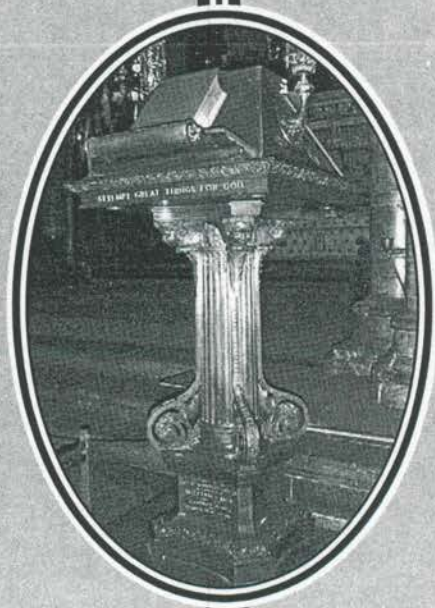


The CAREY PULPIT

*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 University
Hattiesburg, Mississippi
Vol. 27 • Fall 2008

Winter Bible Study Emphasis

Book of Exodus

Presented by Dr. Ivan Parke

Thursday, September 18, 2008

8:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Kresge Room

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



**WCU
Homecoming**



**Friday and Saturday,
April 17–18, 2009**

Details to follow.

**Southern Baptist
Convention**



**Louisville, Kentucky
WCU Alumni Reception**

June 23–24, 2009

Details to follow.

Known as "the Carey Lectern," the hand-carved pulpit shown on the cover stands in Westminster Abbey in London. It was presented to the abbey by the Baptist Missionary Society of Great Britain in 1949 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the BMS, which William Carey helped to establish. The lectern was donated as a tribute to the preaching ministry of Carey. The words of Carey's motto, "Expect great things from God," are seen by the speaker on the back of the top portion. "Attempt great things for God," is visible to the audience on the front. A dedication plaque at the base of the lectern states, "The gift of the Baptist Missionary Society in honour of William Carey, 1761–1834, missionary in India, translator of the Bible."

Table of Contents

William Carey University Education Report, 2007–08.....Page 2

Sermon by Daniel Caldwell

Dean, Cooper School of Missions and Biblical Studies • William Carey University

“Accepting the Challenge”Page 3

Sermons by Brian Cleveland

Instructor of Religion • William Carey University

“The Big Game”Page 4

“Responding to God”Page 5

Sermon by Ron Bird

Pastor • First Baptist Church, Fannin, MS

“Common Christianity”Page 6

Sermon by Joseph Bird

Student Ministry • First Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, MS

“Back to Biblical Preaching”Page 7

Sermon by Daniel Summerlin

Pastor • First Baptist Church, Paducah, KY

“Servants or Celebrities”Page 8

Sermon by Frankie Clark

Pastor • First Baptist Church, Ellisville, MS

“Wings of an Eagle”Page 9

Sermon by Phillip Price

Pastor • First Baptist Church, Leakesville, MS

“Avoiding the Me Trap”Page 10

Sermon by Jerrod McCabe

Interim Pastor • Thomas Hill Baptist Church, Beaumont, MS

“Leading God’s People to Victory”Page 11

William Carey University Scholarship Information 2008–09Page 12



William Carey University Education Report 2007–08

Christian education is a vital part of the mission program of Mississippi Baptists. William Carey University is keenly aware of our responsibility to provide quality academic programs within a caring Christian community. Our desire is to encourage students to reach their highest potential in scholarship, leadership, and service. We are also dedicated to strengthening our relationship with Baptist churches, associations, and conventions. The following report briefly highlights a few of our accomplishments during the past year.

Priority is given to mission involvement. William Carey University students, staff, and faculty annually participate in mission tours in the continental United States and overseas. This past year, teams were sent to minister in Atlanta and in Peru. Community missions were completed throughout the year at a local apartment complex with a focus on reaching children. In addition to these opportunities, 20 students served in summer missions at home and abroad. As a result of their efforts, around 300 evangelistic contacts were made, and 62 professions of faith were recorded.

A primary focus of William Carey University is to enlist and train men and women for a life of church-related vocations in America and around the world. Over 100 students received the Church-Related Vocations Scholarship, which is awarded by the university to Southern Baptist Convention students who have made a public declaration before their church to enter into full-time Christian ministry as a vocation. Qualifying students also received monthly aid from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board of Ministerial Education.

