On Nov. 1, 1873: Joseph Glidden invented barbed wire.

**Reading: Luke. 21-22 Pasture: Luke 22:1-6**

**The Hidden Enemies**

*“And the chief priests and scribes sought how they might kill him; for they feared the people.” (Lk. 22:2)*

 The chief priests and scribes were openly enemies of Jesus. The real danger lay in the hidden enemy who would betray Him.

**The Concern**. I am convinced that just as among the apostles, in every Church today there are hidden enemies of Christ, masquerading as Christians.. These are ‘wolves in sheep’s clothing’, As Judas is mentioned as ‘being of the number of the twelve’, it is important to make the distinction that he was not actually of the twelve.

**The Covenant**. The Jewish leaders covenanted to give Judas money to betray the Lord at a time when the multitudes were not thronging around Him. This was important because they feared the tumult that would arise if He were arrested publicly. Judas of course, was concerned only about personal gain.

**The Convenience**. That is all Judas was waiting for now, a convenient time to betray the Lord. I believe that should persecution or trouble arise we would see Churches separate into factions; one made up of real Christians, and the other of hidden anti-Christs.

***Thought: “At the bottom of every Church problem, you’ll find a lost person.” William Quayle***

On Nov. 2, 1930: Haile Salassie was crowned the Christian emperor of Ethiopia.

**Reading: Luke. 23-24 Pasture: Luke 23:24-26**

**Compelled to Bear the Cross**

*“...they laid hold upon one Simon, a Cyrenian, ...and on him they laid the cross, that he might bear it after Jesus.”*

*(Luke 23:26)*

 Imagine, one compelled to bear the cross of Christ.

The Supposition. There is an interesting theory, although it is mere supposition, that Simon of Cyrene was a black man, a negro. Cyrene was next to Egypt, on the northern tip of the continent of Africa, and so it is possible, although the name Simon is pure Jewish. If this were true, then all three major races of mankind would have been present at the cross; the Jews (Shemites) who demanded His crucifixion, the Romans (Japhethites) who crucified him, and then the Cyrenian (Hamite) who bore the cross.

The Summons. Jesus did however say that if we would follow after Him we would have to take up our cross daily in order to do so. This cross of self-denial and self-sacrifice must be born by Christians if they are to be indeed, Christ-like as their name implies.

The Certainty. While we cannot substantiate the legend, we can say of a certainty that Jesus died for the whole world, regardless of race. Simon was compelled to bear Jesus’ cross on earth, but if he became a believer, it would be considered the greatest of honors throughout eternity to have done so.

Thought: Love of the Lord compels us to take up our cross and follow Him.

On Nov. 3, 1941: The US ambassador to Japan sent a warning that Japan planned to attack the US. It was unheeded.

**Reading: John 1-3 Pasture: John 2:23-25**

*“And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.”*

**He Knows What We Need**

 No one knows us as well as Jesus knows us. He knows what we need in each and every situation, and He supplies it.

**Physical Needs**. Jesus knows what we need. Did He not preach about that in the Sermon on the Mount? Did He not assure us in Matt. 6:33 that if we seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, that all the ’things’ we need would be given to us? The Lord may not give you all things you desire, but He will give you what you need, for He knows what is good for us. He fed the 5,000, He will feed you.

**Emotional Needs**. Didn’t Jesus always know when His disciples needed a lesson in faith? Didn’t He know when to encourage Peter to get out of the boat and walk on water? Didn’t He also know exactly what was needed to encourage a discouraged John the Baptist? So He knows what you and I need, too.

**Spiritual Needs**. Of course, most of all, He knows what we need spiritually. He knows when folks are religious but unredeemed. He knows the sin that needs to be confessed and forsaken. He knows you and me.

***Thought: God’s gifts are always perfect and according to our needs.***

On Nov. 30, 1864: The Battle of Franklin, south of Nashville, Tenn., was fought during the Civil War.

**Reading: 1 Cor. 9-11 Pasture: 1Cor. 9:1-9**

**Remarks About the Ministry**

*“Say I these things as a man? Or saith not the law the same also? (1Cor. 9:8)*

 Paul answered critics here and shared some interesting remarks about the ministry, and apostleship specifically..

**Regarding Ministry.** Paul gives the requirements for being an apostle. First and foremost one had to be called by the Lord to that specific office. (1Cor. 1:1) Secondly, one had to have seen the resurrected Lord. (1Cor. 9:1) There are, therefore, no modern day (or latter-day) apostles.

