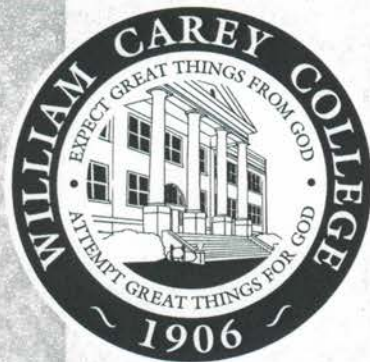


The **CAREY PULPIT**

*In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus...
I give you this charge: Preach the word
(2 Timothy 4:1-2a).*



A Ministry of the Cooper School
of Missions and Biblical Studies
William Carey College
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EDUCATION AND CHURCH RELATIONS 2003-04 REPORT WILLIAM CAREY COLLEGE

William Carey College is dedicated to encouraging students to reach their highest potential, to providing an environment for quality academic programs, and to strengthening our relationship with Baptist churches, associations and conventions. The following report briefly highlights a few of our accomplishments this past year.

Carey students were able to mature in their leadership skills and in understanding the need to serve both locally and globally. Through the Baptist Student Union programs, our students were able to receive invaluable ministry experience from opportunities in area churches. For example, students participated in Disciple Now evangelistic teams, revival teams, fine arts ministries, nursing home visitation teams, and Fifth Quarters (evangelistic youth programs after football games). These teams ministered in over 46 Southern Baptist churches and Mississippi Baptist associations. International mission trips were taken to remote villages in Mexico, China, and Russia. Home mission ventures were taken to New York and to surrounding areas in Hattiesburg. In addition to these trips, students participated in various forms of mission service both in the continental United States and around the world (Canada, London, Asia, and Africa). Over \$4,200 was raised to support these mission endeavors. To add to these achievements, other mission trips were conducted by various campus departments to Chile, Brazil, Mali, and Korea.

The college continues to serve the needs of Mississippi Baptist ministers. Through the Cooper School of Missions and Biblical Studies, opportunities for completion of degrees in religion are offered. The college gives priority to enlisting and preparing Southern Baptist men and women who have made a public commitment to enter into full-time Christian ministry. Last year the college provided over 190 church-related vocation students with scholarships. As well as degree offerings, the college also sponsored the Mississippi Baptist Convention Annual Winter Bible Study preview. In addition to this, the Cooper School of Missions and Biblical Studies continued the biannual publication of *The Carey Pulpit*. This periodical, developed to be a tool to assist ministers in sermon preparation, is sent free of charge to all pastors of Southern Baptist churches in Mississippi and in selected regions of Louisiana, Alabama and Florida.

The college was privileged to host the World Changers ministry teams and area church ministry teams this past summer. It was a delight to support our national Baptist constituency in this way. The college was honored this past year to have the opportunity to attend and to address thirteen fall associational meetings and to also attend the Mississippi Baptist Convention. It was a joy to take part in each of these events and to greet the alumni and the faithful supporters of William Carey College.

The college experienced many additional achievements this past year. Dr. Larry Kennedy, president, reported a record number of 1,415 alumni giving to the school. The college also had record student enrollments (over 2,700) for the fall, winter, and spring trimesters.

Alumni giving and enrollment records weren't the only blessings Carey experienced. In 1997 the college's long term debt was \$7.5 million. A balloon note of \$5.4 million was due in 2003. Because of the wise foresight of our trustees and our president, Carey prepaid \$3.7 million on the balloon note and only had to refinance \$1.9 million. The remaining debt should be eliminated in less than two years. Due to the monthly savings of this refinancing, five existing buildings are undergoing extensive exterior renovations (Fairchild Hall, Wilkes Hall, McMillan Building, Ross Hall, and Johnson Hall). Because of the increased enrollment in the School of Education and Psychology, a new education facility is under construction, the second building erected under Dr. Kennedy's presidency. This facility should be completed by December 2004.