The student's training is not limited to the classroom. Practical involvement in ministry is needed. The university appreciates those who have mentored our ministerial students. Featured in this edition are sermon outlines by a mentor (Dr. Ron Bird) and his mentee (Joseph Bird).

The university is also concerned with the development of the student's spiritual life. The Baptist Student Union provides numerous opportunities for spiritual growth through on-campus bible studies, sending out ministry teams to area churches and associations, after-school programs in area apartment

complexes, and providing leadership training opportunities. Chapel programs are held each trimester on Monday mornings.

As a continuing service to Mississippi Baptist ministers, the Cooper School of Missions and Biblical Studies hosted the annual Mississippi Baptist Convention Winter Bible Study preview. Also, in conjunction with the Christian Ministries course, area ministers were invited to attend special sessions on church leadership and growth. These sessions were led by Steve Stone, Alan Woodward, Keith Gordon, Robin Nichols, and Dale Holloway. The *Carey Pulpit* was published and mailed free of charge to all Mississippi Baptist Convention churches, associational missions directors, and to others requesting an issue. This publication can be viewed online at http://www.wmcarey.edu/cms_2_0/media/8/24/_document/wcupulpitvol26.pdf.

New construction continues to take place on the Hattiesburg and Gulfport campuses. A new wing was added to the Fail School of Nursing. Ground-breaking ceremonies for phase one of the Tradition campus were held on April 7 with classes scheduled to begin in the fall of 2009. An addition to the Smith-Rouse Library began this summer and will increase the square footage space by 40 percent.

The William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine was officially established on March 3, 2008. Dr. Michael K. Murphy was named the founding dean of this program. Recruitment of the first class of 100 students begins in the fall of 2009, and classes are scheduled to begin in August of 2010.

Our achievements have been possible due to your prayers and due to your giving to the Cooperative Program. You are directly responsible for making a difference in the lives of our students. In turn they will make a difference in the lives of many others. Thank you for your continued support of William Carey University and Christian higher education.

Laborers together for Christ,

Dan Caldwell

ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE

1 Samuel 17:17-47

Introduction:

Winston Churchill had this to say about expecting and attempting: "In every person's lifetime comes 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."

David faced a moment like this with Goliath. For over 40 days Goliath taunted the Israelites, and the great warriors of Israel were frightened of him (17:24). Saul offered rewards of great riches, his daughter in marriage, and freedom from paying taxes to the family of the soldier who would fight the Philistine combatant (17:25). No one was willing to accept the challenge, except for David.

David's task was daunting. To make matters worse, accepting the challenge meant facing other obstacles. David faced and overcame all opposition to accomplish the task.

I. Accepting the Challenge Involves Facing Obstacles (17:28, 33).

- A. David's first obstacle was his own family, his oldest brother Eliab (17:28). Perhaps he was jealous of David's favor in the eyes of Samuel (16:6-7). Perhaps he thought David would tell their father what a coward his elder sons were. He accuses David of being "out of his element." He should be watching the sheep or completing some lesser chore.
- B. The second obstacle was his king (17:33). Saul was probably both amazed and amused by David's courage. A mere youth with no combat skills, coming to him and telling him your servant will go and fight with this Philistine (17:32b). Saul didn't think David was capable of dealing with the challenge.

- C. David was not the only one who faced obstacles. Moses dealt with a hard-hearted pharaoh and rebellious Hebrews. Amos dealt with a priest who thought he was out of his league. Jeremiah was threatened by his family and thrown into a cistern by the princes. Paul was whipped, stoned, and often ridiculed.

II. Accepting the Challenge Involves Depending Upon God (17:45-47).

- A. When Saul was convinced that David was serious, he helped David the only way he knew how. The young man was going to engage in battle; therefore, he needed battle gear. So sincere was his attempt to help that Saul offered David his own armor. This was the status quo, the norm, or the standard approach. But it just didn't work, and David declined the offer.
- B. The means David used to face the challenge of defeating Goliath was a stick, some rocks, and a leather pouch on a string—not your typical weapons of war. A young man, the baby of the family, a shepherd by trade, with no combat experience—not your typical soldier to fight the greatest warrior Israel faced.
- C. But David was ready to battle Goliath. Not just because of his staff, his sling, or his past encounters with the bear and the lion. He was ready because of his faith in the living God. David knew that God had been with him before in difficult times (17:37). He trusted that God would be with him in difficult times ahead.

