

the riches of their liberality.” Though they were financially poor and suffered afflictions, they generously gave and gladly so. The Lord loved them and blessed them for their tremendous depth of spirituality.

The Lord has not changed; He still loves and rewards those who put Him first in their lives. To receive God’s blessings tightwad’s need to give it up. Unselfish love toward God is the key that opens the door to heaven’s blessings (please read Mal. 3:8-12). Generous Christians make it possible for the Lord’s church to do more evangelism, benevolence and edification. The more good works the church is able to do, the more the Father is glorified (Matthew 5:16).



The Apostle Paul and His Three “I am’s”

By Arnott Lowder

HERE is great concern in the Lord’s church today about “church growth.” Why does the church not grow as it once did? All kinds of reasons have been given for this problem but basically it comes back to the degree of commitment of each member of the church. The church is composed of all who have been saved from their past sins in obedience to the gospel of Christ. The degree to which

to which each man and woman, each boy and girl is dedicated to saving lost souls will determine volumes about church growth. Let’s take a look at the determination of the apostle Paul:

I am [a] Debtor (Rom. 1:14). One who is debtor feels a keen responsibility to pay the debt. Each member of the church owes his fellowman, as much as he has time, ability, and opportunity, the responsibility of getting him a knowledge of salvation. While one is effective in the use of one particular means, he may not be effective in the use of other means that are available. Let us thank God for great radio programs where masses of people are being reached with the saving message. We have wonderful tracts on practically every Bible subject imaginable, which can be used to good advantage. The open Bible studies and correspondence courses and many other means of spreading the Word are available. It has been claimed that nine out of ten members have never tried in any way to win a soul for Christ. What a problem!

I am Ready (Rom. 1:15). The devil does not care how great the ability, how charming the personality, or how excellent the knowledge, as long as a person, whatever the reason, is not ready to try to make a difference. Our success at soul winning is not as much a matter of personality and eloquence as concern and love.

I am Not Ashamed (Rom. 1:16). Each member needs to realize that as a soldier in the Lord’s army, he must not be afraid of ridicule, rejection and criticism. Each must put on the whole armor of God and take a STAND.

Souls will be won by **debtors**, those who are **ready** to teach and live for Jesus, and those who are **not ashamed**.

Heartland Herald

1899 Saint Joseph St.
Dubuque, Iowa 52003

Heartland Herald

Practicing 1st Century Christianity In the 21st Century

April 4, 2010
Volume 4 No. 36

Website—<http://www.dbqheartlandcoc.org>
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Evangelist

Michael Demory

Ministers

All members of the church

Schedule of Services

Sunday—9:30am
Wednesday—7:00pm

Evangelistic Efforts

Dubuque Advertiser & TV Program

“The Bible Says”

Public Access
Cable Channel 16
Mon. & Thurs. @ 8:30pm
Tues. @ 2:30pm
Fri. @ 9:00am

Steps to Salvation

1. Hear the Word (Rom. 10:17)
2. Believe (Heb. 11:1,6)
3. Repent (Lk. 13:3)
4. Confess (Matt. 10:32-33)
5. Baptism (1 Pet. 3:21)
6. Remain Faithful (1 Cor. 15:58; 2 Pet. 3:14)

Lessons from One Lost Soul

By Mike Demory

“Sin, not till it is left, will duly sinful seem; a man must waken first, ere he can tell his dream” – Trench.

THE rich man arrayed in fine linen and purple is recorded as having lived a luxurious life everyday of his physical life on earth. But waking in eternity’s night, he realized the wasted life materialism that had brought him into torment. The parable as told by our Lord in Luke 16:19-31 is one that should waken every fiber of our being to the cold hard fact that we will each answer one day for the choices we have made —either good or bad (2 Corinthians 5:10). Our Savior so richly pointed out that “no man can serve two masters” (Matthew 6:24). This certainly became obvious to the rich man in torment, because as our Lord says, “for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”

Mammon is representative of the love of riches, and/or pleasures of this world. Both God and mammon demand our total attention. One to our souls destruction, and the other to our souls good. The words of the parable of the rich man and Lazarus are heavily laden with solemnity and meaning. Lessons that are intended to give weight to men and women waking from their dream world to discover sin is keeping them from true happiness.

A man may live in the lap of luxury, yet be an abomination in the sight of God (vs. 19). The rich man was finely arrayed

in purple linen, dependent only upon the strength of his own hands. Men have always looked upon to the “rich and famous,” as models of what true happiness and glory should be. However, this is only in the eyes of the world. God told the Israelites before their conquest of the Promised Land, “but thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth....” (Deuteronomy 8:18). Many in and out of the church depend far too much on self, and only seek God during times of sorrow, pain and suffering. The Israelites were not long in remembering God’s warning. John reminds us in Revelation 3:17, “Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.” The rich man did not realize this until it was too late. Until the false philosophy of men that teaches there are second chances to change our eternal destiny (i.e. Catholicism, Reincarnation, etc.), the Bible teaches that the here and now is the only chance we get, “as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:” (Heb 9:27).