The college is grateful to Mississippi Baptists for their generous support. Your prayers have been cherished and your contributions to the Convention through the Cooperative Program have been a sincere blessing in our continued efforts to serve our students. Thank you for your commitment to William Carey College.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel P. Caldwell

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ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE

1 Samuel 17:24-40

Introduction:

For over forty days (17:16) Goliath taunted the Israelites. No battles were fought—just taunting from the great giant. The warriors of Israel were frightened of him (17:24). Saul offered rewards of great riches, his daughter in marriage, and freedom to the family of the soldier who would fight the Philistine combatant (17:25). No one was willing to accept the king's offer, except for the young man David. His decision was met with several obstacles; however, David didn't permit any obstacles to hinder his service to God.

When we serve Christ individually and as a church, we will face obstacles. David provides us with an example of true commitment in serving God. Let's observe some of the obstacles David overcame.

I. David's First Obstacle Was Those Closest to Him (17:28-30).

- A. David went to check on his brothers. Eliab was the oldest of David's brothers and was the first to pass before Samuel when God directed him to go to the house of Jesse and anoint a new king over Israel (16:6). He accuses David of "getting out of his place."
- B. David was not alone in facing opposition from those closest to him as he attempted to serve God. Moses faced opposition from the Hebrews (Numbers 14:1-4). Jeremiah faced opposition from the people of his hometown (Jeremiah 11:21). Paul faced opposition from churches he helped to form (2 Corinthians 13:1-4). Even Jesus faced opposition from a disciple (Matthew 16:21-23).
- C. As we attempt to serve God, there will be times that we face opposition by those closest to us. David didn't allow this obstacle to hinder him from service.

II. David's Second Obstacle Was Conventional Means (17:33-40).

- A. Saul was probably both amazed and amused by David's courage. A mere young man, no combat skills, coming to him and telling him that his servant will go and fight with this Philistine. Saul told David that he was physically ill-equipped to battle Goliath. Could you imagine a king, a proven warrior in battle, telling you that you had no chance of defeating your foe?
- B. David insisted he had developed skills that would enable him to defeat the Philistine giant. Reluctantly, Saul gave him his helmet, his coat of mail, and his sword. Why did Saul give David his armor and weapon? Because these were the conventional items needed to engage in battle. Being fully armored and having a proven battle weapon was the conventional means of fighting. But David couldn't use them. Instead, he selected a few unconventional items and means of fighting the giant—a simple sling, some smooth stones, and no physical protection.
- C. As we attempt to serve God, there will be times that we face the opposition of conventional means—the status quo, the norm, or as we like to affectionately say, "We've never done it that way before." David didn't allow this obstacle to hinder him from serving God.

Conclusion:

Winston Churchill once said, "To every person there comes in their lifetime that special moment when they are figuratively tapped on the shoulder and offered the chance to do a special thing unique to them and fitted to their talents. What a tragedy if that moment finds them unprepared or unqualified for the work of which would be their finest hour." God had figuratively tapped David on the shoulder. David accepted the challenge and allowed no obstacle to hinder him from serving God. Will you accept the challenge of serving God today?

DON'T JUST STAND THERE

Acts 1:8-11

Introduction:

The disciples had witnessed the resurrection and now the ascension of Christ. They were immobilized, staring into the sky. Perhaps they didn't know what to do next. Or, perhaps they were thinking they could stand there and wait for Him to appear soon. Maybe some even thought of building an altar to remember this terrific moment.

In the Christian life, we are always tempted to just stand there. We are no threat to the evil one and his empire if we are standing still. Sadly, the Christian church is filled with people who love to hear the Word, but refuse to be doers of it (James 1:22).

The text today is perfectly clear—don't just stand there. Let's look at some reasons why we shouldn't be idle in service to God.

I. Don't Just Stand There Because God is Watching You (1:10-11).

- A. While the disciples were gazing into heaven, God was watching them. In fact, God sent messengers to remind them to stop looking and get busy with Christ's commission.
- B. Today, God is still watching. He is searching for those who are willing to be strongly used by Him (Isaiah 6:3; 2 Chronicles 16:9; Psalms 33:13).
- C. As humans we don't do what is expected as much as we do what is inspected.

