

Seeking and Seeing Jesus

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 6:1 Preached on 6-3-01 A.M.

The bride has finished her description of the beauties and glories of Christ, and these young converts, the daughters of Jerusalem, after having heard of him make a diligent inquiry as to where he is, that they also may **seek, see, and seize** him. Paul in **Philippians 3:12,13 (Apprehending Christ)**

The finding of Christ is the great end of all our religious duties. Christ truly came to seek and to save that which was lost, but once found a true child of God will spend the rest of his life seeking him. Saving faith will stir up our hearts to see him. As the song writer has written, "O I want to see him, look upon his face, and there to sing forever of his saving grace".

We find this great truth running throughout the word of God. (**Hebrews 11:6**)

1. Illus. Moses: **Exodus 33:18** "And he said, I beseech thee, show me thy glory." **33:20** "And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live." (**Illus. The story**)
2. Illus. Zacchaeus: **Luke 19:3,4** "And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature. And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree **to see him**: for he was to pass that way." Illus. The Greeks: **John 12:21** "Sir, we would see Jesus"
3. Illus. Nicodemus: **John 3:1,2** "There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles

that thou doest, except God be with him.” (Illus. **The story**)

Question: What will cause a man to seek to see Jesus?

I. A Spiritual Revelation of Christ:

A. Christ had been unveiled to these young converts:

B. In 5:9 they ask, what he is, but now they ask, where is he at:

Note: Illus. David **Psalm 17:15** “As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.” (**What does the Lord use to reveal himself**)

1. The person of the Holy Spirit: **I Corinthians 2:1-5** “And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the **Spirit** and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.”

a. What we learn from men we might forget, but what the Spirit puts into the heart shall remain;

2. The preaching of Christ: Illus. Phillip and the Ethiopian **Acts 8:30** “And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the

prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, how can I, except some man should guide me?”
V-35 “Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.”

- A. He preached:
 - 1. The book: (He was reading Isaiah)
 - 2. The Blood: (v-32 **the text**) He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened not his mouth
 - 3. Baptism: v-36 (What doeth hinder me to be baptized)
 - 4. The blessed hope: v-36 (and he went on his way rejoicing)

- 3. By the prayers of the saints: Illus. Lydia
Acts 16
 - a. v-13 “and on the Sabbath day we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made.”
 - b. V-16 “whose heart the Lord opened.”

II. A Successful Testimony of the Bride: (She had testified of his grace, and seen the fruit of that testimony)
(What is he 5:9 – where’s he at 6:1)

- A. Testified from the heart: (She had experienced what she was talking about)

- B. Testified of his help:
 - 1. His salvation: v-10 “white and ruddy”
 - 2. His sight; v-12 (his eyes) he sees us
 - 3. His sweetness: v-13 Sweet flowers (taste the Lord)

4. His support: v-15 His legs as pillars

C. Testified of his hold on her: v-6 “This is my beloved and my friend.” (Something got a hold of me) **Psalm 119:31** “I have stuck unto thy testimonies.”

III. A Stirring of the Desires: (These young converts now have a desire not only to seek him but to see him) **Psalm 37:4** “Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.”

A. A desire to sup with him:

B. A desire to set with him:

C. A desire to see him:

1. This desire is contrary to the flesh: **Isaiah 53:2** “For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

The Kind of Garden Jesus Feeds In

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 6:2 Preached on 6-10-01

The bride in this verse answers the question, presented to her, by the daughters of Jerusalem; “whither is thy beloved gone.” Her reply is, “**He is gone down into his garden, to the beds of spices, to feed in the garden.**”

We know that according to chapter four and verse twelve, that the garden is the church. Also, in chapter five and verse one Christ assures her that he has come into his garden. I now see the bride’s memory in exercise. She suddenly, **remembers Christ word, and realizes that he is yet busy, and at work, in his church.**

The text says that he is in there to feed in the garden. This poses a question. Is he there to feed the church, or himself? No man plants a garden to let someone else eat the fruit. Jesus is here, in the church feeding himself upon the spiritual graces of his people.

But, what kind of a garden would Jesus eat in? He’s not going to dine on briars and thorns. He’s not going to walk through saw briars ten feet tall just to harvest one little dried up tomato. What kind of garden does Jesus feed in?

I. One That Has Been Ploughed: (Note: the word beds means raised or furrows) Illus. Elisha plowing with twelve yoke of oxen: (God calls men to preach who will plough)

- A. Plough up the forgotten ground: (**Areas of your heart where the word of God has yet to touch**)
- B. Plough up the fallow ground: (Soil that has been ploughed but never planted) **Hosea 10:12** “Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the

LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.”

1. Plough out the roots:

- a. Root of bitterness: **Hebrews 12:15** “Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;”
Note: Bitterness form the misfortunes of life.
- b. Root of bias: **James 2:1-4** “My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?”
- c. Root of barrenness: Illus. John the Baptist **Matthew 3:10** “And now also the ax is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.”

2. Plough out the rocks: **Matthew 13:20,21** “But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when **tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word**, by and by he is offended.” (To stumble or fall)

3. Plough out the rubbish: (Thorns and briars) **Jeremiah 4:3** “For thus saith the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem, Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns.” **Matthew 13:22** “He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.”

