

The Rock House Church
July 9, 2017

Today GOD IS MY
"Focal Point"

HIS WORD IS LIFE

A.W. Tozer said,

"God never negotiates with men! Jesus Christ's death on the cross put an end to any kind of negotiations. It is now God's word in its entirety or nothing."

You Choose Life or Death:

As for me and my house we choose Life; WE take His Word; His Entire Word!
They are Love, Hope, Peace--They are Life.

TODAY'S TRUE STATEMENT: I am a Christian because: **First, I Believe that Jesus** took my sin on His Cross; ***Christ is happening in me***: **Secondly I Believe Jesus set me** free from my past—totally free; ***Christ is happening in me***: and **Thirdly I believe my God Father gave** me His Holy Spirit to teach me about Him, to show how to live rightly before Him and the Power, His Power to accomplish every task He sets before me; ***Christ is happening in me*** ; **Lastly, I Believe Jesus Christ is** my Hope, for my today and my forevermore. He, **Jesus my Redeemer, my King, my Best Friend living in me---changing my everything! Christ is LIVING in me!!!** I Believe Jesus Christ is everything to me.

TODAY'S VERSE: **Proverbs 2:6-7** *For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity. Guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints.*

Mark 10:46 *Then they came to Jericho. And as He was leaving Jericho with His disciples and a large crowd, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the road. When he heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, (our Messiah) have mercy on me!" Many were sternly telling him to be quiet, but he kept crying out all the more, "Son of David, (My Messiah) have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped and said, "Call him here." So they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take courage, stand up! He is calling for you." Throwing aside his cloak, he jumped up and came to Jesus. And answering him, Jesus said, "**What do you want Me to do for you?**" And the blind man said to Him, "**Rabboni,**(Aramaic--Master; Lord; Messiah) **I want to regain my sight!**" And Jesus said to him, "**Go; your faith has made you well.**" Immediately he regained his sight and began following Him on the road.*

JUST THINKING: Is this like our conversion? Jesus comes by us; we cry out to Jesus in our lost and needy state; Jesus asks, "**What would you want Me to do for you?**" Our reply is 'to be saved or delivered or healed'; Jesus response is "**Go; your faith has made you whole.**"; our response---immediately, leave all and follow Him; worship Him.

Compare this with Mark 10:17-22 Jesus said: "**One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.**" But at these words he was saddened, and he went away grieving, for he was one who owned much property.

C. S. Lewis: "There will be a time when it will be too late then to choose your side. Now, today, this moment, is our chance to choose the right side. God is holding back to give us that chance. It will not last forever. We must take it or leave it.

Every time you make a choice you are turning the central part of you, the part of you that chooses, into something a little different from what it was before. And taking your life as a whole, with all your innumerable choices, all your life long you are slowly turning this central thing either into a heavenly creature or into a hellish creature: either into a creature that is in harmony with God, and with other creatures, and with itself, or else into one that is in a state of war and hatred with God, and with its fellow-creatures, and with itself. To be the one kind of creature is heaven: that is, it is joy and peace and knowledge and power. To be the other means madness, horror, idiocy, rage, impotence, and eternal loneliness. Each of us at each moment is progressing to the one state or the other.

TODAY'S QUESTION: Atmosphere change: How do you change the atmosphere around you?

1) anticipate the next _____; 2) worrying about their next _____; 3) imagining results before _____

OR: 1) Realizing that God is in control of _____ 2) You can't but He can change _____ 3) He is interested in everything you do and everything that is happening to you, only He can change my _____. Psalm 73:21-28 When my heart was embittered And I was pierced within, Then I was senseless and ignorant; I was *like* a beast before You. Nevertheless I am continually with You; You have taken hold of my right hand. With Your counsel You will guide me, And afterward receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven *but* You? And besides You, I desire nothing on earth. ²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail, But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. For, behold, those who are far from You will perish; You have destroyed all those who are unfaithful to You. But as for me, the nearness of God is my good; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, That I may tell of all Your works

We were in the car with all or most of our grandkids, maybe 5 or 6, and they were fussing in the back. I was very hot and sticky from picking strawberries and didn't need all the stuff that I was hearing from the back seats. From somewhere deep inside of me, and to this day I don't know where or why---I said in a very deep voice: "MEAT BALL!"

There was a short silence---then my oldest granddaughter asks, "Grandpapa, what was that all about?" "I mean," and she tried to repeat it the same way I had said it, "MEAT BALL?" Everybody laughed.

There was an immediate change in the atmosphere in the car as all the fussing stopped as the kids tried to say "MEAT BALL" like Grandpapa had just said.

To this very day, "Meat Ball" is a phrase or a reminder of something better can happen if the atmosphere around us could change.