II. Don't Just Stand There Because Christ is Coming Back Soon (1:11).

- A. Christ is coming back soon and He expects to find us working (see Matthew 25).
- B. We will be held accountable for what we did while on this earth. Each one of us will stand before the judgment seat of Christ to give an account of the deeds done in the body (2 Corinthians 5:10-11).

- C. There must be urgency in our life and our ministry. We should live each day as if it were our last opportunity to share Christ Jesus. We can't stand still, Christ is coming back soon, and there is work to be done.

III. Don't Just Stand There Because Jesus Commanded Us to Be Witnesses (1:8).

- A. He tells us to be His witnesses. Evangelism should be a natural overflow of our love relationship with Christ.
- B. We can't stand still because we have to take the Gospel to Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth.
- C. The F.A.C.T. of being a witness is that God is looking for Faithful, Available men, women, boys and girls who are keeping their lives Clean and are willing to Tell others of the Good News of Jesus Christ. Be faithful in going and witnessing; leave the results up to God.

Conclusion:

D.L. Moody told of a man crossing the Atlantic Ocean. The man was seasick and retired early to his cabin. Soon he heard the cry "man overboard." It was dark outside, and he felt he was too sick to do anything. He decided to remain where he was and pray that the sickness would pass. However, an inner compulsion would not let him rest. The man forced himself out of bed to do "what he could." He held his lantern out of the port hole, allowing his little light to shine in the darkness of the water. Soon the cry resounded throughout the ship "the man has been rescued." The next morning the man learned of the miraculous rescue. The rescued man stated, "At the moment I was about to drown, someone placed a lantern in their port hole window and the light shone on my hand. At that moment, the crew spotted me and pulled me to safety." Friend, don't just stand there idly anymore. Let us get about the business of "rescuing the perishing."

SIN IN THE CAMP

Joshua 7

Introduction:

It is easy to understand the Israelites' optimism in attacking Ai. God had defeated the mighty city of Jericho (see Joshua 6 for this account). Surely this little city would be no match for the Israelites. In fact, their confidence was so high that only 3000 men were sent to defeat this city. Instead of victory, the Israelites ran for their lives. The reason was because there was sin in the camp (Joshua 7:11).

Sadly, there is sin in our nation, sin in the Christian camp, sin in the Southern Baptist Convention. Moreover, there is sin in the local church. We must rid ourselves of the sin in the camp. Let's look at some reasons for removing the sin.

I. Your Sin Will be Discovered (7:21).

- A. Achan thought that no one would find out his sin; he had buried it under his tent. Who could possibly discover this "little sin"? Erroneously, we too think no one will learn of our sin.
- B. Perhaps you can hide your sin from other people (for awhile), but you cannot hide it from God. A holy God will not tolerate sin in the camp, and He will one day bring it to light (see Luke 12:3).
- C. Ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart and life and bring to light any sin that may be "hidden" (Psalms 139:23-24). Just a few of these sins are grumbling, bitterness, prejudices, dishonesty, lust, overeating, negativity, rebellion, gossiping, greed, envy, pride, immorality, pornography, and so forth.
- D. God tells us in Isaiah 1:15-17 that He will not hear the prayers of those who cherish sin. Is there sin in your camp?

II. Your Sin is Costly (7:21).

- A. Achan saw, coveted, and took. He probably reasoned that no one would ever know and he was receiving these treasures without a cost. The problem is that sin is never free. It always costs you much more than you can ever imagine. It cost Achan his respect in the community, all of his earthly possessions, the death of his sons, daughters, wife, and ultimately his own life.
- B. It cost the 36 valiant soldiers their lives (7:5). Try to tell their families that sin is not costly. It cost the Israelites their confidence and brought about confusion (7:5-7). It brought disgrace to the name of God (7:9). Don't tell the Israelites sin is not costly.
- C. Even today, sin is costly.

