spirit continues to reveal to me the destruction of sin—it looks good for a bit, but it always leads to unhappiness, loss, bondage, addiction, total domination, and an agonizing death (separation from God and everything good) in all aspects. I used to think, “I should be good for God because I’m a Christian, but I’m missing out on fun stuff.” Thank the Lord that I now see that all I want is to be free from the lure and bondage of that “fun stuff!” I’ve struggled long enough under the burden of sin’s “fun” and have felt the rot of it to my very core. I was allowed to stray away, but not lost entirely, praise God! Christ’s victory on the Cross has set me free! I am no longer a slave to sin, I am a child of God, and I am forgiven! May God bless you, as you continue to preach about the victory of the Cross. —PENNSYLVANIA

International Kids Conference
June 6-9, 2018
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Make plans for your children to attend!
Sunday Services are a Blessing

Dear Evangelist: We want to thank you for your efforts and programing, we watch all the time and are blessed by the word presented by SBN. Just wanted to let you know the messages delivered, both Sunday services, were as if they were written just for us. They were an answer to prayer—what a glorious and uplifting day. Thank you again for your hard work in presenting God’s truth.

—SOUTH CAROLINA

Out of the Valley

Dear Evangelist: Please tell Gabriel that I needed the sermon he preached. I was going through a valley for three days, and he spoke right to me. I am praising God. As Brother Jimmy sang, “It’s Over Now,” I knew I was on the other side of the valley—I cried through the whole song. Praise God for your ministry. When Brother Donnie talked about the radio program in 1969, it took me back to my mother who made it to heaven because of the radio broadcast—she rededicated her life to Jesus. Thank you for following the leading of the Holy Spirit. —EMAIL

God is Faithful

Dear Evangelist: I am on a very fixed income. I pay tithes every month. This month, I had an added expense—a need, not a want—I wanted to send an outreach Bible to Russia. My bills would all be paid for the month, but if I purchased a Bible for Russia, I would have only $8 to last the month. I talked to the Lord about it, feeling a little apprehensive, but in faith, I had the Bible sent. Today, as I was driving, I realized my left headlamp was burned out. A little fear and doubt crept in about having purchased the Bible. Well, just now I opened today’s mail, which included my electric bill for the month. It is normally $55 on the budget plan. Not only will I not be paying the $55 this month, but my bill will have a credit on it for next month. I was also just informed that a medical bill with a balance of $35 that I have been faithfully paying $10 a month on for over a year now, has been waived by the billing office—I now have a zero balance. I have several testimonies of how God has taken care of me in this way. Learning to trust Him has been a process over the years, but, He has never, ever failed to make sure my needs are met. I just wanted to send this along and share my joy! I sure appreciate and love all of you. —MICHIGAN

Delivered from Addiction

Dear Evangelist: Brother Donnie, praise God! Friday night, I turned SBN on and left it on while I slept. It was 10 p.m. at night, and you were preaching the message about “It is finished.” To be honest, I was trying to go to sleep and really didn’t have any intention of staying awake to hear the message. But I believe God had another plan, because I couldn’t fall asleep. When you were about to make the altar call, you mentioned people bound by nicotine, specifically cigarettes. It almost felt like something physically pulled straight up to where I was sitting straight up in my bed. At that moment, God quickened in my spirit what the message was you delivered. He used you to let me know I have been trying to quit smoking myself. Praise Jesus, I realized that Jesus has already done it. I am believing that I am no longer addicted to cigarettes. —ARKANSAS

ESB is Priceless

Dear Evangelist: Brother Jimmy Swaggart, The Expositor’s Study Bible is priceless! I use it all the time because the commentary on almost every verse is invaluable in understanding God’s Holy Word. I thank the Lord for The Expositor’s Study Bible, and I thank you, Brother Swaggart, for your faithful service to God and His people. The Lord bless and keep you all! —EMAIL