**Regarding Money**. It was certainly permissible for Paul and Barnabas to support themselves by outside work when necessary. (vs.7) They could also quit work and be supported by the ministry if they chose. (vs.6) The Church is a garden of sorts, and every man eats of his own garden. So, there is nothing wrong either way, except that a Church ought to do the best they can to take care of the Pastor. (vs.9)

**Regarding Matrimony.** We see here some of the apostles were married although unnamed. Peter is specifically spoken of as having a wife, as are the brothers of the Lord. (vs. 5) Marriage is an honorable institution and is totally appropriate for one ‘in the ministry’. In fact, I don’t know how I could ever function without a wife!

***Thought: The Bible speaks about things spiritual, and also about things practical and temporal.***

On Nov. 29, 1929: Richard E. Byrd radioed that he had made the 1st flight over the south pole.

**Reading: 1Cor. 5-8 Pasture: 1Cor. 6:12**

**Nothing Grows Where Anything Goes**

*“All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.” (1Cor. 6:12)*

 Once a person is saved, there is nothing he can do that would cause him to lose that salvation. However, that doesn’t mean he should do ‘all’ things.

**Lawful.** In strictly a legal sense, once we are adopted into God’s family, we are in His family forever. There is not provision for nullifying adoption in God’s economy. Therefore, nothing we do, say, or consume will keep us from Heaven.

**Helpful**. There are some things though, that are not helpful to the cause of Christ. Suppose we should drink alcohol for instance. Yes, if we are saved we will stay go to Heaven, but another person who perhaps hasn’t been saved may be, and probably will be, watching us. If they see such a contradiction in us, they may very well then refuse Christ. Such things may be lawful, but they are not convenient to Christ’s cause.

**Powerful**. Will I allow my lusts to control me, or will I control my lusts? This is the question that separates all the family of God into two camps; one is separated unto the Lord, the other is dedicated to still serving self.

***Thought: A strong man is one who is strong enough not to be brought under the power of addictions.***

On Nov. 4, 1842: Abraham Lincoln married Mary Todd; a melancholy match for both.

**Reading: John 4-5 Pasture: John 4: 1-42**

**The Woman at the Well**

*“And many more believed because of his own word.” (John 4:41)*

 Jesus gives us the perfect picture of soul-winning in this passage.

**He Preached to All.** The Samaritans and Jews had no dealings with each other. (vs. 9) Yet, when this Samaritan woman came to the well on which Jesus sat, He openly spoke to her, witnessed, and won her. There is no one to whom we should not witness; no one who is not ‘our kind’ or doesn’t need or deserve to hear the message of salvation.

**He Preserved His Testimony.** This woman had a rather questionable past. She had been married to five husbands and now was living openly with a man without the benefit of marriage. It is important to note that Jesus did not enter into her house, but met with her openly and publicly, thus keeping His testimony intact.

**He Purposed Going There.** Back in vs. 4 the passage tells us that Jesus ‘must needs go through Samaria.” This was true since Samaria was between Galilee and Judea, but I believe it was necessary for Jesus because He knew of people that needed the message of salvation. He stayed to days in that place and many believed on Him.

***Thought: You can never take the Gospel to the wrong address.***

On Nov. 5**,** 1639: The 1st colonial post office was established in Massachusetts.

**Reading: John 6-7 Pasture: John 6:60-69**

**The Hard Message!**

“*From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.” (John 6:66)*

**The Message That Divided.** The message Jesus preached in this chapter was really fundamental doctrine. It was nothing that should have upset folks, but it sure did! When Jesus openly asserted that He was Messiah, and as such was pictured by the manna from Heaven in the book of Exodus, and when He asserted that each individual needed to take Him into their own body, (Rev. 3:20) many left Him.

**The Men Faced a Decision**. (vs.67) Many had walked away. Now Jesus posed the question to the twelve, “Will ye also go away?” This is a question each of us must also answer. Will we follow society, or stay with the Savior?

**The Manifestation of Determination**. (vs. 68-69) Peter voiced the determination all the disciples had. They were going to stay with the Lord. Indeed, where could they go? Could they go back to their old lives before Jesus came? Could they ever find peace and contentment in the world again? No indeed; they would stay with the Lord for there was no where else to go.

***Thought: Of we are spiritually mature, we will not be offended as some are. We’ll stick with the Savior.***

On Nov. 28, 1942: Coffee rationing began and continued throughout World War II.

**Reading: 1Cor. 1-4 Pasture: 1Cor. 4:1-2**

**Our Position**

“Let a man so account of us…” (1Cor. 4:1a)

 When people take account of what we do for the Lord on this earth, there are three things they ought to be able to make note of.