(Jesus cannot feed where there is no fruit)

II. One That Has Been Planted: (Beds of Spices)

- A. Sow clean seed: **Leviticus 19:19** “Ye shall keep my statutes. Thou shalt not let thy cattle gender with a diverse kind: thou shalt not sow thy field with mingled seed: neither shall a garment mingled of linen and woollen come upon thee.”
 1. What other than the word are we sowing in out heart: **Books – Music – Worldly Entertainment**

- B. Sown by a consecrated sower: **Deuteronomy 28** Moses last words to those who obey the word blessing, but to those who disobey a curse. **Deuteronomy 28:38** “Thou shalt carry much seed out into the field, and shalt gather but little in; for

the locust shall consume it. Thou shalt plant vineyards, and dress them, but shalt neither drink of the wine, nor gather the grapes; for the worms shall eat them. Thou shalt have olive trees throughout all thy coasts, but thou shalt not anoint thyself with the oil; for thine olive shall cast his fruit. Thou shalt beget sons and daughters, but thou shalt not enjoy them; for they shall go into captivity.”

III. One That Is Productive: (Beds of spices indicate a fragrance from a productive plant)

Isaiah 5:1,2 “Now will I sing to my wellbeloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill: And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes.

Our Inseparable Union

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 6:3 Preached on 6-10-01 P.M.

These words of the bride are spoken at on of the most difficult times of her life. She has just passed through a season that was void of the manifest presence of Christ. She may have felt deserted and alone in the world, but her words are very reassuring of her relationship to the Lord.

We may, as God's child experience broken fellowship, but thanks be to God our relationship can never be severed. **"I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine."** These are very endearing words of a spiritual relationship that can never be broken. Although Christ has been withdrawn in presence she yet recognizes her inseparable union with him.

1. This union is provided by the bond of the Spirit:
(Forever bound to him by the new birth) Psalm 133:1-3 "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore."

I. This Union Provides:

A. Assurance of her faith:

1. When disquieted in spirit, faith is still our refuge: **Psalm 107:24-29** "These see the works of the LORD, and his wonders in the deep. For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up

the waves thereof. They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths: their soul is melted because of trouble. They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wit's end. Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses. He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still.”

2. Faith sustains us in our duties for Christ: Illus. Paul & Silas in Acts 16
3. Faith preserves us from fainting in times of discouragement.
4. By faith we draw nigh to God: **Hebrews 10:22** “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.”
 - a. The bride was making efforts to draw nigh to God: **James 4:8** “Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.”

II. An Anchor For the Soul: (Anchors prevent drifting)

Illus. Paul in Acts 27:29 “Then fearing lest we should have fallen upon rocks, they cast four anchors out of the stern, and wished for the day.” **(When you can't sail cast an anchor and pray for light)**

- A. The anchor of suffering: **I Peter 5:10** “But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a

while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, **settle** you.”

- B. The anchor of hope: **Hebrews 6:19** “Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both **sure** and **stedfast**, and which entereth into that within the veil;”
- C. The anchor of the word of God: **Psalms 119:31** “I have stuck unto thy testimonies: O LORD, put me not to shame.”
- D. The anchor of ultimate victory: **I Corinthians 15:58** “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye **stedfast**, **unmoveable**, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”
 - 1. Victory over **sin, death, corruption.**

III. Allegiance To His Love:

- A. We pledge allegiance to the flag, what about our allegiance to the Lamb.
 - 1. Love his word: **Psalms 119:97** “O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.”
 - 2. Love his church: **Psalms 122:1** “I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.”
 - 3. Love his people: **I John 3:14** “We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren.”
 - 4. Love the Lord: **John 21:15** “So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee.”

IV. Apprehending of His Person: “I am my beloved’s (He found me) and my beloved is mine” (I found him)

God's Peculiar People

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 6:4 Preached on 6-12-01 Tues.

We have in this verse the first words of the bridegroom since his withdrawal from the bride in chapter five. Please notice, that in his estimation of her she is still beautiful and his love for her is unchanged.

The bride has been under the chastening hand of the Lord, because of her complacent spirit and cold heart. And he still considers her to be beautiful, and his love for her is fervent. She has failed him, **miserably failed**, yet his thoughtfulness, kindness, and love for her has never faltered.

He likens her beauty to two cities, Tirzah and Jerusalem. Tirzah may typify her outward beauty and Jerusalem her inward. He may be saying that her separation and her sanctification remain unchanged. Her outward appearance and her inner Holiness have not been altered.

Finally he says, "that she is terrible as an army with banners." Banners are given to military units to distinguish them from other armies or units. The American flag is displayed by our military to distinguish us from all others. We cannot be mistaken because of the uniform we wear and the banners we display.

In like manner Christians have some distinct banners that identify us, and separate us from all other peoples in the world.

I Peter 2:9 "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light." (**Def: Praises – Virtues**)

Titus 2:14 “Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”

(**Peculiar in our distinct...**)

I. Distinct In Our Lifestyle:

A. Our conversation is distinct:

1. The filthy conversation of the wicked: **II Peter 2:7** “And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:”
2. The former conversation of the saints:
Ephesians 2:3 “Among who also we all had our conversation in times past.”
 - a. This conversation is vain: **I Peter 1:18** “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;”
 - b. This conversation is to be put off: **Ephesians 4:22** “That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;”
3. The faithful conversation of the saved:
 - a. Is to be Holy: **II Peter 3:11** “Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,”

- b. Is to be chaste: **I Peter 3:2** “While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.”
 - c. Is to be honest: **I Peter 2:12** “Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.”
 - B. Our clothing is distinct: **I Timothy 2:9** “In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;”
 - C. Our companions are distinct:
 - 1. **Ephesians 5:11** “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.”
 - a. Don’t learn their ways:
 - 2. **II Corinthians 6:14** “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers.”
 - 3. **Romans 16:17** “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause division and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.”