III. Repent Now (7:26).

- A. God, in His grace, may turn from the fierceness of His anger. Jesus has paid the price on Calvary for your sin. Repent of it today.
- B. God, in His grace, may spare your family from the humiliation, shame and trouble that continual disobedience will bring upon them.
- C. God is waiting for you to return to Him so that He can rid your camp of sin.

Conclusion:

I pray that the Holy Spirit will convict you of the sin in the camp. May this conviction lead to true repentance so that God will restore victory and power in your life.

HOW TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER

John 13:34-35

Introduction:

What does it mean to love? We use that word so loosely today. We say we love a strawberry pie, a coat or dress that someone is wearing, a good book, or a fine automobile. But what does it mean when Jesus says that we are to love one another?

Jesus Christ expressed this truth to His disciples in the intimacy of His last night with them. I believe if our churches are going to make an impact, it will be determined by the quality and depth of our love for one another. How can we love one another?

I. We Love One Another By Encouraging One Another.

- A. It seems that wherever we go we always find ourselves facing a word of discouragement. We go to work and someone is putting us down. We come home and someone is complaining. We go to church and someone doesn't like the way things are going. All around us there are those who offer words of discouragement.
- B. But Jesus did not command us to be discouraging. He commanded us to love one another. Perhaps what you need is an encouraging word from someone. Loving one another requires us to encourage each other.

II. We Love One Another By Bearing One Another's Burdens.

- A. I heard some time ago that "everybody has a problem, is a problem, or lives with one."
- B. Parents have burdens. Teenagers have burdens. Senior citizens have burdens. Pastors have burdens. We need to remind ourselves that all of us carry burdens and problems. Instead of talking about the problems of others, what we need to do is carry each other's burdens.

III. We Love One Another By Having a Forgiving Spirit.

- A. It is virtually impossible to be a member of a church and not get hurt along the way. Someone may have said something you didn't like. Maybe someone did something you did not agree with or let you down in some way. We can either become angry and bitter or we can choose to love and forgive one another.
- B. There was a novel that was turned into a movie about a husband and wife who went through some tragic experiences entitled *Love Story*. In that movie there was a line that said, "Love means never having to say you are sorry." Jesus' kind of love means you must always be willing to say "I am sorry."

IV. We Love One Another By Praying for One Another.

- A. Jesus said in His Word in Luke 6:28 that we are "to bless those who curse us, and pray for those who mistreat us." The Bible teaches us that love requires us to pray for those who curse and mistreat us. You see prayer may not change the person we pray for but when we pray, it changes how we feel about the person who has offended us.
- B. It does not surprise me that there are church members who would rather talk about other church members than pray for their fellow believers. The greatest thing we can do to enhance the fellowship of a church is to develop a capacity to love one another as Jesus did. That will happen when we begin praying for one another. It was Jesus who said, "By this all men will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another."

Conclusion:

What do you need to do to love someone in the way Jesus taught? Do you need to forgive someone? Do you need to carry a burden for someone? Do you need to encourage someone? Do it now!

WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW

I Corinthians 13

Introduction:

Several years ago singing sensation Dion Warwick sang, "What the world needs now is love sweet love." The world needs love, but not just any kind of love. The world needs God's love.

Many people don't know what God's love is. They believe love is only something you receive. I am sure there are people searching and reaching for someone to give them love. But God's love is not simply to be received. It is also to be given away.

Paul understood God's love. He described it in 1 Corinthians 13.

I. God's Love Communicates (13:1-3).

- A. Paul said that when love is expressed it communicates. There is no better way to express God's love than with the tongue. However, more love has been destroyed by the same tongue. The writer of Proverbs had it correct when he wrote, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue" (18:21). Love talks. Love communicates. Love speaks.
- B. I was in the home of a happily married couple and asked them the secret to their happy marriage. They said communication. They would arrive home from work at the same time, sit at the breakfast table drinking coffee, and talk about the details of their day.
- C. Paul said if he didn't speak or act with love, then he really had nothing and would gain nothing (13:2-3). Whether you are in the home or in the church, we need to be communicating God's love.