 **Ministers**. A minister is in reality, a servant. Although we are sons by adoption, we are servants of Christ in responsibility. He is the Master, we are the slaves. Did He not purchase our life with His own? Do we not own Him our lives in return? We belong to Him. We are His slaves.

**Mysteries**. A Scriptural mystery is that which was not understood prior to Christ’s coming, but has been clearly manifested now after His advent. As His servants, we also are keepers of those mysteries. We can and ought to teach and explain them to others..

**Moreover**. ’Moreover, it is required in servants that a man be found faithful.’ Are we faithful servants who are obedient to follow His will as He reveals it in His Word? Remember, servants can’t choose what to obey, they must obey in entirety. Also, are we faithful to tell others about the heretofore mystery of salvation, now so clearly manifested through Christ’s coming? We ought to do so, for this is clearly our job.

**Thought: If someone else had to write a critique of my Christianity, what would their report say?**

On Nov. 27**,** 1901: The Army War College was established in Washington, D.C.

**Reading: Rom. 15-16 Pasture: Rom. 16:3-5**

**Paul’s Helpers in Christ Jesus**

*“Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus.” (Rom. 16:3)*

 Every Christian ought to strive to display the characteristics of Priscilla and Aquila.

**They Were Laborers**. In Acts 18:3 we see that Paul lived for a time with this precious couple, and worked with them for they all had learned the craft of tent-makers. A Godly person must not be a lazy person, but rather should be industrious. The two were certainly that.

**They Were Loving**. In Acts 18:25-26 we see that Apollos had a lacking in his theology. Priscilla and Aquilla did not mock or belittle him. Rather, they took him to themselves in what obviously was a loving manner, and then were able to complete his education in the Lord. You never get anywhere with mockery, but you get a long way with love.

**They Willing to Sacrifice Their Lives**. In our passage in Rom. 16:3-5 we note that this wonderful couple endangered themselves in order to aid Paul in his ministry. In a time when being a Christian was illegal, they established a house Church. (vs.5) Life must not be as dear to us as love of the Savior and love of His saints.

***Thought: Our role-models ought to be Godly people like these, not reprehensible reprobates.***

*You’ll find them in the Bible!*

On Nov. 6, 1861: Former US Secretary of War Jefferson Davis was elected president of the Confederacy.

**Reading: John 8-9 Pasture: John 9:1-7**

**The Light of the World**

*“As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” (John 9:5)*

 The main purpose behind the miracles of Jesus was to illustrate the great truths of God.

**An Obvious Lacking**. (vs.1-3) When the disciples asked Jesus whether this man or his parents had sinned to cause his blindness, it was a silly question. How could a man sin before birth? Or, why would God contradict His Word and cause the guilt of the parents to fall on the children? (see Dt. 24:16) The problem was not what had been done, it was what had not been done. Obviously, this man lacked something that would cause him to see; something no one in the world but God could supply.

**An Object Lesson.** (vs.4-6) When Jesus used His saliva and mixed it with soil, did He fashion actual eye balls, or lenses, or retinas for the man? We really don’t know, but we know He supplied what the man lacked. This was done to illustrate that Jesus is the ‘light’, the ability to see, in the world. Without Him, men are spiritually blind.

**Obedience Learned.** (vs.7) Jesus sent him to a specific place to wash. Only in obedience to Christ can there be cleansing. This illustrates our obedience to trust Him is our salvation. (Rom. 10:13) Our obedience to confess to Him is our cleansing. (1John 1:8-9)

Thought: “I was blind, but now I see.”

On Nov. 7, 1933: *Duck Soup*, a film by the Marx Brothers, was released.

**Reading: John 10-11 Pasture: John 10:1-5**

**The Voice of a Stranger**

*“And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of a stranger.” (John 10:5)*

 Many voices are clamoring for our attention. Be sure you listen to the right one.

**Victims**. Baptists are the number one group that cultists prey upon. I believe this is because so many Baptists don’t know what they believe, or Scripturally, what Baptist beliefs are based upon. Thus, they are enticed and led astray by strangers and become victims of the wolves who prey upon the flock of God.

**Versions**. Baptists who get involved with other versions of the Bible which are not based upon the *Textus Receptus,* are listening to the voices of strangers. Haven’t you noticed how wrong it sounds when we hear someone on T.V. read from a different version?

**Voice**. The original logo for R.C.A. Victor showed a dog listening to a phonograph because he recognized “His master’s voice’. That is what we need to listen for too. We don’t need to hear the voice of a stranger who will attempt to lead us away. We need to listen to our Master’s voice.