Conclusion:

Whatever challenge you may face, trust in and depend upon God to help you accomplish the task.

THE BIG GAME

Ephesians 4:1-13

Introduction:

For some people, there are only two seasons per year: football season, and the rest. The apostle Paul often compared the Christian life to sporting events and training. We are locked in a battle, but it's more than a game. Each day we wake up, we contribute to our team's victory, or, by failing to do what we should, we hinder our team, which is the church. What can we learn from Ephesians 4 about what we ought to do, and how?

I. Get with the Program (4:1-2).

- A. When a new member of an NFL team shows up, the team showcases their history to new players. They want the player to work hard to help the team win for sake of team tradition.
- B. Paul reminds us that we do not exist for our own purpose or glory, but for God's purposes and His glory. We live to bring honor to Him who called us. Football players do it by their strength, speed, and athletic ability. We do it with humility, meekness, patience, and endurance, just as Jesus did.

II. Guard the Unity (4:3-6).

- A. Every football team is made up of different groups of players, each with its own assistant coach. But they all belong to the same team. When they win, they all win, and when they lose, they all lose.
- B. The church is the same. We are many different groups, but only one team. When one wins, we all win. When one suffers, we all suffer (1 Corinthians 12:26). We must learn to work together, and to guard the team against divisions, finger-pointing, and blaming.

III. Get in the Game (4:7-12).

- A. At a football game the crowd sees the coaches on the sidelines orchestrating the game by sending in the players and calling the plays. Regretfully, we

sometimes bring that mentality to worship and to the work of the church. We think everyone in the pews is the audience, the people up front are the players, and the Holy Spirit is the coach.

- B. When we come to worship or do the work of the church, we have an audience of one, God Himself. We do everything for Him. You are not the audience, but the players. You perform for God alone. Your ministers are the coaches; they lead you to worship and to perform the work of church.
- C. The job of the people in 4:11 is to prepare you for work of service, so the body of Christ might be built up. If you will not do the work, the body will not grow. We are not a football team, limited to 11 men on the field. We need everyone to get in the game. It's time for every Christian to get off the bench and play their part.

IV. Go for the Win (4:13).

- A. Good football teams are not made up of quitters. They will play hard all the way till the end. They work hard in practice and in the weight room, so they can reach their full potential and perhaps win a trophy.
- B. We cannot be quitters either, nor let up till our final whistle blows. Hebrews 10:24 says we need to push each other to do more, to reach our potential. True followers of Jesus push each other for the glory of God. We push each other to work for a crown of eternal life that will never rust.

Conclusion:

It's so easy to talk a good game when we sit in the pews. Jesus wants disciples who will be bold and lay it all on the line for Him. Are you ready? Will you give it all, for the Savior who gave His all for you?

RESPONDING TO GOD

Luke 1:5–15

Introduction:

You have heard it said, “If anything is too good to be true, it probably is.” Zacharias heard some good news, almost too good to be true. Too often we respond the same way Zacharias responded, even though we know God is good and nothing is too hard for the Lord.

Jews of the first century did not have a developed concept of everlasting life. They believed immortality came through one’s children and descendants. Because Zacharias and Elizabeth had no children, they suffered disappointment and humiliation. Since they were well-advanced in years, the situation looked hopeless.

I. God’s Answer to Prayer (1:8–17).

- A. Zacharias was a priest, a very religious person, yet he was surprised by the answer. He knew the history of how God answered the prayers of His people. Yet the years of disappointment had taken a toll on Zacharias and Elizabeth. They were not expecting God to answer their prayer for a child.
- B. Are we guilty of praying without expecting God to answer? Would we be surprised if God suddenly answered our prayer? Or have we lowered our prayers to match our expectations? Do we pray small so we won’t be disappointed?
- C. If we believe God can do the impossible, let’s pray for things only He can do—convicting us of sin, drawing us to repentance, and transforming our churches and communities.