II. God's Love Excludes (13:4-6).

- A. God's love excludes jealousy and envy. Genuine love doesn't pout when one does not get his or her way. It doesn't go around with a chip on the shoulder. It doesn't manipulate. It doesn't act pushy. It doesn't cause one to fold their arms and have a sour face.

- B. God's love excludes acting unbecomingly. Love can be provoked; however, God's love endures. It puts up with uncomfortable things.
- C. God's love excludes taking into account a wrong. Through the years I have known people who have kept a record of all the wrongs that have occurred in their lives. But love doesn't do that. Someone said love should be a premature case of amnesia. It does not keep a record of wrongs.
- D. God's love does not rejoice in unrighteousness. When something bad happens to people or they experience ill fortune and fall flat on their face, love doesn't rejoice in that.

III. God's Love Dominates (13:7-8).

- A. God's love dominates because it is patient and kind. It has a long fuse. It goes a long way and responds to offense with patience and kindness. Love doesn't retaliate.
- B. God's love dominates because it rejoices in truth. It rejoices in the positive, good, and upbeat things of life. The Bible says the "truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). Love sets us free and enables us to become the person God wants us to be.

Conclusion:

Dion Warwick was right. What the world needs now is love. Not just any kind of love, but the kind of love that communicates and dominates. This kind of love can only come from Christ!

ARE YOU SURE?

I John 5:13-21

Introduction:

The poet and novelist, Rudyard Kipling, gave a speech on the English language. In the speech he commented that there were only two words in the English language that began with the letters "su" and were pronounced "shu." A woman in the audience wrote him a letter and said, "You are wrong, there is only one word of that sort—sugar." Some time later the lady received a note from Kipling. He wrote, "Dear Madam, are you quite sure? Cordially yours, Rudyard Kipling."

Are you sure? How many times have we been asked that question? In our postmodern society that question is becoming the mantra of the day. Can we know anything for sure?

The Apostle John, in his first epistle, used the word "know" 39 times. In fact, he even used the word eight times in the last part of the letter. In John's view there are many things we can know with surety.

I. We Can Know With Surety About Our Salvation (5:13).

A. Why do we need to know for sure about our salvation?

1. Knowing gives us peace to live.
2. Knowing gives us power to witness. If you are not sure if you can swim, you will never jump in to rescue a drowning person.

B. How can we know for sure about our salvation?

1. Because of the fact of the resurrection of Jesus.
2. Because of the faith that we place in Jesus.

II. We Can Know With Surety About the Power of Prayer (5:14-15).

A. John says that we know God will answer our prayers. The word "confidence" means "boldness." We can have boldness in our praying.

B. How can we have boldness?

1. We know that we have acceptance before the Father. Because we are a child of God, we are accepted by him.
2. We know that we have access through the Son. Because we are a child of God, we know we have access to the Father through Jesus.

III. We Can Know With Surety About Victory over Sin (5:18-19).

A. The unsaved are under the power and dominion of sin. Jesus said, "Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin" (John 8:34).

B. The Christian is liberated from sin through Christ.

1. Through Christ we are liberated from the power of sin (5:18).
2. Through Christ we are liberated from the power of Satan (5:18).
3. Through Christ we are liberated from the power of self (5:19).

IV. We Can Know With Surety About Who God Is (5:20-21).

A. The world says that all religions point to the same God, but the bible denies that statement.

B. John makes two assertions:

1. Jesus is the only true God (5:20).
2. Jesus is the only true way (5:20).

Conclusion:

In our postmodern society it is claimed that no one can be sure of anything. Yet the bible is clear that there are many things we can know. I'm sure. How about you?

THE CHRISTIAN OLYMPIAN

2 Timothy 2:5

Introduction:

Throughout the Bible the writers give us images that will help us to understand the Christian life. Christians are described as soldiers, ambassadors, salt, light, and branches to help us understand who we are in the Kingdom of God.

One of the images Paul gives to describe the Christian is the picture of an athlete. In Paul's mind the Olympic athlete was someone who gave everything he had to win. Paul's analogy is a powerful one when you consider how athletes prepare to compete in their sport.