***Thought: When we listen for our Master’s voice, we will hear something truly worthwhile.***

*Your ear leads directly to your hear.*

On Nov. 26, 1942: Pres. Roosevelt ordered national gasoline rationing in World War II.

**Reading: Rom. 11-14 Pasture: Rom. 14:1-16**

**Individual Responsibility**

*“For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.” (Rom. 14:11)*

 I have noticed that many people cherish their independency, but don’t want to afford the same independency to others.

**Judging**. We read in vs. 4 that we ought to be a little hesitant to judge and take the responsibility to attempt to correct another. I think we all need to remember that the Holy Spirit is in control and He doesn’t need our help in bringing conviction to others. My job as a Pastor for instance, is to preach the Word; and His job is to do the convicting.

**Judiciousness**. We need to exercise judgment for our own lives, don’t we? In vs. 5 we read, “...Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.” It is a big enough task for us to make sure ***we*** are right in following the Bible closely. Let God take care of controlling others.

**Judgment.** As we read in vs. 11, we all will make our own confession to God. Firm preaching on Biblical principles and precepts is good and a must for God called Preachers to do. If God should rebuke someone through another man, it will be through the Pastor. (1Tim. 4:2) He Preaches; God does the convicting.

***Thought: God is able to establish justice without our help.***

On Nov. 25, 1963: The body of Pres. Kennedy was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery.

**Reading: Rom. 8-10 Pasture: Rom. 8:14-18**

**No Fear**

*“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear: but ye have received the Spirit of adoption…”*

*(Rom. 8:15a)*

 It is because we have been adopted into God’s own family that we need have no fear.

**Of the Potentate**. God is the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, and we know we must all day stand before Him. However, we need have no fear of Him. Oh, we fear Him in the sense of reverential respect, but we do not cower before Him because we fear condemnation. No indeed, for in the courtroom of our God, our defense attorney, the presiding Judge and the Jury are one in the same. They are our own Heavenly Father! (John 1:12)

**Of the Prophesies.** We know this world is going to endure great tribulation. We however, need have no fear of that time when the wrath of God is unleashed on the planet in an attempt to turn Israel to God., for we are not appointed to wrath. (1Thess. 5:9) According to Scripture, we will be gone before the day of Tribulation ever comes. (see 1Thess. 5:1-9)

**Of Poverty.** We may experience some little want in this life, however, God will always provide for His own. (Ps. 37:25) In eternity, we are joint-heirs with Christ, and will never know want again.

***Thought: I need have no fear, “For thou art with me”.***

On Nov. 8, 1731: Ben Franklin organized the 1st circulating library in America.

**Reading: John 12-13 Pasture: John 12:43-48**

**Jesus Warned Us!**

*“And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.” (John 12:47)*

 In His 1st advent, Jesus came not as the Judge of the Word, but as the Suffering Savior. It will be different next time.

**The Testimony**. (vs.44-45) This lesson is one the Pharisees didn’t quite grasp. They thought they could reject Jesus and still love and serve God. Jesus was saying here that the Godhead is one and inseparable. To believe Him is to believe God, to reject Him is to reject God.

**The Truth**. (vs. 46) Jesus came to give light to the earth. In eternity, it will be as it was in the opening days of Creation. Jesus will be the light and we will have no need of the sun. The light He gives us today is truth. It is the light that illuminates the Word and gives us understanding of the principles of truth.

**The Trial.** (vs. 47-48) In the Judgment, Jesus will condemn no one, the Word will do that. No doubt, one question will be asked. “Did not God provide according to John 3:16?” The only answer is, of course, “Yes.” Then to have rejected Jesus means the refusal to have accepted His rescue will result in condemnation.

***Thought: Jesus will condemn no one; they will have condemned themselves by refusing the Word. (John 3:18-19)***

On Nov. 9, 1906: Theodore Roosevelt became the 1st President to visit outside the US while in office.

**Reading: John 14-16 Pasture: John 14:1-6**

**El Camino Real**

**(The King’s Highway)**

*“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”*

*(John 14:6)*

 I always love to alliterate messages, but I could not think of how to do it with this passage in English, so I thought I’d try it in the basis of English, Latin. Bear with me, and I still think you’ll enjoy it.

**Via**. We plan our routes using this term. For instance, I might go west ‘via’ either I-40 or Route 66. The only route to the Father is the person of Jesus Christ. Regardless of sincerity, there is no other way.