II. Too Good to Be True! (1:18).

- A. Zacharias asked, “How shall I know this?” Sounds like an innocent question, but the angel saw that it was unbelief (1:20). Abraham responded in a similar

way to God’s promise (Gen. 17:17–19). So did his wife Sarah (Gen. 18:10–15).

- B. If an angel said to you, “Your prayer has been heard,” what would that mean for you? What is the “too good to be true” for which you have been praying?
 1. Perhaps you want to serve God, but you feel like you are too young, too old, or you do not have the education or experience to do something useful for God.
 2. Perhaps you are single, or single again, and you pray about being lonely.
- C. God is able to do the impossible, so we should never be afraid to ask.

III. There are consequences to our lack of unbelief (1:19–20).

- A. Zacharias would be mute until the child was named John.
 1. The royal officer who did not believe Elisha’s prophecy could not enjoy it (2 Kings 7).
 2. The people of Nazareth knew Jesus but did not believe in Him, so they did not see as many miracles of Jesus as others did (Mark 6:5–6).
- B. What are the consequences we face because of our unbelief? As a church, what does God want to do among us, but cannot do, because of our unbelief?

Conclusion:

Are you praying without expecting God to answer? God has promised you things that seem “too good to be true”—forgiveness, peace, strength—will you trust Him today? Are you experiencing the consequences of not trusting God? It’s not too late to return to Him and walk by faith.

COMMON CHRISTIANITY

Philippians 2:25

Introduction:

As Christians, what do we have in common with other Christians? Many believers would answer that question by saying they belong to the same church or denomination, they adhere to the same Bible, and they have received the same ordinances, such as baptism and the Lord's Supper.

In our text, Paul suggests that he had a deeper level of commonality with Epaphroditus than just mere outward affiliations and observances. Paul connected to Epaphroditus on a spiritual level that connects all of us together as Christians. Once Christians understand their common Christianity, then a deeper level of spiritual connectedness can be achieved with others. Paul relates three things he had in common with Epaphroditus on a spiritual level.

I. (As a Brother) They Share a Common Grace.

- A. Grace is the common denominator that all Christians have together. Paul said in Ephesians 2:8, "For by grace you have been saved...."
- B. The grace that all Christians share together is a grace that "transcends our past." Every believer has a past of some sort, and grace wipes that past away. Paul said in Ephesians 2:1, "And you were dead in your trespasses and sins." Grace transcends that sinful past and makes a person right with God.
- C. Christians also share together a grace that "transforms our present." The grace God uses to pardon a person's past can also be used to perfect a person's present. Paul said in II Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature...."
- D. All Christians share a common grace that cancels their past, and changes their present.

II. (As a Fellow Worker) They Seek a Common Goal.

- A. God has left Christians on this earth to be workers. Their main work involves planting, watering, and harvesting the Word of God in the lives of others. Paul said in I Corinthians 3:6, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth."
- B. Most Christians think to be a faithful witness it takes praying with someone to receive Christ. Sometimes we forget that for a harvest, it takes planting and watering a crop first. The same holds true in the spiritual realm. God can use Christians not only to reap the harvest of a soul, but also to plant the seeds of the gospel and to water those seeds through a personal testimony or an invitation to church.
- C. Christians should see themselves as fellow workers who have the common goal of sharing the gospel with others.

III. (As a Fellow Solider) They Stand a Common Ground.

- A. Christians are in the fight of their lives. Enemies abound such as the flesh, the world, and the devil. The old adage that there is strength in numbers is true. Christians should unite and realize that we need each other.
- B. Christians can not afford to back up, give up, or shut up in our fight against our enemies. The battle cry is to stand and not retreat. The common ground on which we stand is that the flesh is dethroned, the world is detached, and the devil is defeated. The Lord has equipped every Christian with everything needed to stand firm in this life and to be a good solider of Jesus Christ.

Conclusion:

Christians have a common Christianity. Christians together share a common grace, they seek a common goal, and they stand a common ground.

BACK TO BIBLICAL PREACHING

2 Timothy 4:1-5

Introduction:

The average pastor has many demands on his life in a given week. His responsibilities include things such as counseling, hospital visitation, shut-in ministry, and visiting new prospects. These ministries are needed, but time consuming. A pastor can easily be distracted and forget his main ministry, which is to teach and preach God's Word.

