

Unchanging Life Principles

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I. Introduction.

- A. Life is a mystery. (Proverbs 30:18)
- B. The wandering heart is one of those mysteries. (Exodus 32:8)
- C. The limitation of an unlimited Triune God is a mystery.
- D. The call to a life of faith is a mystery.
- E. The incarnation is a mystery.
- F. The power of the Word to break the human heart is a mystery. (Jeremiah 23:29)

II. How God broke the speaker's hard heart.

- A. The heart is broken by the power of the lamb. (Revelation 12:11)
- B. The speaker was gravely wounded during World War II.
- C. He began his spiritual journey after this and began reading the New Testament, particularly Romans 8:18, 28. He found that all things worked—even the bad—for a purpose.

III. Unchanging life principles.

- A. The road to peace with God can be long both in distance and in time with many people.
 - 1. The speaker led his father to Christ on his death bed after praying for him for seven years, which was a very long process for him. (Acts 16:31)
 - 2. The speaker was born in Salem, Oregon. Salem means “peace,” but he was a long way from peace.
- B. Man reaps all that he sows. (Job 10:14, Galatians 6:7, 1 Timothy 5:24, Proverbs 23:17)
 - 1. The speaker got into a bar fight and ended up in a hospital.
 - 2. Although not knowing the Bible, he knew something about it—that he was not living up to its standards.
- C. The small incidents in life are very important. (Luke 16:10)
 - 1. Some only think the big things are important.
 - 2. After a brawl in Australia, the speaker stole goods from a shoe repair man and began to see how wicked he was. (Psalm 119:67)

3. The speaker was shot in 1945. One of his friends was saved in the battle by “the miracle of the red socks.”

4. Enjoy the little things, for they are the things that count in life. It is the little foxes that destroy the vines.

D. All people come to the cross roads of life.

1. This is a decision to follow God or to go one’s own way.

2. God is trying to get your attention to do the right thing. (Proverbs 8:1-5)

3. There are four kinds of sinners that represent all mankind: the wanderer, the desperate one, the indulger and the adventurer. (Psalm 107)

4. Understanding where people are at will change your witness to better prepare people’s hearts for their crossroads.

E. God looks for men and women to show others the way.

1. God is out there recruiting continually. We are to stand in the gap—help the men in the trenches. (Ezekiel 22:30)

2. Under deep conviction of sin the speaker began to seek out God. He only knew the Lord’s prayer and the child’s prayer and so prayed them. He began reading a Gideon’s New Testament. He asked friends about God. He asked the chaplain about God. God used men and hoards of Gideons in his final conversion.

F. God looks upon the heart of men where man tends to look upon the outward appearance.

1. The speaker was rough on the outside as a young man and nobody would have known that he was a seeker of God.

2. While the speaker on the outside was rough, he was very sensitive to Christ in his heart. (1 Samuel 16:6-13)

3. There are few tickets to Tarshish but many to Nineveh.

G. The Word of God is the key to salvation. (1 Peter 1:23)

1. The speaker gave his life to Christ after seeing the life of Christ in the Word. (Psalm 107:20)

2. The Word of God is powerful.

H. The cross is God’s chosen instrument for salvation.

1. The written Word of God reveals the living Word who died on Calvary for man’s sins.

2. Paul disclaimed all earthly attainments in the power of the cross that he could know Christ. (Philippians 3:7-10, Galatians 6:14)

IV. Conclusion.

Application questions.

1. What forces were primarily at work in the speaker's life to bring him to a personal relationship with Christ?

2. What stood out to you about his testimony? Which principle was most meaningful to you? Explain.

3. What are you doing to share the gospel? List two things that you can do this week to position yourself to share the Good News. Be creative.