**Veritas**. Jesus often said, “Verily, verily, I say unto you.” Verily means “truly’, and comes from this Latin word. Jesus not only speaks the truth, but He is the truth. He, the living Word is truth even as the Bible, the written Word, is truth. (John 17:17)

**Vita**. Here again we recognize this word as the basis for ‘vitality’ meaning ‘life’. With Him we will live forever. Without Him, there is really no life at all; just an existence in this world. Do you know Him who is the way, the truth, and the life?

***Thought: To Know Him is to know the way, the truth, and the life.***

*The King’s Highway leads ever upward.*

On Nov. 24, 1963: Jack Ruby shot and mortally wounded Lee Harvey Oswald, assassin of Pres. Kennedy.

**Reading: Rom. 4-7 Pasture: Rom. 5:1-11**

**Justification**

*“Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Rom. 5:1)*

 Being justified means we are made to be: ***Just*** as ***if I’d*** never sinned.”

**Justified.** We, of course, are all sinners. The Bible concludes clearly that the whole world is in condemnation because of sin, and all are sinners. (Rom. 3:23) However, we are justified through Christ. That is, through His vicarious sacrifice, we are made anew, as if we had never sinned at all. We are straightened out and brought into line, even as the text on your computer is by use of the ‘justify’ button.

**Joy**. Vs. 11 recounts that we have joy. We can joy in our benefits, we can joy in our tribulations. We will of course, know a little sorrow in this life, but we look forward with joy to the security we have now and will know forever in Him.

**Jesus**. The only vehicle to procure this justification is Jesus. I can remember as a typing student many years ago, I would attempt to count the letters in every line and attempt to ‘justify’ my typing myself. I never was able to do this. Now, I trust in the ‘justify’ button and it is done for me. Isn’t that a good illustration of what Jesus does for us? We don’t justify ourselves; indeed we will fail if we try. We must trust in Him to justify us.

***Thought: One who is justified need never fear justice.***

On Nov. 23, 1889: The 1st jukebox was introduced in San Francisco.

Reading: Rom. 1-3 Pasture: Rom. 1:18-32

**The Downward Steps of Degeneracy**

 Degeneracy is a progressive, downward spiral of behavior. The history of mankind reveals it to be so.

**Revelation**. There is no excuse for not believing in God. God has revealed Himself in a general way through His creation. (vs. 19-20) How can anyone see the complexity of life and deny the existence of an intelligent Creator?

**Rebellion**. In Vs. 21-25 we see that when people reject the evidence of God’s revelation, they next step is open rebellion against Him. Being filled with selfish pride, mankind creates how own gods. Many today worship power, prestige, and pleasure. Most of all they elevate themselves. This sort of rebellion caused the first idol worship of birds and beasts, (Vs.23) and continues today in idol worship of sports heroes, and stars of film and stage.

**Reprobates.** The final step of degradation is found in homosexuality. Elevated to a matter of civil rights, this moral wrong is both prevalent and protected in our country today.

***Thought: We have reached the bottom. May God help us now to look up!***

On Nov. 10, 1885: Paul Daimler test drove his father’s new invention, the motorcycle.

**Reading: John 17-18 Pasture: John 18:1-13**

**When They Came for Jesus**

*“Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons.” (John 18:3)*

 When they came to arrest Jesus, the events there in the garden were interesting, indeed.

**They Were Confused.** Vs. 4-6 assure us that when Jesus identified Himself, the arresters ‘fell backward to the ground.” This may have been a fulfillment of a prophecy in Psalm 27:2. At any rate, the men evidently wished they were anywhere but here.

**The Cutting**. (Vs. 10) I really can’t blame Peter. He loved the Lord with all his heart and could only think of defending His beloved friend when He was attacked. Some have thought that Peter was merely reacting in fear. At any rate, he drew his sword and used it.

**The Correction**. (Vs.11) I always am quick to remind folks that Peter was never censured for having a sword, only for using it inappropriately. Jesus had come for this very purpose. Peter knew this, but tried to intervene anyway. Defense is not wrong, but in this case a higher purpose was in play. There was an atonement that needed to be made.

***Thought: I would like to think that I would rush to Jesus’ defense as quickly as He would rush to mine.***

On Nov. 11, 1647: Massachusetts passed the 1st compulsory school law in America.

**Reading: John 19-21 Pasture: John 20:11-14**

**An Angelic Question**

*“And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou?” (John 20:13a)*

 Two special angels were there at that great resurrection morning, with a special question for Mary.