Music Brings Back Memories

Dear Evangelist: I recently discovered SBN in the Minneapolis area! What a blessing—I have it on all the time and rarely watch anything else. How wonderful to hear the fantastic anointed music—the good ole songs—and powerful preaching. Thank you! Thank you! I recall attending a Jimmy Swaggart crusade meeting in Minneapolis years ago and after the service people would not leave! We were all gathered around the stage as Brother Swaggart kept playing and singing. Finally he had to put his overcoat on and slowly move out. We were all so blessed—we didn’t want it to end! —MINNESOTA

“I was allowed to stray away, but not lost entirely, praise God! Christ’s victory on the Cross has set me free! I am no longer a slave to sin, I am a child of God, and I am forgiven!”
THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

Every child of God should live with the understanding that one day we will stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

Paul wrote “Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men ....” (II Cor. 5:9-11).

No unbeliever will experience this judgment, only true believers. The judgment seat of Christ will take place most likely immediately following the rapture (I Thess. 4:13-18). Unbelievers will experience the great white throne judgment at the end of the thousand-year reign of Christ (Rev. 20:11-14).

Paul also wrote about the judgment seat of Christ:

“Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man’s work shall be made manifest; for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is. If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire” (I Cor. 3:12-15).

What is the judgment seat of Christ for? It’s the time when every believer will individually stand before Christ, and Christ will make the final determination on what in our life is of Him and what is of ourselves. At this event we will receive or lose eternal blessings. Our justification, our position will not be determined because Christ already took the penalty of our sin on the Cross. It’s our condition, our life that will be judged. The foundation of every true believer is solid; the foundation is Jesus Christ (I Cor. 3:10) and our simple faith in Him, His death, and resurrection (Rom. 10:9-10). What is built on the foundation and how the believer builds is another story.

Paul likened the spiritual material that we build with, and how we build, to gold, silver, and precious stones and wood, hay, and stubble. Gold, silver, and precious stones refer to us living and building with what God has provided us through the death of Christ, and the fact that we lived by faith in His provision. The wood, hay, and stubble refers to us living and building our lives with our own wisdom, understanding, ability, and the fact that we did not trust in Him in areas of our life.

Paul wrote that “fire” of Christ will reveal those areas of our life that were of Him and those areas which were of ourselves. Everything not of Him will be burned, and everything of Him will result in an eternal blessing for us individually.

Ultimately, what will determine blessing—or loss of blessing—is our faithfulness to what God has given to us. Have we been faithful (Matt. 25:23) to the greatest gift God has given us, Jesus Christ? Have we been faithful to His individual calling on our lives? Have we been motivated by His love or our selfishness? (I Cor. 13:1-3; II Cor. 5:14). As we examine ourselves as to whether we are in the faith (II Cor. 13:5), we ought to ask ourselves these questions.

Our heart’s desire and prayer should be: Lord, open my eyes to anything in my life that’s not of You. And help me, by faith-filled obedience, appropriate the victory You have given me through the Cross to every area of my life.

As children of God, we ought to take our Christian lives very seriously. If a believer has not been obedient to the calling that God has placed on his life, he will be
“Paul wrote that he took his life and ministry very seriously knowing that one day he would have to give an account before Christ...”

...saved, but he will lose the eternal blessings that God intended for him. This scenario is flipped when a believer is obedient to God's calling. What are the blessings given at the judgment seat of Christ? Possibly a greater realm of leadership during the millennium, as Jesus said to the faithful servant in Matt. 25:23: “His lord said to him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things: enter into the joy of your lord.”

If you’re a minister, the message you lead God's people with and your motivation is going to be judged by Christ Himself. James wrote that ministers will receive a stricter judgment because of the influence the minister has on the people (James 3:1). Paul wrote that he took his life and ministry very seriously knowing that one day he would have to give an account before Christ, whether he was faithful and motivated by love or not. That’s what he meant when he wrote, “knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men...” (II Cor. 5:11). We should live with that same kind of godly fear and seriousness.
“And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.” —Luke 10:41-42

SITTING AT HIS FEET

The Narrative Of Mary And Martha
Most Christians who have been saved even a short period of time are familiar with the narrative of Luke 10:38-42. In the text, we find the two sisters of Lazarus and the way each of them attended to Jesus when He visited their home.