II. Peculiar In Our Discipline: (Our behavior)

- A. In the house of God: **I Timothy 3:15** “But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thy self in the house of God, which is the

church of the living God, the pillar and ground of truth.” (There should be)

1. Order: **I Corinthians 14:40** “Let all things be done decently and in order.”
2. Old fashion worship: (Brethren we have met to worship) Illus. **Song of Solomon 1:12** “While the king setteth at his table, my spikenard sendeth forth the smell thereof.”
3. Offering of our praise:

B. In the home:

1. Obedient children: **Colossians 3:20** “Children obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.”
2. Outstretched arms: (For love) (Most homes a battle ground)
 - a. These make for peace:
 - b. These make for praise: (Virtuous woman)

III. Peculiar In Our Dependence: (The worldly or either self dependent or work dependent, or government dependent)

- A. We are God dependent: **Philippians 4:19** “But my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

IV. Peculiar In Our Discharge:

- A. Die in peace:
- B. Die with assurance of destination:
- C. Die with great expectation: (Of seeing passed loved ones)

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 6:5 Preached on 6-17-01 A.M.

At a first glance the words of Christ in this verse appear to be somewhat difficult to interpret. But his being overcome by the eyes of the bride does not imply any weakness in him; but is a revelation of his astonishing, condescending love and grace. (He who has conquered all our enemies can be conquered (overwhelmed) by those who love him) How surprising and amazing that he who has conquered all our enemies, would be willing to be held, as it were a captive, by a poor sinful creature.

(He who has conquered all our enemies can be conquered (overwhelmed) by those who love him) She was not blind, neither was her vision blurred, neither did she see him as through a glass darkly. She had found her beloved and it was more than a simple glance. But it was a bright, vivid concept she had of her bridegroom. And, her eyes were so fastened upon him, and were so possessing of him, that he was overwhelmed and overcome!

Now, I ask the question; what was it that Christ saw it her eyes that affected him so?

I. The Faith They Possessed: (Did you know that without faith it is impossible to please the Lord, and so the greater our faith, the more pleased he must be.)

A. Faith in his salvation: **Isaiah 45:22** "Look unto me and be ye saved all the ends of the earth: for I am God and there is none else."

Illus. The Brazen serpent: **Numbers 21:8** "And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live."

1. Faith to convict sinners:
2. Faith to convert:
3. Faith to confirm:
4. Faith to carry us through:

Illus. Jesus **John 3:14,15** “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.”

- B. Faith in his sayings: **Illus.** The centurion and his servant: **Luke 7:6,7** “Then Jesus went with them. And when he was now not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying unto him, Lord, trouble not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou shouldest enter under my roof: Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee: but **say in a word**, and my servant shall be healed.” (I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel) **Illus.** Peter and the great draught of fishes: **Luke 5:4,5** “Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.”
- C. Faith in his security: **John 17:12** “While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.”

II. The Felicity They Expressed: (Def. - Great happiness or blissfulness)

- A. Her trial had ended: **I Peter 1:7** “That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold

that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory **at the appearing of Jesus Christ:**”

- B. Her turmoil was over: (No doubt, that in her search for Christ she had experienced a great calamity of life.) **Psalm 57:1** “Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast.”
- C. The tears of joy were flowing: **Psalm 30:5** “For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.”

III. The Fidelity They Revealed: (Loyalty)

- A. Wounded by the watchmen:
- B. Witnessing to the Daughters of Jerusalem:
- C. Willing to suffer persecution:

(She was loyal)

Christ's Unique Church

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 6:8,9 Preached on 7-1-01 A.M.

I want to preach this morning on, "Christ's Unique Church." To be unique simply means to be one of a kind; or to be beyond improvement. Christ says here that his bride is but one, the only one of her mother, and the choice one of her that bare her.

I do not intend to go into detail concerning these sixty queens, eight concubines, and virgins without number. Let me say very briefly, that the best interpretation I found is that they represent three distinct degrees of believers. These sixty queens being those who enjoy a very close and intimate relationship to Christ. The concubines being those who enjoy fellowship with Christ, but whose rewards and inheritance will be much smaller. Then the virgins, who are young converts, or new born babes, and lack the experience with Christ that the queens and concubines enjoy.

These believers stand in large numbers, but his bride, the church is but one. Many degrees of spiritual growth within the church, all making up one bride. Now what is it that makes the church so unique?

(Called the church of Christ) (Figuratively)

(Called the church of God) (Figuratively)

I. Unique In Our Conversion: John 3:8 "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: **so is every one that is born of the Spirit.**"

A. Conversion is a fact, not a fable: (The wind bloweth)

B. Conversion is faith with feeling:

1. Hear the sound thereof: (Faith cometh by hearing)
 2. A blowing wind can be felt:
- C. Conversion is freedom not fetters: (The wind is free, it can be used, but not controlled) nor can it be bound.

II. Unique In Our Cleansing: I John 1:7 “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

- A. The cleansing is thorough: (From all sin)
1. Unlike the self righteousness of the Pharisees: **Luke 11:39** “And the Lord said unto him, Now do ye Pharisees make clean the outside of the cup and the platter; but your inward part is full of ravening and wickedness.”
- B. The cleansing is transforming: Illus. The blind man in **John 9:7** “And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, **and washed**, and came seeing.”
1. Heals our spiritual infirmities:
- C. The cleansing is tangible: (Perceptive) Illus. The maniac in **Mark 5:15** “And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid.”

III. Unique In Our Covenant: Hebrews 10:16 “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days,

saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;”

A. His covenant is not a contract written on paper:

1. It is perpetual: (To write them means to inscribe, denoting perpetuity)
2. It is peaceful: **Numbers 25:12** “Wherefore say, Behold, I give unto him my **covenant of peace.**”

IV. Unique In Our Commitment:

A. To the Saviour: Illus. Paul **Acts 20:24** “But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.”

B. To my spouse: **Ephesians 5:25** “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;” (**Not Promise Keepers**)

C. To my study:

V. Unique In Our Conduct: Ephesians 5:3 “But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;”

The Dawning of a New Day

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 6:10 Preached on 7-8-01 A.M.