**Their Identity**. Of course, the specific identities of these angels is not given, but I have an assumption to share, or a guess to make, call it what you will. I believe one was Gabriel, the messenger who had announced Jesus’ birth, (Luke 1:26-37) and the other Michael, the special arch-angel whose special province is the protection of Israel. (Dan. 12:1)

**Their Inquiry**. These two angels could not, I am convinced, understand why Mary was weeping. Had not the Lord assured them He would rise the 3rd day? Was His body not absent from the tomb demonstrating that very thing? Why was she not filled with joy instead of sorrow? I think they just could not understand her lack of faith.

**Their Introduction**. Their question only served as an introduction of course, to the resurrected Lord who was behind her. All of us go through periods when our faith is small and weak. Then, when we gain reassurance of His power we rejoice even more greatly in His presence.

***Thought: Angels who live with Christ, do not understand why we don’t have confidence in Christ.***

On Nov. 22, 1247: Robin of Locksley, (Robin Hood) died at a convent in Kirk lees, Yorkshire, England.

**Reading: Acts 24-26 Pasture: Acts 26:31-32**

**If**

*“Then said Agrippa unto Festus, This man might have been set at liberty, if he had not appealed unto Caesar.” (Acts 26:32)*

 I believe under the directing hand of God, He leads us one way or another in the right paths.

**The Appeal**. If Paul had not appealed to Caesar, Agrippa maintained he might have been set free. Well, that might have been the case, however I think it would have been no time at all until the Jews would have trumped up some other charge against him and he would have been in trouble again. It was God’s time for Paul to be a testimony.

**The Adoption**. The truth is, when we are adopted into God’s family, the Lord is in control of our lives. As Psalm 23 so aptly puts it, ”The Lord is my shepherd... He leadeth me…” He led Paul every step of the way, ensuring that His purpose for Paul’s life would be fulfilled.

**The Accounting**. Take account of the remainder of Paul’s life. If he had not appealed to Caesar, there would be people he traveled with and met with who would have remained unsaved. The great majority of the New Testament epistles would not have been written. On the whole, it was a good thing Paul had appealed to Caesar and not been set at liberty.

***Thought: “All things work together for good to them that love God...the called according to His purpose.” (Ro. 8:28)***

On Nov. 21, 1789: North Carolina became the 12th state to ratify the US Constitution.

**Reading: Acts 23-25 Pasture: Acts 24:1-9**

**The Accusations of Tertullus**

*“For we have found this man a pestilent fellow, and a mover of sedition among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes.”*

*(Acts 24:5)*

 No one is opposed to religion per se, but is opposed to Christianity. Tertullus’ accusations show us why.

**Pestilent**. Society deems us to be pests. They don’t want us knocking on their doors. They don’t want us to be vocal in proclaiming the need for repentance and faith. They don’t mind us worshipping in our own way as long as they don’t have to be exposed to it. They stand for freedom from religion, not of it.

**Partitioning.** Society believes that Christianity divides people. As Paul was accused of sedition, of plotting to divide people against the status quo, he was accused accurately. People have to make a choice, and we try to acquaint them of that fact.

**Participants**. Finally, Paul was charged with being a ringleader in the new Christian movement. Guilty again. If you were charged with openly being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?

***Thought: The world is always going to be aligned against the Lord’s Kingdom.***

On Nov. 12, 1920: Judge Kennesaw Mountain Landis was elected as the 1st Commissioner of Baseball.

**Reading: Acts 1-3 Pasture: Acts 1:6-8**

**Don’t Neglect the Job**

*“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)*

 The Lord gave the local Church a great commission. In this passage and Matt. 28:16-20 and Mark 16:14-18, we see the job we must not neglect.

**It Takes Sincerity**. The job we have is an important one. We are to reach the dying world with the living Gospel. The task Jesus gave us was not impossible, but it is going to take Churches that are serious and sincere about doing the task assigned by the Lord.

**It Is Simple.** The job is not complex. All we have to do is to be a witness, telling everyone what Christ has done for us, and so what He can do for them. A witness has to observe first hand in order to testify. When we have experienced the power of God we are prepared to get on with the task and testify for Him.

**It Is Simultaneous**. “Both” meaning at the same time, we are to be witnesses in our city, (our Jerusalem) and in the surrounding countryside, (our Judaea), in the rest of our nation, (our Samaria), and unto the uttermost parts of the earth. We can only do so through the medium of world-wide missions and our own efforts at witnessing.