In our text, Paul encouraged his young protégé in the ministry, Timothy, to get back to biblical preaching, the main calling on his life. Paul urged Timothy to "Preach the word," in 2 Timothy 4:2. Pastors need to be reminded and encouraged that no ministry of the church should be neglected, but his main ministry is to pray, prepare, and preach God's Word. In the early church, a conflict arose about widows being neglected in the daily distribution of food. The apostles decided to appoint men to handle this matter, and they became the first deacons. The apostles then said, "But we will devote ourselves to prayer and the ministry of the word," Acts 6:4. Pastors must heed this same model today for successful ministry. Paul told Timothy three things on how to get back to biblical preaching.

I. Paul's "Charge" (4:1-2).

- A. Paul began by telling Timothy, "I solemnly charge you..." 2 Timothy 4:1. Paul's charge was "serious." Timothy was to understand that biblical preaching was a serious matter because eternity is at stake.
- B. Paul's charge to Timothy was also "specific." Timothy was to "Preach the word..." (2 Timothy 4:2). Paul understood that the power to change a life was contained in the Word of God. The Book of Hebrews states, "The word of God is living and active..." (Hebrews 4:12). The Spirit of God takes the living Word, as it is preached, and convicts and changes the life of those who will receive it.

- C. Paul's charge to Timothy to get back to biblical preaching is both serious and specific.

II. Paul's "Caution" (4:3-4).

- A. Paul cautioned Timothy that there would come a day when people no longer want to hear God's Word. They will exchange the "Word" for their "wants." Paul concluded that people will want their "ears tickled" (2 Timothy 4:3a). Instead of the Word of God penetrating the hearing to the heart, it would be watered down by teachers wanting the applause of men and not the approval of God (2 Timothy 4:3b).
- B. Paul also cautioned Timothy about a time when people would exchange "faith for fables." Truth would become twisted, and the result would be mere stories and myths (2 Timothy 4:4). Pastors are called not to tell stories, but to proclaim the Scriptures. God promised that "His Word would not return void..." (Isaiah 55:11). The Word is what God promised to bless; therefore, pastors should be prepared to preach it.

III. Paul's "Command" (4:5).

- A. Paul ended his appeal to Timothy with a command. The command centered not in disapproval, but desire. Paul deeply desired that his son in the faith would finish what God called him to do.
- B. Paul commanded Timothy to watch closely his ministry, endure trials, always spread the gospel, and finish his ministry without quitting (2 Timothy 4:5).

Conclusion:

Paul's appeal to Timothy is God's appeal to every pastor. As pastors, we have a charge from God to preach his Word, a caution to let nothing hinder us from this task, and a command to finish faithfully our ministry.

SERVANTS OR CELEBRITIES?

John 13:1–21

Introduction:

Apollo 15 astronauts, David R. Scott and James B. Irwin, were the focus of the world on July 30 through August 1, 1971, when they explored 17.4 miles of the moon’s surface. When they returned to earth, James Irwin concluded, “As I was returning to earth I realized that I was a servant—not a celebrity. So I am here as God’s servant on planet earth to share what I have experienced that others might know the glory of God.”

He was not a celebrity but a servant. That is exactly what God is looking for in the church—servants not celebrities. One of the best pictures of servanthood is of our Lord in the upper room during the passover meal. While the disciples were arguing about who was the greatest, Jesus arose and began to wash their feet. Here was our Lord washing the feet of his followers, like a common servant.

The key to being a servant is to be secure in who we are. Insecure people can never be servants because they are always concerned about their image and their status. Secure people can serve, because they know their identity. What security do we need to be servants?

I. We Need Security in Our Understanding of Our Position in God.

- A. Jesus was secure in His relationship with the Father.
- B. We need to be secure in our relationship with the Father.