A man may be pitiful and poor in the sight of the world, yet beautiful and rich in the sight of God (vs. 20-21). “Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him” (James 2:5)? Luke implies that the poor beggar Lazarus loved God. Not just loving Him in thought, but in word, deed and truth as stated by the Holy Spirit (Colossians 3:17). Paul reminded the Corinthian Christians of another man who became poor for our sakes that we might be made rich (2 Corinthians

8:9)! Jesus Christ, the Master teacher, became the equalizer to all of humanity. Breaking down the separating wall between Jew and Gentile, bond and free, male and female (Galatians 3:28; Philippians 2:6-8; Ephesians 2:14-16). Many become disgusted at the outward appearance or lifestyle of others. From skin color, to handicap, to social status. James demands that we not be respecters of persons (James 2:1-8). God created us all in His image (Genesis 1:26), and Jesus laid down His life for every man, not just the rich and good looking.

Though saints and sinners live together now, the time is coming for them to be eternally separate (vs. 26). As described in Luke 16:26 the souls of the dead pass on into another state, the sinner to torment and the saint in paradise or Abraham's bosom (vs. 22-23). The realm in which Lazarus and rich man found themselves was what is known as Hades. That temporal abode of the departed, wherein they wait for eminent return of the Christ for the Day of Judgment (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17). God fixed the Great Gulf; nothing can move or remove it. Not all the prayers in the world or the paying of penance. Not even the false doctrine of purgatory can bridge the gap between torment and paradise.

The efforts and prayers of the saints worldwide, from generation to generation is that relatives, friends, neighbors obey the one and only gospel plan of salvation. It was Paul's hearts desire and prayer that Israel would be saved (Romans 10:1). Likewise, it is my heart's desire and prayer that my relatives, friends and neighbors be saved, as I am sure that you also have this wish. Billion's are hopelessly lost and separated from God. Some because of their lust for pleasure and riches, and others because they are too hardheaded to listen to the truth! The Jews that stoned Stephen to death, had hardened their hearts to the point that they would not even reason through the Scriptures to ensure their eternal destiny (Acts 7).

The soul of the rich man was put into his own hands by God to manage. His own mismanagement caused it to be lost for all of eternity. He wasted his time on luxury, rather than redeeming the time (Ephesians 5:16). There are many lessons to be learned from the rich man, the question is will we take them to heart and repent?



Another Testament?

By Tom Wacaster

THEY were very well dressed, and when they knocked on my door they asked if they could tell me of "another testament" that Jesus gave to men. Their offer puzzled me, since I did not recall any mention of "another testament" promised by either Jesus or the apostles. In fact, my Bible clearly teaches that the "faith" that was delivered to that first century church through the hands of the apostles was "once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3).

A little study helped me to understand that Jude actually told us that "the faith" (*the Gospel*) was "once and for all delivered to the saints." In like manner Peter has told us that God's "divine power hath granted unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3). Jesus told the twelve apostles that the Holy Spirit would guide them into all the truth (John 16:13). Why, then, would we need "another testament" such as that offered by these two "elders" now standing at my door?

The answer is simple. We **DO NOT** need "another testament." In fact, if any man, or even an angel, were to "preach unto you any gospel other than that which we [*the apostles, TW*] preached unto you, let him be anathema" (Galatians 1:8). If their "other testament" contains **MORE** than my New Testament, it contains too much. If it contains any **LESS** than my New Testament, it contains too little. If it contains **EXACTLY** what my New Testament contains, then why would I need it? Beware friends. It may be "another testament" they bring, but it is **NOT** the testament of Jesus Christ!



Found:

Antidote for Anxiety

by Ken Hope

IS our title too good to be true? Not at all! In fact, I am overjoyed to report that a successful antidote for worry and anxiety has been discovered. If your physician told you what to do to overwhelm and overcome anxiety, would you do it? Certainly you would! Well, the great physician, Jesus Christ has given us a prescription that will result in a worry free existence. How would you like to live a worry free life? How would you like debilitating anxiety to be a thing of the past? How would you like to learn a better way of dealing with your cares instead of being constantly burdened with them?