***Thought: Don’t neglect the job. Take the Gospel across the water through giving to Missions, and across the street through your efforts at soul-winning visitation.***

On Sept. 13, 1895: The 1st canned pineapple from Hawaii appeared in the US.

**Reading: Acts 4-6 Pasture: Acts 4:13-21**

*“For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.” (Acts 4:20)*

 Witnesses tell what they themselves have seen and heard, don’t they?

**The Subpoena**. When someone is issued a subpoena, he must go into court and testify as to what he has actually seen and heard concerning a matter in question. Our subpoena is found in Acts 1:8.

**The Substance**. What have we seen and heard? The disciples had actually seen and heard Christ. We have seen Him at work in our lives, and heard His Word speak to our hearts in teaching and preaching. We have seen the changes God can make in us and so can make in others. It is to these things we must testify.

**The Speaking**. There is no such thing as a silent witness. We need to be willing to stand up and be counted on the side of Christ. We must be willing at any time and place to give an answer concerning the faith that is in us.

***Thought: Are you ready to take the witness stand?***

*We testify by sharing our faith with others.*

On Nov. 20, 1945: 24 Nazis went on trial for war crimes at Nuremburg, Germany.

**Reading: Acts 21-22 Pasture: Acts 21:10-14**

**Content with God’s Will**

*“And when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, The will of the Lord be done.” (Acts 21:14)*

Just because we know that something is God’s Will, doesn’t mean we are always going to like it.

**The Prophesy.** (Vs. 10-11) This prophet, Agabus by name, could see what Paul was going to face at Jerusalem. In the same way Peter had tried to keep Jesus from harm, so Luke and his friends tried to keep Paul from harm.

**The Persuasion**. (Vs. 12) I am sure there were many arguments put forth that day. “Paul, it can’t be God’s will for you to go up to Jerusalem. We need you here. You are too valuable right where you are.” However, we cannot know God’s will for another person. Paul knew what God wanted him to do and he was ready to do it.

**The Peace**. (Vs. 14) I have heard people say that “God gave me peace about this or that decision”. However, God does not always indicate His will by giving us peace. But, when we do His will He always gives us peace afterward. I believe when they saw that Paul was at peace with his decision then they finally gave up and then experienced the peace of God also, and actually went up with him to Jerusalem. (Vs.15)

***Thought: We must learn to be content with God’s Will not only for ourselves, but also for our loved ones.***

On Nov. 19, 1969: Apollo 12 astronauts made the 2nd landing on the moon.

**Reading: Acts 19-20 Pasture: Acts 19:13-17**

**The Vagabond Jews**

*“And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?” (Acts 19:15)*

**Practitioners**. These ‘vagabond Jews’ were unsettled men who wandered from place to place practicing exorcisms and the like for money. They were not nobodies, but were the sons of one of the Chief Priests. They remind one of many modern TV evangelists who also have money as their primary motive.

**Presumption.** Having heard of the power of Christ and the power of Paul, they presumed to make use of the same. It frightens me to hear some modernists commanding God to do this or that, and pretending to heal in Jesus’ name. They are likewise, setting themselves up for a fall.

**Punishment.** This has always seemed a little humorous to me, that these prideful men were punished for their presumption by the same evil spirit they presumed to be able to cast out.

***Thought: As the people learned in Ephesus, one cannot presume to use the power of Christ until and unless you know Christ and have Christ.***

*The Holy Spirit is our source of power.*

On Nov. 14, 1881: Charles Guiteau went on trial for the assassination of Pres. Garfield.

**Reading: Acts 7-8 Pasture: Acts 8:1-8**

**Getting Going**

*“Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.” (Acts 8:4)*

God doesn’t cause bad things to happen to us, but He uses even bad things to accomplish good.

**The Purpose**. God had not saved the disciples to sit and relax in Jerusalem. He had commanded them to wait only until they were given power. This was done in Acts 2 at Pentecost. Now however, they were still sitting on their blessed assurance in Jerusalem waiting, and waiting, and waiting.

**The Persecution**. Stephen was killed. This signaled the start of a great persecution of that first local Church in Jerusalem. So severe was it that people were scattered everywhere, and as they went they fulfilled the Great Commission and preached.

**The Preaching.** Just one instance is seen when Philip conducted a great revival among the Samaritans. Out of the great sorrow of the persecutions, came great joy and the preaching and resulting conversion of many.

***Thought: God takes bad situations and turns them around for good.***

*When we cry ‘Help” to God, sometimes He sends us to help others.*

On Nov. 15, 1492: Christopher Columbus noted the use of tobacco by the Indians in his journal.