Martha was very anxious and concerned regarding the details of the atmosphere surrounding her home. She wanted everything to be perfect for the Lord. As well, she was very attentive to the responsibilities of meeting the Lord's physical needs, such as food and comfort. These details were dominating her heart and her mind. It is certainly right to do our best for the Lord—to offer service that is worthy of His status.

But Mary, her sister, chose to approach the presence of the Lord in her home in a far different way. While He was there, Mary chose to sit at His feet and devour His every word. She wanted to linger in His presence and receive from Him the information that she would need to successfully traverse through the affairs of life, long after He had departed. Martha wanted to serve Him while Mary chose to experience His presence and to carefully regard each word that passed through His lips. Jesus stated that Mary had chosen the one thing that was both needful and necessary.

Just as Mary did then, now we are called to properly discern when it is time to serve and when it is time to sit. If we find ourselves serving more than sitting, we will eventually find ourselves out of balance and unprepared to face the spiritual war that surrounds us.

Five Messages
During the fall semester of 2017 at JSBC, this passage was preached five different times by five different speakers. Whenever the Lord says something once, it's important, vital, life-changing, and required to be understood and embraced. But when the Lord brings the same message to our hearts and minds again and again, we should realize that there must be an understanding that is escaping our hearts and minds. So the Lord repeats the same message to give us the opportunity to both learn and apply the word that is being declared. When He says the same thing five times, we better start listening closely.

I'm embarrassed to say that, looking back, that truth is now quite plain to me. I was one of the people whom God was trying to speak to. In fact, sadly enough, I
LOREN LARSON spoke this message to the college chapel as the first message of the school year. How often we hear the Word of God and think, “Man, they really need this,” and we miss the fact that the word was for us as well.

One of the first basic requirements of preaching truth is to have that same truth

But I found that the only effective relief came when I ceased from my own efforts, as I would sit helplessly before the Lord, to seek His presence, to seek Him for an answer.

The End Result

After nearly 16 months of living with this physical issue, the physicians that I had been seeing concluded that a surgical procedure was the best chance of freeing me from my dilemma. In January of 2018 I underwent a procedure on my heart that has totally eliminated the problem. Even as I write this, I continue to recover and grow stronger every day. The doctor said I had about an 80 percent chance of living free from the previous problem. But I believe God has helped us, for to this day the procedure has accomplished far more than even the doctors could have hoped for. That’s my God for you!

But the benefits of what I’ve been through are far greater than simply freeing me from a physical affliction. I find that I am softer toward those going through trials. I have a greater empathy for those who suffer physical affection. My voice rings out a little less harshly. Having patience toward others and their issues doesn’t seem to be a difficult thing any longer. I find I have a greater sensitivity as to whatever might hurt or hinder God’s people. And, above all, I’ve learned the necessity of continuously retreating to that secret place, sitting at the feet of Jesus until all my burdens are swept away by His mighty awesome presence. With all your serving, make sure you are finding the time to be sitting—at His feet!
The next two months, I will briefly deal with the doctrine of predestination. I will not be able to thoroughly cover this vast subject nor the various viewpoints embraced by Roman Catholics, Orthodox, Protestants, or evangelicals. However, it is important to understand what the Bible teaches about predestination.

What Was Predestinated?
From before the foundation of the world, the Godhead foreordained that God would supply the plan of salvation for fallen man.

In I Peter 1:18-23, Peter tells us that the means of our salvation—the Cross—was foreordained by God, and by our faith we can obtain salvation:

“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition of your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot; Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God. Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.”

The Cross was the means that God would redeem man. The believing sinner who hears the gospel is given the opportunity to freely accept or reject the foreordained plan of God. God does not predestinate who will or will not be saved.