In departing from verse nine we find the Daughters, the Queens, and the Concubines praising the Bride because of her glorious beauty. Verse ten is a continuation of that praise, and describes her in four unique ways. "She looketh forth as the morning, she is fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and like an army with banners."

I personally believe that the description given represents distinct periods of Christian growth, beginning with our deliverance, and consummating with Christian maturity and behavior. In our deliverance we are said to be as one that looketh forth, as the morning. The idea is like a person, that for the first time would peep, or glance as looking through a window; or to observe as one would at the morning's first light. This phrase may be likened to the birth of a child and their first rays of life. For a sinner those first rays of light mark the dawning of a new day. One life is past, and behold, a new day dawns and with it another life much different than the one we just departed from.

With the dawning of a new day the child of God enjoys...

I. Light And The Blessing It Brings:

- A. In God's creative act in **Genesis 1** the first thing he did was to give light: **Genesis 1:2,3** "And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, let there be light: and there was light."

B. In the re-creative act upon man's soul God works in like manner: (The Spirit of God moves upon the water of the word of God, and thus giving life and enabling the heart to believe God.) **Luke 1:78,79** "Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring (the sun rising or the dawns light) from on high hath visited us, To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

1. Light expels darkness: Illus. Blindness (Bartimaeus **Mark 10:46-52** "And they came to Jericho: and as he went out of Jericho with his disciples and a great number of people, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the highway side begging. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me. And many charged him that he should hold his peace: but he cried the more a great deal, Thou son of David, have mercy on me. And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. And they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee. And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus. And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight. And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way.")

a. v-79 give the light that sit in darkness.

2. Light exposes our direction: v-79 “to guide our feet into the way of peace”
3. This light emancipates the soul from death: v-79 “and in the shadow of death”

II. Life And The Bountifulness Of It: (Our life is completely re-arranged) **John 10:10** “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” (Illus. Bartimaeus **Mark 10**)

- A. From sitting in v-46 to standing on his own feet v-49
- B. From going nowhere (Bro. Don’s Song) in v-46 to following Jesus v-52 (Direction)
- C. From a beggar to being a companion of Christ
- D. From blindness to perfect sight: (A new day had dawned)

III. Love And The Blessedness It Offers:

- A. The bond of love: **Ruth 1:16,17** “And Ruth said, Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be **buried**: (me) the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.”
- B. The battle to love: (Man’s flesh is contrary to God, therefore it is a battle to maintain a proper love relationship with him)

1. Eph. Left their first love: **Revelation 2:4** “Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.”
2. Israel forgot how to love: **Psalm 78**
3. Peter’s love for Christ waxed cold because of denial: **Jude 21** “Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.”

C. The beauty of love: **Song of Solomon 5:16** “His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.” (The bride speaks) **Song of Solomon 6:4** “Thou art beautiful, O my love,” (The groom speaks)

IV. Longings That Are Satisfied: Illus. The woman with the issue of blood: **Mark 5:25,26** “And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years, And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse, When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment. For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.”

- A. She longed for treatment for her problem:
- B. She longed to touch him: **Psalm 63:1** “O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is.”

V. Looks That Are Drastically Changed: Illus. Maniac **Mark 5:15** “And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid.”

- A. The look of his clothes was changed: (One of the first things they do to a newborn baby is clothe it)
- B. The look of his countenance was changed:

Moonlight Reflections

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 6:10 Preached on 7-8-01 P.M.

The second commendation given to the bride by these daughters, Queens, and concubines is, that she is as fair as the moon. **The moon is not always full, neither doe sit always shine in full strength. So it is with the child of God; there are times in our Christian life when we fail to reflect the full light of the grace of God. (Matthew 5:14 Ye are the light of the world)**

The moon also regulates the seasons; **Psalms 104:19** says "He appointed the moon for seasons: the sun knoweth his going down." This tells me that you and I, being likened to the moon will go through various seasons in or life. 1. Summer, 2. Fall, 3. Winter, 4. and Spring.

Two observations very quickly; the moon has no light of itself. It reflects only the light that is cast upon it by the sun. So you and I have no light of ourselves, we can only shine as a reflection of Christ's light, as he shines upon us. May the Lord help us to come out of the shadows, and stand in the full light of Christ that we may truly be light in the world. (Ye are the light of the world.)

Secondly, the moon only gives her light in the night hours, and never in the daytime. God created the moon to rule the night! Therefore, you and I must surely shine the brightest when the SON is hidden from us yet his rays upon us gives a reflection of his light to others. While you and I walk through the lonely valleys of life, and trust his unseen hand in the night watches, Christ shines the brightest and is clearly revealed to the world that sits in the darkness.

In the night seasons we see!

I. Reflections Of His Sufferings: Philippians 1:29 "For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to

believe on him, **but also to suffer for his sake.**”

Colossians 1:24 “Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh **for his body’s sake, which is the church.**”

- A. He suffered innocently: **I Peter 3:18** “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, **the just for the unjust**, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:”

- B. He suffered inwardly: **Isaiah 53:11** “He shall see of the travail of his soul, *and* shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.”