**Reading: Acts 9-10 Pasture: Acts 9:10-20**

**A Task for Ananias**

*“And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus; for, behold, he prayeth.” (Acts 9:11)*

 Have you ever been prompted to talk to someone about the Lord who you don’t think is, ‘your kind of person?’

**The Call**. God spoke to Ananias and told him to go and seek Saul. He didn’t ask him if it would be convenient, He gave Ananias his orders and expected to be obeyed. This is the same way God treats us.

**Not Comfortable..** Ananias was not comfortable with this task. After all, he had heard some terrible stories, (mostly true) about Saul and his persecution of Christians. Not all situations in which we are called on to witness for God are going to be comfortable. Sometimes we will have to cast discretion aside to do our duty.

**The Care.** However, once assured of God’s Will, Ananias obeyed and did what he was told, when he was told, and how he was told. Ananias is not often regarded as a great man. However, if he had not been faithful to obey God, there might never have been a Paul.

***Thought: The obedience we display to God’s commands can result in great blessings; perhaps not through our efforts, but through those of another.***

On Nov. 18, 1626: The new Basilica of St. Peter was consecrated in Rome at the Vatican.

**Reading: Acts 17-18 Pasture: Acts 17:22-33**

**Changing the Direction of Devotions**

*“...Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.” (Acts 17:23b)*

 Paul was careful not to belittle or mock the devotions of the heathen. Rather, he began where they were and then told them of Christ.

**Devotions**. Many people are devoutly religious, but lost. We will never get anywhere by mocking their error except to make them angry and more determined not to listen. Like Paul, we ought to be kind and courteous, and complete the faith they want so badly to have.

**Declare**. At the same time, we must, again like Paul, openly declare God and His plan. We also don’t get any where by ‘pussy footing’ around. When you are making a visit for the Lord, be kind, but openly declare what you are there for and get it done.

**Decisions**. Not everyone that heard Paul was converted to the Lord. Indeed, as Vs. 32 tells us, some mocked him. However, there were some that were touched enough to consider the truth of what he told them. That is all we can ever hope for.

***Thought: Never mock someone’s beliefs. Instead, begin where they are and preach Jesus***.

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*When you knock on someone’s door, remember what you are there for.*

On Nov. 17, 1869: The Suez Canal was officially opened.

**Reading: Acts 14-16 Pasture: Acts 14:21-28**

**The Other Side of Missions**

*“And thence sailed to Antioch, from whence they had been recommended to the grace of God for the work which they fulfilled.” (Acts 14:27)*

 After deputation is finished, then comes the doing of the missionary work. But, isn’t there then something else that remains to be done to fulfill missionary pattern?

**The Exercise.** Preachers must exercise their spiritual gifts. This is the primary duty of any one in the ministry, and especially true of Pastors and Missionaries. Paul and Barnabas did that very thing in vs. 21.

**The Exhorting**. In addition, they established Churches, ordained Pastors, and exhorted them to continue in the faith they had learned. Churches established mean ground is gained for the Kingdom in the war with Satan.

**The Explanations.** Then finally, Paul and Barnabas came home. For a long time they stayed in Antioch, their sponsoring Church, and reported all that God had done in their ministry. This is the other side of Missions that is often forgotten. Returning home and reporting to a sponsoring Church is not an interruption of ministry, it is an integral facet of it.

***Thought: Both the Church and the Missionaries were refreshed by their furlough home. This is God’s plan.***

On Nov. 16, 1907: Oklahoma became the 46th and best state of the Union.

**Reading: Acts 11-13 Pasture: Acts 13:1-3**

*“And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.” (Acts 13:3)*

 In this short passage we see an encapsulated doctrine of New Testament missions.

**The Candidates**. Notice in vs. 1-2a that the men who were candidates worthy of the Lord’s consideration for missions work were already busy in the local Church. God will always ask a busy person to do His work, for a busy person will get it done. He will never call someone who is ‘sitting on his blessed assurance’ to do anything, for he will only make excuses as to why he can’t obey.

**The Call**. The call did not come from the Church, but from the Holy Spirit. We may not think those whom God calls are the right men for the job, but they are for God calls them. Of all these busy teachers and preachers, God chose Barnabas and Saul.

**The Commissioning**. After the Lord had indicated His call on their lives, the local Church commissioned these men through the ceremony of ‘laying on of hands’. This signified a transfer of authority, so these men, sent out by their Church, could Scripturally exercise the Great Commission and start other Churches.

***Thought: Nowhere in the Scripture do we see any other method for ‘making missionaries’ than this one.***