Revelation 22:17 says, “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that hearth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”

In this series of articles, we’ve endeavored to demonstrate that some biblical doctrines were misinterpreted through synods, councils, and enclaves with discussions on God’s grace, the humanity and deity of Jesus Christ, the free will of man, predestination, and the Lord’s Supper, etc. The various new methods of interpretation and philosophy helped redefine doctrine instead of the Holy Spirit. Many current doctrinal positions of the denominational church world have been shaped by the outcomes of these synods and recognized church leaders.
Who Can Be Saved?
Romans, Chapter 10, deals with salvation—soteriology. Chapter 9 of Romans deals with God’s selection of whom He wills to be used for the service of carrying out His predestinated foreordained plan of salvation. God does not choose who will be saved and who will be damned. In Romans, Chapter 10, Paul gives us the explanation of how to be saved:

“For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth….But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith,”

Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek; for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Rom. 10:4, 8-13).

How Shall They Be Saved?
In the next verses of Chapter 10, Paul tells how people can be saved. He would reveal that it is by hearing the Word of God:

“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Rom. 10:14-17).

In John 12:32, Jesus said, “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.”

In that context, Jesus would reveal that the Cross is the object of our faith. Just as the disobedient Hebrews were to look at the serpent on the pole to receive life (Num. 21:8-9), so does the sinner who looks to Jesus and what He did at the Cross receives eternal life.

In John 6:44, Jesus would tell the religious leaders, “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him” (also referenced in John 6:65). God did not predestinate anyone to be saved or damned before or after the fall (supralapsarianism and infralapsarianism). Men are not regenerated and then saved, as some teach. The Father draws the spiritually dead sinner when he hears the gospel and then repents and receives what God predestinated, Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, who paid the debt that man owed God at the Cross through His death.

Jesus was asked, “What must we do, that we may work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, That ye believe on him whom he hath sent” (John 6:28-29).

Jesus would remind His audience that His work was to fulfill the will of His Father and that He would not lose any that the Father would give Him. He clearly articulates what the will of the Father is in John 6:40, “And this is the will of him that sent me, that everyone which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.”

Jesus was answering the hard hearts of the religious leaders who sought of Him to give them a sign, like the manna that was given in the wilderness. Jesus would continue by telling them He is the bread that came down from heaven.

John 6:51 says, “I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”

The ministry of Christ was to the whole world. John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the world; that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

In II Peter 3:9, Peter reminds us, “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”
Is It For TODAY?

Miracles are an integral part of the Bible. From the very beginning of Genesis, we see that the world was formed by divine decree. God said it, and it came to pass.

Throughout the Old Testament time, God intervened on behalf of His children with miracles, signs, and wonders. In the Gospels we see a Saviour who came not only to preach the kingdom of God, but also to touch the lives of the people through healings, casting out of demons, cleansing, and even raising people from the dead. It continued after the ascension of Jesus Christ. The book of Acts presents the Christian life as being accompanied with miracles. And yet, some have brought up the topic of miracles and asked, Is it for today?

Cessation Doctrine
There are those who hold on to the cessation doctrine, which states that the gifts of the Holy Spirit—the miracles and the supernatural utterances—all ceased when the apostles passed away. The idea presented is that the signs and wonders were only present to endorse or validate the claims of the apostles. They conclude that once the apostles died, the signs and wonders were no longer necessary. However, is that true? Were the signs and wonders only performed by the apostles? Were the miracles in the book of Acts and in the Epistles merely God’s way of endorsing the apostles’ claim to ecclesiastical authority?

The Perfect Has Come
They love to quote I Corinthians 13:10: “But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part will be done away.” They say that when the written Word of God came, there was no longer a need for the miraculous. The problem with this is that the list of things in the previous verse (verse 8) to this verse (verse 10) are still here today: “Charity never fails. But whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there are tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away” (I Cor. 13:8).

Let me ask you, has knowledge been done away? Of course not. Why? Because that which is perfect has not yet arrived. It isn’t referring to the Bible. It is speaking of the return of Jesus Christ.

These Signs Shall Fallow
In the Gospel of Mark, we see that the miracles of Jesus were discussed more than the other three Gospels. Mark presents the last words spoken by our Saviour while on earth: “And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover” (Mar. 16:17-18).

Who did Jesus say would be used to do these great signs and wonders? Just the eleven? Remember, Judas had already died. No, He said, “These signs shall follow them that believe.” If you are a believer, God can use you as an instrument of His power. Was there an expiration date placed on this promise? Did He say, “Until John the Beloved dies, these signs shall follow you?” Of course not.