- C. He suffered patiently: **I Peter 2:23** “Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed *himself* to him that judgeth righteously:”
 - 1. Suffering for Christ’s sake is God’s will for our life: **I Peter 4:1,2** “Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; That he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh to the lusts of men, **but to the will of God.**” (Also his will to abstain from fornication)

 - 2. Suffering for Christ’s sake is a revelation of Christ dwelling in us: **Galatians 1:15,16** “But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb, and called *me* by his grace, **To reveal his Son in me**, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:”

- a. Our suffering is a reflection of his:
 1. Grace: (Vicious scourging **Matthew 27:26**)
“Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered *him* to be crucified.” **Note:** His scourging was a form of chastisement: **Isaiah 53:5** “But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.” **Note:** He can be touched when we are chastised.
 1. Grace: Verbal slander: **Matthew 27:39,40** “And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads, And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest *it* in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross.”
 1. Grace: Visible separation: **Matthew 27:45**
“Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.”
 2. Gift: **II Corinthians 9:15** “Thanks *be* unto God for his unspeakable gift.”
 - a. Gift of Love: (Most of us when suffering look for love, rather than giving of our love to others.)
 - b. Gift of Life: (We cannot give life to others, but we can give our life for others.)

- c. Gift of Likeness: **Philippians 3:10**
“That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;”
3. Glee: (Joy) **Hebrews 12:2** “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”
4. Grave: **Matthew 27: 59,60** “And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.” **Note:** Suffer unto death: **Revelation 2:10** “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”
5. Glory: **Matthew 28:5,6** “And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. **Come, see the place where the Lord lay.**”

Some Things I'm Clear About

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 6:10 Preached on 7-17-01 Tues.

We now come to the third thing that is by these Queens, Concubines, and daughters. They have seen a rare beauty in the Bride and there praising her for it. She is said to be, "As clear as the sun."

1. The sun is easily seen and recognized: (Our colors should be clear)
2. The sun is impossible to hide itself except on a cloudy day, and the text says, "That we are as **clear** as the sun:"
3. Some things about us are unobstructed, unclouded, and free from doubt and uncertainty. (**Some things I am clear about**)

I. I'm Clear About My Conversion: II Timothy 1:12b

"for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."

- A. Assured by the word: **Luke 1:1-4** "Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us, Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word; It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus, That thou mightest know the **certainty** of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed."

1. Birth:
2. Life:
3. Death:
4. Resurrection:
5. Ascension:

B. Assured by a witness: **Romans 8:16** “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.” **I John 5:8** “And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.”

1. Internal witness: Spirit (Witness to me)
2. External witness: Water (Baptism) Romans 6 (Witnesses to the world)
3. Eternal witness: Blood (Witness to God)

C. Assured by the way:

1. Holy way: **Isaiah 35:8** “And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called the way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.”
2. Heavenly way: **Deuteronomy 11:21** “That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth.”

II. I'm Clear About My Commission: **Genesis 12:1**

“Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy

country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee:"

- A. Clear about preaching:
- B. Clear about the place: **I Kings 17:2,3** "And the word of the Lord came to him saying, get thee hence and turn thee eastward,"
- C. Clear about his presence: **Exodus 33:14** "And he said my presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest."
- D. Clear about his power: Illus. Greer Campmeeting
- E. Clear about his purpose:
 - 1. Pastor this church and lead them to spiritual maturity:

III. I'm Clear In My Conscience: Hebrews 9:14 "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

- A. Clear from guilt: (Text verse)
- B. Clear in giving: **I Timothy 1:5** "Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:"
- C. Clear of gossip: (Truth is not in gossip)
- D. Clear about grudges: **James 5:9** "Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door."

IV. Clear About My Companion: Proverbs 18:22

"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD."

A. She stays at home: **Titus 2:3-5** “The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.”

B. She studies the word:

C. She satisfies me: **Proverbs 31:28** “Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.”

1. The husband also calls her blessed:

- a. Beautiful:
- b. Kind:
- c. Gracious:
- d. Obedient:
- e. Thoughtful:

Growing Up, God's Way

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 6:10 Preached on 7-22-01 A.M.

This morning I want to look at the church, in light of the fourth description, given unto her by the queens, concubines, and daughters. She is said to be as terrible as an army with banners. Please keep in mind that the verse reveals the development of the Christian in character and conduct. We've seen ourselves in the day of deliverance, suffering in the night seasons and being grounded and settled in present truth. But as an army with banners we have reached maturity.

1. Out training is behind us: (Basic and second eight)
2. There is unity within our ranks:
3. We've learned to follow our captain:
4. We have one purpose; defeat the enemy:
5. There is no retreat;
 - a. The root of maturity: (**The Word**) **I Peter 2:2** "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:"
 - b. The fruit of maturity: (**Righteousness**) **Philippians 1:9-11** "And this I pray, that your **love** may abound yet more and more in knowledge and *in* all judgment; That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God."
 - c. Some absolutes about maturity:

1. Establish a prayer life: **I Thessalonians 5:17** “Pray without ceasing.”
2. Live in a spirit of praise: **Psalm 149:1,2**
“Praise ye the LORD. Sing unto the LORD a new song, *and* his praise in the congregation of saints. Let Israel rejoice in him that made him: let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.”
3. Seek his power: **II Kings 2:9** “And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.”

Application

Places of Maturity

I. Life In General: I Corinthians 13:11 “When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.”

A. His vocabulary changed:

B. His understanding changed:

1. Learn responsibility: (**Big boy toys**) (**Loafers**) on the corner.
 - a. To many irresponsible young men:
 - b. Refuse to work; raise their family:

2. Learn reality:

3. Learn reverence:

II. Leadership In The Home: I Corinthians 11:3 “But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman *is* the man; and the head of Christ *is* God.”

A. Def - Head: To lead; to direct;
to act as a leader to; to go in front of:

1. To lead you must be out in the front:

a. Lead in spiritual matters:

1. Family altar:
2. Faithfulness to the house of God:
3. Fathering your children: (Being a father figure)

b. Lead in secular matters:

III. Looks In The Community:

A. Our personal appearance:

1. Clothes:
2. Hair:
3. Cleanliness:

B. Our private property:

1. Home:
2. Automobile:

- a. Reflection of our testimony:

IV. Labors For Christ:

A. Labor with love: **Hebrews 6:10** “For God *is* not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have showed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.”