II. We Need Security in Knowing Our Purpose for Living.

- A. Jesus was secure in His purpose. He knew that he came to live as a servant, and to die as our Savior.
- B. We need to be secure in knowing our purpose in living. Our purpose is to worship God through Christ and to serve Him. “We are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Eph. 2:10)

III. We Need Security in Trusting God’s Plan for Our Future.

- A. Jesus was secure in His future. He knew what was going to happen to Him and trusted the Father.
- B. We need to trust God’s plan for our future.
 - a. If we trust God’s plan for our future we can be servants, because we know that God is in control. If we can’t trust God, we begin trying to manipulate our lives and trying to make things happen instead of trusting God to fulfill His plan.
 - b. When you do not trust God with your future, you do not minister to people—you manipulate people.

IV. We Need Security in Following the Path of Obedience.

- A. Jesus was obedient to the Father in all things. Jesus constantly said that He did what the Father told him to do.
- B. We need to be obedient to the Father. How can we be obedient?
 - 1. We need to learn to sacrifice everything to God. Jesus did not have a fanfare when he began washing their feet, he simply did it.
 - 2. We need to learn to submit everything to God. By submitting everything to God we begin to take the initiative in serving others because God commanded it.

Conclusion:

One preacher said we must decide on our “Basin Theology.” Pilate took the basin and washed his hands of the whole affair because of selfishness. Jesus took the basin and washed the feet of the disciples. Which basin theology do you subscribe to? Is it the basin of service or the basin of selfishness?

MOUNTING UP ON EAGLE'S WINGS

Isaiah 40:27-31

Introduction:

William Barclay wrote, "Endurance is not just the ability to bear a hard thing, but to turn it into glory." Isaiah could understand these words. In chapters 1-39 a sad story is told of sin, judgment, and devastation. But Isaiah 40 was a turning point. In this chapter God begins to speak of their return and their future restoration as the people of God. Isaiah spoke of God's reassurance. What are the assurances that we have from God?

I. God Wants to Assure Us That There is No Other Like Him (40:27-29).

- A. It was the practice of idolatry that got Israel and Judah in trouble with God. They had fashioned their idols, creating the gods they claimed would protect them.
- B. We create gods of our own choosing as well. We divert our attention and adoration of God to other things or activities. The time we used to spend concentrating on God's Word, or worshiping God has been replaced by something else.

II. God Wants to Assure Us Strength Will Come When We Wait Upon Him.

- A. By this time, Isaiah's message was being preached to people who witnessed the destruction of the northern kingdom. Israel and Jerusalem had been besieged. In those circumstances, it is difficult to wait on anything. These people probably wanted an immediate solution. We are that way. We want immediate solutions to life's problems. Sometimes God wants us to wait upon Him. His timing is very different than ours. But God is never late!
- B. Shortly after Dallas Seminary opened in 1924, the school was facing bankruptcy. The founders of the school met that morning for prayer. Dr. Harry Ironside

began to pray, "Lord, we know that the cattle on a thousand hills belong to you. Please sell some of them and send us the money." While they prayed, a tall Texan walked into the outer office and said, "I just sold two boxcars of cattle and I believe God wants me to give this school the money." Dr. Lewis Chafer, the president, took the check and saw that the amount was for the exact sum of the debt. Turning to Dr. Ironside he said, "Harry, God sold the cattle." (*Stories from the Heart*, 272)

III. God Wants to Assure Us He Will Give Us Strength for the Journey.

- A. God knew that the experience of invasion, deportation, and captivity would not be a pleasant one. But the experience itself would serve to make the nation stronger and rid the nation of idolatry.
- B. Sometimes we wonder why God allows us to experience unpleasant things in life. The struggle can make us stronger.
- C. A man found himself fascinated with a butterfly cocoon. He gently protected the cocoon and carried it home. Finally, the cocoon began to shake. The man thought the butterfly would die from the struggle. He carefully made a slit in the cocoon. Almost immediately a wing appeared and then another. But the butterfly did not fly. Time passed and the insect would not fly. The man called a high school biology teacher. When he described how he had helped the butterfly by making the slit in the cocoon, he said, "Oh, that is the reason. The struggle is what gives the butterfly the strength to fly." (*Stories from the Heart*, 211)

Conclusion:

You can be assured that the omnipotent God will provide you with the needed strength to accomplish His will just as you need it.