Church History
Church history supports Jesus’ promise that miracles, signs and wonders, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit would be operating in the church. Justin Martyr (AD 100-165), Irenaeus (AD 125-200), Tertullian (AD 160-240), and Anthony (AD 251-356) all witnessed divine healings. From Azusa Street to the present, miracles have been a normal part of the Spirit-filled life.

So to the question asked, Are miracles for today? The answer is clearly yes, miracles are for today. True believers don’t follow the signs—the signs follow them.
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“And he said unto him, Son, thou are ever with me, and all I have is thine.”

—Luke 15:31

When the prodigal son came home, his older brother was in the field working. This was because when his younger brother went away, it left more work for the older brother to do. So instead of him getting his part of the father’s inheritance, he still had to work until it was the regular time for him to get his inheritance. That meant he couldn’t take it easy, do whatever he wanted, and go wherever he wanted. He was still under the control and direction of his father, which he resented.

As the older brother came near the house after working hard all day long, he heard a celebration. The fact that he did not know what was going on indicated that he wasn’t close to his father, he didn’t have much communication with him, and he wasn’t nearly as concerned about his brother as his father was.

When he heard his father was having a big celebration for the return of his brother, he was furious. Not only did his brother not deserve a party, he should have been punished for wasting his father’s money by living in worldliness and immorality. He thought his father was wrong and did not want to have any part in it because he had not forgiven his brother as his father had.

When his father came to him and begged him to participate, he refused. He thought his father was being unfair and mistreating him. For years he had served his father and never rebelled against or disobeyed him, and his father had never provided a celebration for him and his friends. He worked, but grudgingly and of necessity (II Cor. 9:7) instead of out of love for his father. As soon as his younger brother came home from living a wild lifestyle, his father immediately threw a party. The elder brother accused his father of doing more for the rebellious prodigal than he ever did for him. He thought if anyone deserved being rewarded it should be him because his good works proved he was better than his brother.

The father told his older son that he was always with him, but the son really wanted what his father had and not just a relationship with him. He really wanted the same things his younger brother wanted, he just went about it a different way to get them. He was trying to do enough good things to earn them and prove that he deserved them.

Then the father told his oldest son that all he had was his. That meant he could have anything he wanted because he was his son. The implication was that all he had to do was to ask for it. In essence, he was saying you have not because you ask not (James 4:2). But this was an insult because the older son felt like he should not have to ask since he had done so much for his father without receiving anything. The requirement of having to ask meant that it did not belong to him, but to his father. Therefore, he could not make it happen on his own and was still dependent on his father. This revealed his pride, arrogance, and the desire to get along without his father.

Since the father represented God, the elder brother represented the Pharisees and scribes Jesus addressed for their superior, self-righteous, and religious pride (Lk 15).

How many believers need to repent of the good they do—depending on that to be right with God and trying to make themselves holy instead of keeping their faith in who Christ is and what He did on the Cross so they then can receive His righteousness and holiness?
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Every book that we put out carries material that, as far as we know, cannot be obtained anywhere else, and of course I’m speaking of material from the Word of God.

I strongly urge each and every one of you who reads this to make sure that you get a copy of every book that we put out. You need to know the information therein. You need to understand what the Bible says about the greatest subjects in the world, and I’m speaking of justification, sanctification, etc. For instance, how many believers fully know and understand the Message of the Cross? Not very many!

Even some of you who tune in every day to The Message of the Cross over television still do not fully understand what you ought to know and understand. These books will help you in that capacity. So I encourage you, greatly, to get a copy of each book that we put out, especially considering that we do everything we can to enable you to get such by cutting the price to the proverbial bone.

Every believer needs a Christian library in his or her home. And, as it comes to our commentaries, if you can only afford one a month, you need to get it and put it in that library because you’ll need it very shortly as it regards information from the Word of God. Of course that goes for all of our books and commentaries. There is nothing in the world more important than the Word of God, simply because it is the Word of God. You need to do all within your power to understand everything about it that you can, especially considering that we are doing all we can to make these things available to you.