1. Labor out of love and not obligation:

B. Labor with expectation of reward:

I Corinthians 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” Illus. **Nehemiah 4:21** “So we laboured in the work: and half of them held the spears from the rising of the morning till the stars appeared.”

V. Loyalty To The Church:

Valley Fruits

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 6:11 Preached on 7-22-01 P.M.

I want to preach tonight on the thought, "Valley Fruits." Most of us would rather live on the mountain, but it's in the valley where our fruitfulness is most productive. We'll have to walk through the valley in order to reach the mountain, and it will be the lesson we learned in the valley, that will be the fruit we enjoy on the mountain.

Valleys in our life are designed to teach us, and what we learn while we're there, becomes spiritual fruit.

1. He is coming to examine our fruit: (I went to the garden of nuts to see the fruits of the valley)
 - a. He removes dead branches: **John 15:2**
"Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away." **John 15:6** "If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned."
 - b. He purges the fruitful: **John 15:2** "And every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit."
 - c. Our fruitfulness depends on a faithful walk with Christ: **John 15:5** "I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."
 - d. Fruitfulness glorifies God and gives evidence to our discipleship: **John 15:8**
"Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."
2. He is coming to examine the quality and quantity of our fruit: (And to see whether the vine flourished)

3. He is coming to examine the life and prosperity of young converts: (and to see whether the vine flourished, and the pomegranates budded)

Fruit From Lessons In The Valley

I. The Valley Of Trouble: (Young man at Bro. Calvert's) Illus. Achan in **Joshua 7:26** "Wherefore the name of that place was called, The valley of Achor (trouble), unto this day."

- A. The sin of disobedience: **Joshua 7:1** "But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed thing: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against the children of Israel."
 1. Sin always has an accomplice: **Joshua 7:21** "When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they *are* hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it."
 - a. Covetousness:
 - b. Illus. **I Kings 13**; The young prophet, lion, and donkey:
 - c. Illus. Ahab & Neboth; Jezebel:
 2. They were over come by the enemy: v.8 "O Lord, what shall I say when Israel turneth their backs before their enemies."
- B. The lessons learned:
 1. Shun sin:
 2. Troubles can become a door of hope: **Hosea 2:14,15** "Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her. ¹⁵And I will

give her her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope.”

- a. Let our troubles become hope: (Revival and Restoration)
- b. Let's sing our way through it: **Hosea 2:15** “and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt.”
- c. Let us take rest there: **Isaiah 65:10** “And Sharon shall be a fold of flocks, and the valley of Achor a place for the herds to lie down in, for my people that have sought me.”

The Fruit Of Hope From The Valley Of Trouble

II. The Valley Of Temptation: Illus. The Lord and Satan in the wilderness: **Luke 4**

- A. When Satan tempts us: (Let no man say he is tempted of God)
 1. He suggests that we walk contrary to knowledge: (Three times he suggested to the Lord that he do something contrary to the Bible)
- B. He can be persistent:
 1. Command these stones to be made bread:
 2. Worship me:
 3. Cast thyself down from here:
- C. His temptation may appear to be right: (Turn these stones into bread, everyone hast to eat)
- D. His temptation may appear to be an act of faith: (Cast thyself down) (It is written)
 1. The lesson learned and the fruit:

- a. Overcoming temptation produces Godly power: **Luke 4:14** “And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee:”

III. The Valley Of Fear: I Samuel 17

- A. There may be a giant in your life, that you are afraid of: **I Samuel 17:24** “And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid.”
- B. Slay the giant and the lesser problems will flee: v.51 “Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled.”
- C. God’s grace and word are still effective: v.40 “And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook,”
 - 1. The lesson learned and the fruit:
 - a. Faith overcomes fear: v.48 “And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hasted, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.”
 - 1. Is there not a cause to fight:

Let's Grow Some More

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 6:11 Preached on 7-29-01 A.M.

I am convinced that verses ten and eleven deal with the growth, maturity, and fruit of a child of God. Verse ten primarily speaks of our Christian growth, and verse eleven the fruit we bear, but maturity and fruit bearing are inseparable in the Christian life. As the child of God develops in life, there will eventually appear the fruit also.

I Corinthians 13:11 "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

1. Establish a prayer life: **I Thessalonians 5:17**
"Pray without ceasing"
2. Live in a spirit of praise: **Psalms 149:1,2** "Praise ye the LORD. Sing unto the LORD a new song, *and* his praise in the congregation of saints. Let Israel rejoice in him that made him: let the children of Zion be joyful in their King."
3. Seek his power: **II Corinthians 12:9** "Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."
 - a. Men lead the home: (You must be in front)
 - b. Learn responsibility:

I want to mention a few areas that we are to grow in, then make the application.

1. Grow in grace: **II Peter 3:18** "But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him *be* glory both now and for ever. Amen."
 - a. The ability to love beyond our means:

2. Grow in knowledge: (Of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ)
 - a. The Savior:
 - b. The scriptures: **II Timothy 3:15** “And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”
 - c. The shepherd: **Psalm 23:1** “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.” (How he shepherds his flock)

3. Grow in faith: **II Thessalonians 1:3** “We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;” Illus. **Luke 5:4** “Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.”

I. Grow In Our Sight: Ephesians 1:18 “The eyes of your understanding being enlightened.” Illus. Elisha & his servant: **II Kings 4:16,17** “And he answered, Fear not: for they that *be* with us *are* more than they that *be* with them. ¹⁷And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain *was* full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.”