Avoiding the Me Trap

Philippians 2:19-22

Introduction:

Christians are to be ruled by Jesus and not their self-interests. Benjamin Whichcote said, "None so empty as those full of themselves." An over emphasis on our wants and desires can lead us to be captured in a "Me" trap that thwarts our usefulness in the Kingdom of God. As Christians, we are called to be selfless. In his epistle to the Philippians, I believe Paul gave us three ways to avoid the "Me" trap.

I. Focus on the Needs of Others (2:19).

A. Selfless Christians make sacrifices for others.

1. When Paul stated he would send Timothy to the Philippians "shortly," he was, in reality, stating that Timothy would make a several weeks journey to be with them. A cursory examination of a map from Paul's day indicates that Rome was approximately 500 miles ("as the crow flies") from Philippi. However, the journey would encompass many more miles as Timothy would have to travel two to three times that distance, due to the geographic location of Rome and Philippi.
2. Paul and Timothy were focused on the needs of their fellow believers more than their own comfort.

B. Selfless Christians show interest in the welfare of others.

II. Find People Who Share Your Burden (2:20).

A. Selfless Christians understand the importance of ministering in unity.

1. Some translators state the phrase "no one like-minded" literally means "no one of equal soul." Paul must have been disappointed to discover no other ministers shared his burden for the Christians at Philippi.
2. Timothy had traveled with Paul to Philippi on the second missionary

journey when the church in Philippi was established. So, Timothy shared Paul's love and concern for this group of believers.

B. Selfless Christians help fellow believers fulfill God's purpose for their lives.

1. While Paul was awaiting his trial in Rome, Timothy was a great source of encouragement and companionship. However, he did not pressure Timothy to stay with him. He encouraged him to go.
2. Timothy loved Paul, but he wanted to see the ministry at Philippi thrive. So, he was willing to leave his friend and minister to the Philippians.

III. Follow the Example of Jesus (2:21-22).

A. Selfless Christians seek the interests of Christ.

1. Jesus placed the needs of others above His own. Similarly, Timothy was willing to make the affairs of the Philippian church his number one priority. He would make a long and tiring journey to Philippi. Also, once at his destination, he would encounter problems in the church, which would no doubt require patience and emotional stress to address.
2. Timothy demonstrated a self-less spirit, just like Jesus. He cared about the "things of Christ Jesus."

B. Selfless Christians exhibit lives of integrity.

Conclusion:

To determine if you have fallen into the "Me" trap, ask yourself these questions. How often do I use "I" language when talking to others? Do I give Jesus credit for successes in my speech? How often to I mention the name of Jesus in my conversations with others? While you may have accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you must avoid the "Me" trap by focusing on others, finding like-minded believers who share your burden for others, and following the example set by Christ.

LEADING GOD'S PEOPLE TO VICTORY

Joshua 6:1-11

Introduction:

I am reminded of the time when God placed a call on my life. I did not know what that call was at the time, but I knew that He had been speaking to my heart. What is God calling you to do for Him? Some may be called to be missionaries, some to be pastors, some to be youth ministers, and others to be strong laity in the church. In order to fulfill that call, we will be called upon to lead. "Lead what?" you ask. Lead God's people to victory.

Joshua was no different. He also had been called by God to lead His people to victory. You remember Joshua's call. The Lord told Joshua that He wanted him to lead His people into the Promised Land. As we can see from the text, God told Joshua how to lead His people to victory. He does so by giving Joshua some steps to follow. Let's look at the steps that God gives for victory.

I. The First Step is "Believing In God's Victory" (6:2).

- A. God instructed Joshua that the battle he was about to face with Jericho had already been won. Joshua had seen and experienced the miracle at the Jordan, and now he was going to have to trust that God would bring the people victory.
- B. We will face many Jerichos in our lives. We have to understand that whatever battle we are facing, as a church or as individuals, has already been won. What Jericho are you facing? Remember that God has given you the victory.

II. The Second Step is "Marching God's People" (6:3).

- A. Joshua was commanded to march the people around the city of Jericho. Marching is defined as walking in measured, regular, repeated steps. This is the most basic movement that is taught in the military. As we lead for God, we

need to be sure we doing the basics—visiting our people at home, having a quiet time, witnessing.

- B. Marching requires a cadence or rhythm. When I was in marching band, I played on the drum line. At the beginning of every show, I would lead the band onto the field with a cadence. As leaders we have to set the tempo. Where do we get our tempo? It comes from Christ leading us. If we are maintaining a close walk with the Lord, He will direct our feet.