Visitors
Every Sunday we have visitors from all over the nation, and some from other parts of the world in Family Worship Center to worship with us. How so very, very pleased we are to have these wonderful people with us. We believe that if you who hold this magazine in your hand, it will bless you immeasurably so if you can be with us one or two Sundays a year. That I believe. So, when you take your vacation this year, that is, if you take one, then try to stop by Family Worship Center, if it’s at all possible.

Thank You…
I am speaking of the testimonials that we are receiving as it regards our Scripture albums. We have four of them now, with our newest one titled Praise, and I think it’s the best one yet.

I would urge you, whatever you do, to get these CDs. They will bless your home, your place of business, or anywhere that you would play them. This I promise—evil spirits cannot remain where the Spirit of God is prevalent. And this one thing I guarantee—the Spirit of the Lord is in these recordings. In fact, this is the very reason that we have made them, with all of the readings coming from the Psalms and thereby the Word of God. That’s what makes them what they are. So whatever you do, get a copy of our newest one—Praise—and if possible, if you don’t have them all, get every one of them.

The Expositor’s Study Bible
I want to thank all of you who help purchase The Expositor’s Study Bible during the Bible-thons to make them available to Third World pastors all over the world. I don’t think there could be anything greater than that.

Incidentally, we have just brought Dan Burritt on board to be in charge of distribution. Jim Woolsey has been trying to do that, plus a hundred other duties, and it finally got to be too much for one person. Dan really has been doing this for the last year, but now he is in charge of the entire operation as far as distribution is concerned. We are obeying the Lord
when we place these Bibles into the hands of Third World pastors.

About five years ago, the Lord spoke to my heart and stated, “Put an Expositor’s Study Bible into the hands of every Third World pastor.” That’s what we have attempted to do from then until now. To be sure, we have requests for far more than we can fulfill, but by the grace of God, we’re getting these to the people as fast as you pay for them, and as fast as it’s possible to get them distributed.

As many of you have heard me say, this is not a simple thing. There is no postal service in many of the countries where we hand out Bibles, and many times they have to be taken into certain parts of the country on mule back—yes, I said the backs of mules—as well as by boat, etc. I want to thank the hundreds and even thousands of men and women all over the world who work, free of charge, to help get these Bibles distributed. We appreciate this more than ever.

Pray for Dan and his efforts in distribution. He’ll have to travel all over the world, and in many cases that’s not an easy situation, but he has a way of getting things done. So we welcome him on board, and I would ask you to pray for both him and Jim Woolsey daily.

The Little Children
There is one more thing I want to encourage you to do, and I’m talking about the coloring books that we are putting out now. We have four that are ready to go, and if your little boy or little girl likes to color—and every one of them of which I am acquainted does—you will want to get them these coloring books. They are only $5 each plus shipping and handling, and they will help children learn the Word of God, as well as keep them occupied. Don’t misunderstand, the response to these has been absolutely phenomenal, but I also know that a lot of you have not gotten any. Perhaps you no longer have children at home. If that is the case, and it very well is for many of you, still, you know little ones who could be greatly blessed by these coloring books. So get several for them, they will be a blessing.

Prayer
I would also encourage each and every one of you to pray for us daily, that we may have the mind of the Lord in all things, and we may carry it out, whatever it may be, exactly as the Holy Spirit wants and desires.

“I would also encourage each and every one of you to pray for us daily, that we may have the mind of the Lord in all things, and we may carry it out, whatever it may be, exactly as the Holy Spirit wants and desires.”

I set aside two times each and every day for prayer—with the exception of Saturday when we have only the morning prayer meeting. To be frank, I could not do without this. My grandmother taught me to pray when I was but a child. She told me that God could do all things, and I believed her. And guess what? She was right. She told me that which you’ve heard me say any number of times, and I’ll repeat it again: ”Jimmy, God is a big God, so ask big.” That one short sentence has helped me to touch this world for Christ.

So I would urge you to join in with us and pray for this ministry each and every day.

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Bachelor of Divinity (B.Div.)
Bachelor of Theology (Th.B.)