- A. He saw the hedge: (Horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha) **Psalm 34:7** “The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.” **Psalm 125:2** “As the mountains *are* round about Jerusalem, so the LORD *is* round about his people from henceforth even for ever.” (Illus. The wall of fire between Israel and the Egyptians in **Exodus 14**)

B. He saw the help: (Fear not; for they that be for us are more than they that be with them.)

Illus. Jonathan's great victory: **I Samuel 14:27**

"wherefore he put forth the end of the rod that was in his hand, and dipped it in an honeycomb, and put his hand to his mouth; and his eyes were enlightened."

C. He saw the victory: v.30 "How much more, if haply the people had eaten freely to day of the spoil of their enemies which they found? for had there not been now a much greater slaughter among the Philistines?"

II. Grow In Strength: Ephesians 3:16 "That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;" **Colossians 1:11** "Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;" Illus. Samson and the lion: **Judges 14:5,6** "Then went Samson down, and his father and his mother, to Timnath, and came to the vineyards of Timnath: and, behold, a young lion roared against him. ⁶And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and *he had* nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done."

A. Strength to slay the lions while they are young:

B. Slay the giants (David & Goliath)

III. Grow In Our Sacrifices: (Sacrifices for the word of God) Illus. Paul in **Philippians 4:18** "But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things *which were sent* from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God."

A. Sacrifice is acceptable to God:

B. Sacrifice abounds to others:

1. Offer our body: **Romans 12:1** “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service.*”
 - a. In righteousness: **Psalm 4:5** “Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the LORD.”
 - b. In joyfulness: **Psalm 27:6** “And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD.”

IV. Grow In Separation:

The Stirring Of The Soul Or Some Things That Stir Me Up

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 6:12
Preached on 7-29-01 P.M.

Verse twelve is somewhat difficult to interpret. We must first decide who is speaking, and then what is meant by the chariots of Amminadib. There is only a slight reference to Amminadib in the Bible, and there's nothing at all said about his chariots.

The word Ammi means my people; and the word nadib means willing. So the words together mean my willing people. Chariots in those days were used for war, but also swift travel. Now if these words were spoken by the church they indicate how suddenly her soul was stirred and how willingly she regarded to him, as he made examination of his garden in verse eleven.

Please notice how suddenly her soul was stirred, "**or ever I was aware, my soul made me like the chariots of Amminadib.**" Her soul moved suddenly and swiftly after him. His presence in the garden makes it fruitful, but his absence causes a winter season. His presence is as the returning spring, which renews the face of the earth, causes the flowers to appear above the ground, the pomegranates to bud, and the vines to put forth her tender grapes.

1. We are always stirred by what we think: **Psalm 39:3** "My heart was hot within me, while I was musing the fire burned: *then* spake I with my tongue,"
2. We are stirred by what we hear: Illus. **John 18:37,38** "Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause

came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth.”

3. We are stirred by what we see: Illus. John on Patmos **Revelation 1:17** “And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead.”
4. We are stirred by our experiences: Illus. The bride in the text.

Some Things That Stir Me Up

I. The Great Riches Of Christ’s Grace: Ephesians 1:7

“In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;”

A. He loves me, even with all my sin:

1. His nearness reveals my sin: (As we draw nigh to God he is like s mirror that reflects what we are)

a. We do not deny, fear, or run from our sin; we confess it:

B. He loves me in spite of myself: **Romans 7:24** “O wretched man that I am!”

C. He loves me when I’m unsuccessful: (Tried and failed)

II. A Godless Religion, That Denies Christ: (Illus. Paul

at Athens) **Acts 17:16** “Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry.”

A. He disputed with them: v.17 “Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the

devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him.”

1. In church and out of church:

B. He declared Christ unto them: v.23 “For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.”

1. He preached repentance: v.30 “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:” **(People today say don’t preach repentance, they won’t understand, “Paul did”)**

2. He preached regeneration:

3. He preached man’s responsibility: v.31 “Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by *that* man whom he hath ordained; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”

4. He preached the resurrection: v.31

III. The Grief In The Lives Of Others: Illus. Jesus & Lazarus **John 11:33** “When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled,” **11:35** “Jesus wept” **11:38** “Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave.”

- A. He comforted the weak: Illus. Martha v.23 “Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.” V.25 “Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:”
1. Comfort them by bearing their infirmities:
Romans 15:1 “We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.” Def. Bear: To lift or remove (carry their burden and ours if we can)
 2. He calmed their doubts and fears: v.37 ”
And some of them said, Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died?” v.39 “Take ye away the stone;” (He stinketh)
 3. He cured their broken: v.43 “Lazarus come forth” v.44 “Loose him, and let him go”

A Backslider Comes Home

Outline and notes in the Song Of Solomon Ch. 6:13 Preached on 8-5-01 A.M.

Chapter six closes with a divine invitation from our heavenly bridegroom. With a heart of mercy and forgiveness he invites his bride to return to her rightful place in the garden of fellowship. Apparently she accepted because **the book closes with the bride and the groom living in Holy harmony and fellowship.**

The words backslider is never used in the N.T. It is always used in reference to Israel, as a nation, when they would depart from God, and worship and serve the idols of the heathen. But individual Christians and whole congregations can become indifferent from the truth they once practiced.

Illus. The Prodigal Son in Luke 15:12-24 (Application)

1. He had been raised under his fathers care, in his fathers house:
2. He tried to live a spiritual life in a far country: Illus. Naomi (v.13 “He gathered all together – Those things the father had provided”)
3. He came to spiritual poverty: v.14-16
4. He was suddenly awakened: v.17
5. He returned to his father:
6. He was received with love, compassion, and blessing:
 - a. Robe:
 - b. Ring:
 - c. Shoes:
 - d. Fatted calf:

I want to say before I expound the verse, that in my opinion these verses are spoken in retrospect. The bride has already returned, but the Holy Spirit has given us a

glimpse of Christ's heart when his bride is absent from him.