Let's look at the analogy Paul made.

I. We Should Be Dedicated to our Task.

- A. An Olympic athlete is dedicated to his task.
 - 1. Athletes do not enter an event half-hearted about their task.
 - 2. Athletes do not enter an event uncertain about their task.
- B. Christians should be dedicated to their task.
 - 1. Christians should give 100% to their calling. Paul said, "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before" (Philippians 3:13).
 - 2. Christians should be clear on their calling.

II. We Should Be Disciplined in our Training.

- A. An Olympic athlete is dedicated to his training.
 - 1. Training occurs when no one is watching. As a teenager, Mohammed Ali belonged to two gyms where he trained morning and night. Tiger

Woods lifts weights religiously to keep in shape, even on days when he competes.

- 2. Training occurs regardless of schedule. Jerry Rice, who was breaking records at age 40 with the Oakland Raiders, goes to bed every night at 10:00 so that he can be in the gym early for training.

B. Christians should be dedicated in their training.

- 1. Christian disciplines take place when no one is watching. Praying, bible study, stewardship, fasting, and giving are all disciplines we must develop in solitude.
- 2. Christian disciplines take place regardless of schedule. Martin Luther stated that he was so busy he only had two hours a day to spend in prayer.

III. We Should Be Determined to Finish Well.

- A. How do we finish well? First, we should follow the established rules.
 - 1. In Paul's day athletes were people of honor. They would not even consider cheating to win and were sworn to keep the rules. Not only would they prepare themselves physically, but also morally.
 - 2. Many Christians have a brilliant start but because of immorality, they do not finish well. Paul said he did not want to be disqualified in his race.
- B. Secondly, we should guard against being distracted.
 - 1. Athletes that finish well remain focused on their purpose.
 - 2. Christians cannot be distracted by the things of the world and expect to finish well.

REFLECTING THE GLORY OF GOD

2 Corinthians 3:18

Introduction:

Whenever I go to my parent's home and began to tell them the crazy things their twelve-year-old grandson does, they just laugh. I'm there for comfort and understanding and all I get are their whimsical smiles and laughter. Dad and Mom both assure me that he is a "chip off the old block." In other words he isn't doing anything that their son (me) hasn't done. So I guess he's just a reflection of what I once was.

The writer reminds us that we are to be a reflection of God, and in particular of His glory. Each life that is being transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit is a reflection of God and His work. This demands that we reflect God's glory in ways that give evidence to those around that we are being changed. But how can we be a reflection of God's glory? We can reflect God's glory by demonstrating the following things.

I. Godliness, Not Circumstance, Guides Our Decisions.

- A. Satan often influences our circumstances.
 1. Think about the circumstances in the life of Job. He lost everything while friends and family offered little comfort.
 2. Think about the circumstances in the experience of Peter at Caesarea Philippi. He forbid Jesus not to go to Jerusalem (Matthew 16:22-23).
- B. Circumstances can guide our decisions. But what would happen if circumstances guided our every decision?

II. Perfection Is a Process, Not a Goal.

- A. If perfection is only a goal, then shortcuts will be taken. Remember that a man named Simon wanted to pay money to receive the ability to heal people (Acts 8:18).

- B. Shortcuts often have dire consequences later in life.
- C. Perfection is not a goal. It is a maturing process (Matthew 5:48).

III. Our Life, Not Our Possessions, Defines Who We Are.

- A. Possessions fade, rust, or can be taken away, but our relationship to God is eternal.
- B. Jesus told his followers to take up their cross and follow Him (John 14:16ff.).
- C. For the believer, heaven is our reward (John 14:1-7).

IV. We Are Available For Teachable Moments In Life.

- A. Every day with Jesus was a teachable moment for those who followed Him.
- B. Even today we must be ready to be taught through His Word.
- C. The lessons of life are often difficult, but our experiences can sometimes be our best teacher.