Since Jesus taught us not to worry (Matt. 6:24-34), we must be very careful not to view His prohibition as an impossibility (1 Jn. 5:3). Difficult yes, but not impossible. From the context of Matthew 6, let's consider what Jesus said about worry, anxiety, and cares. First, Jesus taught that worry was strictly *prohibited* (6:25, 31, 34). Second, our Lord taught that worry was *cruel* (6:26). Third, the Master Teacher declared worry to be altogether *futile* (6:27). Fourth, He taught that worry constituted *faithlessness* (6:28-30).

Fifth, Christ continued to teach that worry was *heathenish* (6:31-32a). Sixth, Jesus revealed that worry was absolutely *unnecessary* (6:32b-33). Seventh, the great physician reminded mankind that worry is simply *borrowing trouble*

from the future (6:34). Then, in a stroke of genius with a very unexpected twist, Jesus revealed the cure for cares and the antidote for anxiety. The convoluted wisdom of man notwithstanding, Jesus taught that the cure for worry is work within His kingdom (6:33)! Yes, God's remedy for anxiety has always been action (Prov. 14:23; Eccl. 9:10).

The following observations, if added to our Lord's instruction in Matthew 6, are sure to help us win over worry, conquer our cares, and annihilate anxiety!

1. Cultivate a deep abiding trust in God. (Prov. 3:5; Jer. 17:7; Acts 27:25)
2. Let the Lord carry your daily burdens. (Ps. 55:22; 68:19; 1 Pet. 5:7)
3. Forget the past. (Phil. 3:13-14; Rom. 6:3-4, 21; Heb. 8:12)
4. Live one day at a time. (Prov. 27:1; Ps. 118:24; Matt. 6:34)
5. Learn to be content. (Phil. 4:11; 1 Tim. 6:7-8; Heb. 13:5-6)
6. Get involved in the Lord's work. (Matt. 6:33; Neh. 2:5; 4:6; 1 Cor. 15:58)
7. Make certain about your calling and election. (2 Pet. 1:10; Acts 2:40-41)



Love and Generosity

By Richard Massey

GOD loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7). He will take and use your money if you are an old grump, but He loves a cheerful giver. He also loves a generous giver. The same context teaches us, "*But this I say, he that soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully*" (2 Corinthians 9:6). Selfishness is a lack of the indication of appreciation for the great sacrifice Jesus made upon the cross for our sins and all the many other things God has done for us. Generous giving is in essence saying, "The Lord has done so much for me; His love compels me to give as much as I can for His world-wide mission."

Scrooges, on the other hand, can literally put the church out of business. Their shriveled heart contains an invisible toxin, which kills spiritual growth and their tight purse strings choke the church financially.

Thank the Lord for hearts that genuinely appreciate heaven's love demonstrated at Calvary. Hearts that generously give are humble, sensitive and comprehend the great work of the church. The Macedonians are used as how Christians should properly give (2 Corinthians 8:1-5). Verse two gives wonderful insight into their attitude: "*How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abound unto*

Remember in Prayer

Special Prayers

- Raylyna Johnson—kidney problems
- Our new evangelism effort
- Lilly Rucker & family
- Lyra Grochmal (7 yrs)—spine cancer— more tumors are growing
- Laurie Davis—Multiple Sclerosis
- Yolanda Ritchwood—M.S.
- Natalie Bauman—M.S.
- Wade Miller—diabetes
- Susan Noel— that she studies to understand God
- Russell Bender— that he studies to understand God
- Freeman Dudley—liver cancer
- Kaiser family
- Jones family
- Walker family
- Brother Odom (Abilene)—COPD
- Eric Boor—blood disease
- Rockfalls church of Christ
- TV Program
- State of our Nation
- The closing of Planned Parenthood
- The church
- The erring & the Lost

Evangelizing the World

- Garret Derouin—Webster, Wisc.
- Scott Nedland—Rice Lake, Wisc.
- Brian Sherrell—LaCrosse, Wisc.
- Bernie Guzman—Philippines
- Fred Rhodes—Newton, Iowa
- Johnny Robertson— Martinsville, Vir
- James Oldfield—Riedsville, NC
- Derrick Brown —Jamaica
- Gary Workman—Ukraine
- Kolakaluri Prasad—Nalgonda, Dist., India
- G. Prabhu Kumar—Chennai, India
- John O'Neal—India & Ghana
- Tom Wacaster—India & Russia
- Holger Neubauer—South Haven, Michigan
- Ernie Lawrence—Hutto, Texas

Military

- Chip O'Neal—Afghanistan
- Jonathan Duckstein—Afghanistan
- Michael Chlamon—Ft. Drum, NY
- Daniel Heflin—Afghanistan
- Jason Cunningham—Stateside
- Jon McCain—Tech Training
- Military families who are coping while loved ones in harms way