Hosea 11:8 "How shall I give thee up, Ephraim? *how* shall I deliver thee, Israel? *how* shall I make thee as Admah? *how* shall I set thee as Zeboim? mine heart is turned within me, my repentings are kindled together."

Ezra 24:23 & 33:10 speaks of Israel pining (Pine) away because of their sin. (1.) Pine (2.) Perdition

I. The Danger Of Backsliding:

A. Drawing back unto perdition: **Hebrews 10:38,39**

"Now the just shall live by faith: but if *any man* draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.
³⁹But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul."

1. Saved people can draw back: (To withhold under) (To shrink) (To conceal)
2. Sinners can draw back unto perdition: (To suffer ruin or loss of both spiritual and eternal)

II. The Distance Between God And The Backslider:

(The repetition of the word return indicates the distance was great)

A. The prodigal went into a far country:

1. He was separated from the fathers fellowship:
2. He settled down in the hog pen:

B. Jonah took a voyage to the bottom of the sea:

Jonah 2:6 "I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars *was* about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God."

III. The Difficulty In Reconciling Backsliders: (The longer the absence the more difficult the return)

A. Departure from God is a downward motion: Illus.

Jonah in **Jonah 1:3** "Went down to Joppa" – **1:3**

“Went down into it (the ship)” – **1:5** “Went down into the sides of the ship” (These steps down were Jonah’s choice but the trip to the bottom was the Lord’s)

1. He refused godly instruction: (v.1 “arise, go to Nineveh”)
2. He regarded not the welfare of others:
 - a. The mariners (church)
3. He cost them the cargo they were carrying: v.5 (They cast forth their wares in to the sea to lighten the ship)
4. He remembered the Lord when he reached the bottom: v.27 “when my soul fainted within me, I remembered the Lord.”
 - a. The Lord showed mercy when he sent the wind and the whale:
 1. The wind of the Spirit:
 2. The whale was his deliverer: (He could have drowned (The Lord could let you drown))
 - b. The shipmaster knew where Jonah had hid himself: v.6 “so the shipmaster came to him”

IV. The Desire Of Christ For Renewed Fellowship:

(Each successive return is an indication of a longing heart)

- A. His earnestness: **Ezekiel 33:11** “turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?”
- B. His patience: **Romans 10:21** “But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.”
- C. His kindness: **Hosea 11:8** “How shall I give thee up, Ephraim? *how* shall I deliver thee, Israel? how shall I make thee as Admah? *how* shall I set thee as Zeboim? mine heart is turned within me, my repentings are kindled together.”

- D. His warning: **Galatians 5:1** “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.” **Galatians 5:7** “Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?” **Galatians 5:12** “I would they were even cut off which trouble you.”
- E. His forgiveness: **Isaiah 1:18** “Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”

V. The Delightful Welcome Received: (Anytime the Lord invites a backslider to return they can expect to be kindly received)

A. Her name implies:

1. Perfection: (She is still the perfect one, bearing Solomon’s name, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS)
2. Peaceful: (One who has been reconciled) Solomon is the peaceful or the peace giver: she the pacified or the peace receiver
“Justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The War That Rages On

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 6:13 Preached on 8-12-01 A.M.

There is no definite way of knowing for sure who spake these words, but it was more than likely the daughters of Jerusalem who ask the question; “What will ye see in the Shulamite?” And the bridegroom or the Lord Jesus who responds with; “As it were the company of two armies.”

These two armies are like the two hosts that Jacob saw in **Genesis 32:1,2**, one earthly, and one heavenly. Armies are prepared for war and neither side wants to lose. I believe that’s what we see in the Shulamite, two great warring armies. That spiritual man, which after Christ, is created in righteousness and holiness, and that earthly man that is yet corrupt, but awaits the promise of glorification and redemption.

We find this truth in various places here in Solomon’s song.

1. Chapter 1:5 “I am black but comely.”
2. Chapter 2:10 “My beloved spake, and said unto me, rise up my love, my fair one, and come away.”
3. Chapter 5:3 “I have put off my coat how shall I put it on.”
4. Chapter 5:2 “I sleep but my heart waketh”

I. The Terrible Conflict:

- A. The spirit and the flesh: **Galatians 5:17** “For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.” **Note:** The word listeth: This means to set the heart against. **Note:** The word Spirit is in capital letters. It is the Holy Spirit dwelling in us that is set against our flesh.

1. The weapons of the flesh:

- a. It enjoys pleasing self: (It is selfish)
- b. Pleasures: **Hebrews 11:24,25** “By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; ²⁵Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;”
- c. People: Illus. Amnon & Jonadab II
Samuel 13:3 “But Amnon had a friend, whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah David’s brother: and Jonadab was a very subtle man.”
 1. We must reckon ourselves dead to sin: **Romans 6:11** “Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Illus. Haman)
 2. Refuse to let sin reign in your body: **Romans 6:12** “Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.” (**Hebrews 12:4** “Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.”)

2. The weapons of the Spirit:

- a. The sword: **Ephesians 6:17** “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:”

- b. Self-denial: **I Corinthians 15:31** “I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.”

II. The Territory Conquered:

- A. The affections of the heart: **Joshua 24:15** “but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”
Illus. Elijah **I Kings 18:21** “And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, how long halt ye between two opinions? If the LORD *be* God, follow him: but if Baal, *then* follow him. And the people answered him not a word.”
- B. The aspirations of the soul: (A breathing often)
Psalms 42:1 “As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.”
- C. The activities of life:

III. The Treasure Captured:

- A. Peace of God:
- B. Prosperity in your spiritual life:
- C. Power of God:
- D. Praise:

IV. The Triumphant Consummation: I Corinthians 15:42 “So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:”