V. We Must Be Willing To Pay The Price.

- A. In sports we are told "No Pain, No Gain," and "Quitters never win and winners never quit." Paul applied these sayings to his life in Christ (Philippians 3:12-16).
- B. Paul said that nothing outside of Jesus mattered in his life (Philippians 3:8).
- C. In light of eternity, there is no price too high to pay.

Conclusion:

Do you reflect God's glory? Our children are a reflection of us as parents; shouldn't we reflect our Heavenly Father as well? We can and we should. As a matter of fact, we are a reflection of God, whether for better or worse. What kind of reflection are you?

WHAT GOD DOES IN THE WILDERNESS EXPERIENCES

Exodus 3:10; 14:13-18; 15:22-27

Introduction:

Abraham and Isaac, Joseph, Job, Jonah and Jesus each had a wilderness experience. For Abraham it was to sacrifice his son on a mountain. Joseph was sold into slavery by his own brothers because they were jealous of him. Job lost everything he possessed as the accuser (Satan) tried to get him to deny his faith in God. Jonah spent time in the belly of a great fish due to his rebellion. Jesus was tempted of Satan to satisfy His physical needs while in the wilderness.

One way or another we all go through wilderness experiences. It may be a physical problem, a family dispute, or career difficulty. We find ourselves feeling alone and wondering what God is doing. But we can take comfort that God works in the wilderness. Let's observe some of the ways God works in the wilderness experiences of life.

I. God Can Reveal His Plan in the Wilderness Experiences (3:10).

- A. Through the burning bush experience, God revealed to Moses the plan He had for him and His people. Moses is to lead the sons of Israel out of Egypt.
- B. Often in our wilderness experience God is prepared to reveal His plan to us. The problem is that sometimes we are so busy, He has a hard time getting our attention. For Moses it took a burning bush. How is God reaching out to you?
- C. We need to understand that God's ultimate plan is salvation. Sometimes God has to reach us in the wilderness experiences of our life to get our attention and reveal His plan. Are you ready for God to reveal His plan for you?

II. God Can Reveal His Power in the Wilderness Experiences (14:13-18).

- A. Once the Hebrews left Egypt, Pharaoh sent the chariots to pursue them. The Egyptians caught them at the water's edge. Fearing they would be killed, the people cried out to Moses. Moses told them to see the salvation of the Lord (14:13). It was at this dark moment in the wilderness that God revealed His power.
- B. Where in your life do you need to experience God's power? It could be that in the wilderness experience God is just waiting on you to reach out to Him so He can demonstrate just how powerful He is. Would you like to experience His power?

III. God Can Reveal His Provision in the Wilderness Experiences (15:22-27).

- A. In the beginning of chapter 15, the Hebrews are in spiritual ecstasy after the defeat of the Egyptians, but look at how they react to one bitter water hole at Marah. They murmured against Moses, and in turn, he cried out to God. God made the bitter waters sweet. It was at this bitter water hole God revealed His provision for His people.
- B. Sometimes it takes a bitter experience to see just how hard God is working on our behalf. Could you use God's provision?

Conclusion:

The loneliness, isolation and fear you may be experiencing today could be your wilderness experience. Perhaps at this time God is just waiting to reveal His plan, His power and His provision to you. Will you allow God to work in your life and reveal Himself in your wilderness experience?

LET'S DO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Acts 2:42-47

Introduction:

One of the leading pioneers of Sunday School work, the late Arthur Flake, said in *Building a Standard Sunday School*, "Pastors and superintendents are fast realizing that we have just been playing at the Sunday School business from the standpoint of reaching people." The best known plan to reach and disciple an individual is still our Sunday School. However, it is only when we realize the potential, and make Sunday School a priority, that we will achieve the plan.

We have the model for growing our Sunday School in Acts 2. The disciples organized the believers reached on Pentecost into what we know as the New Testament church. Our modern Sunday School is based on this model. Let's explore this passage and learn how vital Sunday School is to all aspects of ministry in the church.