Seek MY Face Today and watch your "Atmosphere" Change---

TODAY'S THINKING: Changing your atmosphere: Forgetting not: 1) who I am; 2) what Jesus has done for me (thankful heart); 3) my greatest treasure is knowing Him; 4) I abandon everything and worship Him; 5) His presence increases, as distraction decrease; 6) Seeing the Spiritual side of life first—changes my attitude, my perspective on every situation I am in(He changes the atmosphere around me).

Spurgeon said it this way— [Psalm 103:2](#)"Forget not all His benefits."

"It is a delightful and profitable occupation to mark the hand of God in the lives of ancient saints, and to observe His goodness in delivering them, His mercy in pardoning them, and His faithfulness in keeping His covenant with them. But would it not be even more interesting and profitable for us to remark the hand of God in our own lives? Ought we not to look upon our own history as being at least as full of God, as full of His goodness and of His truth, as much a proof of His faithfulness and veracity, as the lives of any of the saints who have gone before? We do our Lord an injustice when we suppose that He wrought all His mighty acts, and showed Himself strong for those in the early time, but does not perform wonders or lay bare His arm for the saints who are now upon the earth. Let us review our own lives. Surely in these we may discover some happy incidents, refreshing to ourselves and glorifying to our God.

Have you had no *deliverances*? Have you passed through no rivers, supported by the divine presence? Have you walked through no fires unharmed? Have you had no *manifestations*? Have you had no choice *favors*? The God who gave Solomon the desire of his heart, hath He never listened to you and answered your requests? That God of lavish bounty of whom David sang, "Who satisfies your mouth with good things," has He never satiated *you* with abundance? Have you never been made to lie down in green pastures? Have you never been led by the still waters? Surely the goodness of God has been the same to us as to the saints of old. Let us, then, weave His mercies into a song. Let us take the pure gold of thankfulness, and the jewels of praise and make them into another crown for the head of Jesus. Let our souls give forth music as sweet and as exhilarating as came from David's harp, while we praise the Lord whose mercy endures forever."

STILL THINKING: Three words for us to consider this week: Boldness, Unity and Freedom.

1: BOLDNESS: Risk takers, or pioneer spirit verses safety and settler spirit. Go into all the world and make disciples---Matt. 28:18 Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

What He is saying here is that His authority was won on Calvary and Living Resurrection Power is the evidence that He gives to us---Go in His Authority, Power and confidence.

Mark 16:15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. ¹⁶He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

¹⁷These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly *poison*, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

¹⁹So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. ²⁰And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed.

His authority was won on Calvary and Living Resurrection Power is the evidence that He gives to us---Go in His Authority, His Power and with confidence. Step out and pray for the hurting, the sick, the lost; get in a passion to be used for the Kingdom. Boldness.

2: UNITY: [Condition of being one; harmony; singleness of mind]John 17:22-24 Jesus praying for us: *"The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world."*

Ephesians 4:1-6;11-16 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. *There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all---*

And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, ¹²for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵but speaking the truth in love, ¹⁶we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

3: FREEDOM: [Jeremiah 17:9](#) The heart is deceitful than all else, it is desperately sick, who can know it? [Galatians 5:1&13](#) It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

[Romans 8:1-11](#) Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God *did*: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and *as an offering* for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, ⁷ because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so*, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. ¹⁰ If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. ¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. ([Romans 8:21](#); [1 Peter 2:16](#))

[Psalm 132:2](#) I will bow down toward Your holy temple And give thanks to Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word according to all Your name.

TODAY'S ENCOURAGEMENT: *"Hear My Voice calling you----never lose sight of the glorious work that I am calling you to do. Don't let anything entice you or distract you from the path of miracle-working with Me. My Holy Spirit will guide you one day at a time so don't anticipate My Gifts or your problems by thinking about tomorrow. I Am your Light, take a deep breath, the way—My way will open before you.*

For now---be full of My Joy, let every smile, every act of kindness, everything you do, do from My Spirit of JOY."

TODAY'S HUMOR: The preacher, in his Sunday sermon, used "Forgive Your Enemies" as his subject. After a long sermon, he asked how many were willing to forgive their enemies. About half held up their hands. Not satisfied he harangued for another twenty minutes and repeated his question. This time he received a response of eighty percent. Still unsatisfied, he lectured for fifteen minutes and repeated his question. With all thoughts now on Sunday dinner, all responded except one elderly lady in the rear.

"Ms. Jones, are you not willing to forgive your enemies?"

"I don't have any."

"Ms. Jones, that is very unusual. How old are you?"

"Ninety-three."

"Ms. Jones, please come down in front and tell the congregation how a person can live to ninety-three and not have an enemy in the world."

The little sweetheart of a lady teetered down the aisle, very slowly turned around & said: "It's easy. I just outlived them all!"

TODAY'S QUOTE: "The key to mining is digging. The key to prayer is praying." - Adam Stadtmiller