III. The Final Step is "Centering God's Presence" (6:4-9).

- A. Something very important to the victory of God's people was the placement of the Ark. Joshua knew that the Ark represented the power and presence of God. Therefore, he chose to place it directly in the center.
- B. This is important to us because we too should place God's presence directly in the center of God's people. The key to victory is the placement of God in our lives. If He is in the center, we will always have victory.

Conclusion:

God told Joshua how to lead His people to victory. Joshua followed God's instructions, and the walls came tumbling down. We too should seek to follow God's instructions. I do not know what Jericho you may be facing in your life. If we follow His commands, we will have victory. I encourage you to respond to your call to victory!

Scholarship for Church-Related Vocations Students William Carey University 2008–2009

The church-related vocations scholarship could provide up to \$5,300 per year for eligible on-campus residents. Commuting students could be eligible for up to \$3,700 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 20 and a high school transcript, or a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 on 12 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 university.

General Scholarships William Carey University 2008–2009

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH-RELATED VOCATION (CRV) SCHOLARSHIPS

On-campus scholarship.....	Up to \$5,300
Off-campus scholarship	Up to \$3,700

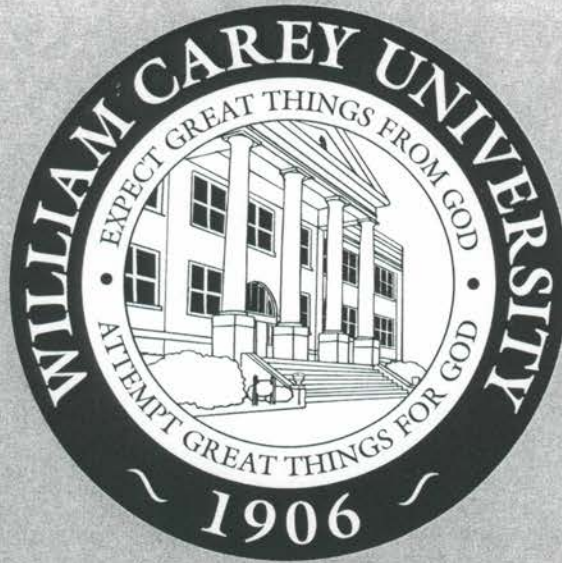
Recipients must have an ACT score of 20 or above and maintain an overall GPA of 2.0. An official letter from the pastor of a church stating that the student has made a public commitment to full-time ministry as a vocation is required to apply for the scholarship. A certificate of license or ordination may substitute for this letter. Southern Baptist CRV students may also apply to the Board of Ministerial Education of the Mississippi Baptist Convention for additional financial aid. This aid is applied for in a separate process through the School of Missions and Biblical Studies at William Carey University.

FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN AND FIRST-TIME INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

	<u>ACT Composite</u>	<u>On-Campus</u>	<u>Off-Campus</u>
Trustee Scholarship	28–above Recipients must maintain an overall GPA of 3.2.	\$6,300	\$4,200
Presidential Scholarship	25–27 Recipients must maintain an overall GPA of 3.0.	\$5,300	\$3,700
Academic Scholarship	21–24 Recipients must maintain an overall GPA of 2.75.	\$4,200	\$2,600
Opportunity Scholarship	20 Recipients must maintain an overall GPA of 2.5.	\$3,200	\$1,600

TRANSFER SCHOLARSHIPS

	<u>Cumulative GPA</u>	<u>On-Campus</u>	<u>Off-Campus</u>
Presidential Scholarship	3.5–above Recipients must maintain an overall GPA of 3.0.	\$5,300	\$3,700
Academic Scholarship	3.0–3.49 Recipients must maintain an overall GPA of 2.75.	\$4,200	\$2,600
Opportunity Scholarship	2.5–2.99 Recipients must maintain an overall GPA of 2.5.	\$3,200	\$1,600



Cooper School of Missions and Biblical Studies

WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY
498 Tuscan Avenue
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39401

**NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U. S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 248
Hattiesburg, MS**

Pastor
Mantee Baptist Church
PO Box 161
Mantee, MS 39751