I. It Is Vital for Bible Study (2:42).

- A. "They continued...." All of us need a consistent diet of rich bible study. The systematic plan of weekly bible study with a small group of like-minded believers will enrich and build their understanding of God's Word.
- B. "In the apostle's doctrine...." All of us need a better understanding of biblical truth. What better place than the Sunday School to impart life-changing truths.

II. It Is Vital for Christian Fellowship (2:42).

- A. The word *koinonia* from which we get our word "fellowship" means a common bond of faith. As followers of Christ, we become part of a body of believers delighting in His purpose.
- B. Every member of His church is important. Our common bond unites us in spirit. We develop and show compassion for all members of the body. This is more than "breaking of bread." We enjoy each other.

III. It Is Vital for Fruitful Ministry (2:44).

- A. Sunday School is a beginning place to discover opportunities for ministry in the church and community. Ministry needs will arise as classes begin to reach out.
- B. Since every believer is uniquely gifted for ministry, Sunday School can give them an opportunity to begin expressing and expanding their gifts. Every member of every class should be involved in some ministry of the church.

IV. It Is Vital for Dynamic Worship (2:46-47).

- A. A strong Sunday School builds anticipation for exciting worship. As God's Word is faithfully presented in Sunday School, we are prepared for enriching participation in corporate worship.
- B. "A sense of awe came upon every soul" (2:43). The New Testament believers understood a true sense of "reverence" because of their experience in the study of God's Word.

V. It Is Vital for Bold Evangelism (2:47).

- A. There was a wide variety of people assembled in Jerusalem on Pentecost. They were all looking for answers to their problems in life. People haven't changed. They still need answers, and Jesus is still the answer.
- B. "The Lord added to their number..." When we are fulfilling the five functions of a healthy Sunday School, God blesses.

Conclusion:

As we realize that we do not need new gimmicks or programs, we see the basic New Testament model still works. As we do the work of the Sunday School, God will be glorified, and His church will expand.

General Scholarships William Carey College 2004-2005

First-Time Freshmen and First-Time International Student Scholarships

	<u>ACT Composite</u>	<u>On-Campus</u>	<u>Off-Campus</u>
Trustee Scholarship	29 – above	\$6,000	\$4,000
Recipients must maintain an overall GPA of 3.25 and participate in the college honors program.			
Presidential Scholarship	25 - 28	\$5,000	\$3,500
Recipients must maintain an overall GPA of 3.0.			
Academic Scholarship	20 - 24	\$4,000	\$2,500
Recipients must maintain an overall GPA of 2.75.			
Opportunity Scholarship	18 - 19	\$3,000	\$1,500
Recipients must maintain an overall GPA of 2.5.			

Transfer Scholarships

	<u>Cumulative GPA</u>	<u>On-Campus</u>	<u>Off-Campus</u>
Presidential Scholarship	3.5 – above	\$5,000	\$3,500
Recipients must maintain an overall GPA of 3.0.			
Academic Scholarship	3.0 – 3.49	\$4,000	\$2,500
Recipients must maintain an overall GPA of 2.75.			
Opportunity Scholarship	2.5 – 2.99	\$3,000	\$1,500
Recipients must maintain an overall GPA of 2.5.			

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William Carey College

2004-2005

The church-related vocations scholarship could provide up to \$5,000 per year for eligible on-campus residents. Commuting students could be eligible for up to \$3,500 per year.

In order to be eligible to receive a church-related vocations scholarship, a student must:

1. Have an ACT composite score minimum of 18 and a high school transcript, or a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 on 15 semester hours from a college.
2. Be a current and active member of a church affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.
3. Have made a public commitment to a church-related vocation (ministry or missions) in a church affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.
4. Have a letter from the pastor stating that a public commitment to a church-related vocation was made or a copy of a license/ordination certificate.
5. Make application to the college and application for scholarships and grants.
6. Meet all admission requirements to the college.

Winter Bible Study Preview

Dr. Eugene Dobbs

Sponsored by

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Tuesday, September 21, 2004

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Kresge Room, Thomas Business Building
William Carey College
Hattiesburg Campus

Lunch will be provided.

For more information, call (800) 962-5991, ext. 115.



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