

## HANDIWORK OF GOD SERIES

## GOD'S CREATURES FOLLOW HIS CALL

I am happy to be with you again this morning to continue speaking about the Handiwork of God.

In the Spring I walked out about daylight and heard a great chorus, The Mocking birds, the Robins, the Meadow larks, many other birds and the frogs. In late summer I have walked out after dark and after getting away from the house, I heard a great chorus. Do you know what it was? It was the crickets, the Katydids and the insects. I listened and thought to my self, they will be singing all night long. I walked out one Sunday morning before daylight and all was still and quiet, Why? Well the frogs had gone to the bottom of the pond, the Crickets and the Katydids knew what to do, where to go, Winter is coming. The birds song was stilled because they had flown South.

The# animals know the signs and the seasons. The harvest is past and the Summer is ended, as we read in Jeremiah 8:7 "The Stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times; and the turtle and the crane and the swallow observe the time of their coming. At the San Juan Capistrano mission in California, swallows have come there on March 19 and have left to winter in the South on October 23 for many years, seldom do they miss# those dates.

Jeremiah wrote."But my people know not the judgement of the Lord, The harvest is past the Summer is ended, and we are not saved." also in Ch 8:verse 22 He wrote:"Is there no balm in Gilead; is there no physician there? Why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered. What is he saying? He is saying even the animals know God's will and do it always, but people often do not.

Solomon wrote in the book of Proverbs 6:6-11 "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Whish having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Profideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest. How long wilt thou sleep O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep; So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man." You all know the fable of the ant and the grasshopper. The ant worked and stored up food all summer but the grasshopper only danced and sang. When winter came the ant had plenty of food and shelter but the poor grasshopper had nothing.

Now is the time for you and me to prepare for eternity. Jesus said , "Now is the accepted time, today is the day of salvation." Jeremiah felt the importance of this when he wrote in ch. 9:1 "Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people. " He is called the weeping prophet. We need more weeping prophets today. We that are Christians need to weep and pray over the sins of our loved ones and friends. We need to cry over the sins of our nation. We need to weep over the erring one, lift up the fallen, tell them of Jesus the mighty to save.

The animals know where to find safety but we as God's creation seem to ignore the seasons of the soul. If the frog ignored the season of winter and kept swimming in the pond instead of getting down in the mud in the bottom he would freeze to death. The frog hears the call and obeys, but my people hear and ignore the call to reperhtence and that it is time to seek the Lord. "Behold now is the accepted time, today is the day of salvation." Just as sure as the animals face death if they do not obey the call of nature. People who reject God's call will perish. Jeremiah realized this when he wrote, "Turn ye, turn ye, for why will ye die, oh house of Israel.

It is such a foolish thing for us to think we can# defy the laws of God. You cannot defy the law of gravity without suffering the consequences. I could say to myself while standing on top of a high building. I cannot see gravity, I cannot hear gravity, I cannot take hold of gravity so therefore I am not afraid of gravity. Just watch me step off this building and you will see that gravity will not hust me. If I do step off you all know what would happen. You see I have just defyed a law of God.

A person can say this sin business is just a lot of imagination, I don't believe it will hurt me. But if you ignore it and go ahead and sin you will find out the law of God is true that says, the soul that sinneth it must die, and the law of God that says, Be sure your sins will find you out.

Man has learned many of the laws God has in nature and carefully follows them. The law of sowing and reaping for example. In the winter the farmer plans for his fields. In the Spring he sows his seed He knows certain things are necessary, so much fertilizer, keeping out the weeds, sunshine and rain. He watches his crop grow, then comes time for harvest. He must not be careless about any of these important things or he will suffer loss. If he is faithful to observe these things one day the harvest will be past but it will all be safe in his barns.

God's laws concerning the souls of people are just as sure as the laws of the field. Psalms 126:5-6 says. "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." We must not be careless about the most important harvest of all. Jesus said. "Lift up your eyes and look on the fields for they are white already to harvest." He also said. I must work the works of Him that sent me while it is day, the night cometh when no man can work.

Two important needs come to my mind today. Number one, the need for Christians to weep and pray over the lost and Number two, the need for sinners to heed the call of God to follow Him and be saved.

The great wise king Solomon, wrote so many years ago so many important words of advise. He said we can learn from the little ant, consider her ways and be wise. The ants work together they help each other, they protect each other, they share what they have with each other, they plan for the future, they make the necessary preparation for the long winter, they are hard workers, they don't waste time. So Solomon says we should learn from them and make preparation for the future. Noah was a man that listened to God, He knew that God was going to flood the earth, for 120 years he made preparation for it by building the ark, As a result of his faith and hard work, He was saved and also all of his family.

I pray that we might all see the need to prepare for the coming judgement of all on this earth. God's laws are sure and we can depend on every word He says. If we turn to Him with all our hearts we will be saved but if we are careless about His word we will be forever lost.

#### CARELESS SOUL, WHAT THEN?

After the pleasures of life are o'er,  
And you shall stand, face to the shore  
Of the dim land of the evermore,  
Careless soul, what then?  
After the pleasures of life are o'er,  
Careless soul, what then?

After the pulses shall cease to beat,  
When at the throne of the Lord you meet,  
Waiting your doom at the judgement seat,  
Careless soul, what then?  
Waiting your doom at the judgement seat,  
Careless soul, what then?

### THE RESURRECTION

It is a privilage to be speaking to you on this Good Friday evening thanks to station W L B Q .

The topic I am speaking on is the Resurection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The Day that Jesus died was seemingly a terrible day for all His followers. They dreamed and planned for Him to set up His Kingdom, but when He failed to defend Himself or come down from the cross, It seemed to them that there was nothing to do but to have fond memoreys of Him and to take care of His dead body by bringing spices to embolm it.

There never was an enterprise in the world which seemed more completely at an end than did that of Jesus on the last Old Testament Sabbath. Christianity died with Christ, and was laid with Him in the sepulcher. When He was buried, there was not a single himan being that believed He would ever rise again before the day of the world's doom. The Jewish authorities were thoroughly satisfied of this. Death ends all controversies, and God had settled the one between Him and them triumphantly in their favor. He had put Himself forward as their Messiah, but they didn't accept Him because He was not like one of them. He had never received important national recognition. His followers were few and uninfluentia. His career had been short. He was in the grave. Nothing more was to be thought of Him.

The breakdown of the disciples had been complete. When He was arrested, "They all forsook Him and fled," Peter, indeed, followed Him to the hight priest's palace, but only to fall more ignominiously than the rest. John followed even to Golgotha, and may have hoped against hope that at the very last moment, He would descend from the cross to ascend the throne. But even the last moment went by with nothing done. What remained for them but to return to their homes and their fishing as disappointed men, who would be make fun of the rest of their lives with the folly of following a pretender, and asked where the thrones were on which He had promised to seat them?

Jesus had, indeed, foretold His sufferings, death and resurrection. But they never understood these sayings; they forgot them or gave them an allegorical turn; and, when He was actually dead, these yielded them no comfort whatever. The women came to the sepulcher on the first Christian Sabbath, not to see it empty, but to embalm His body for its long sleep. Mary ran to tell the disciples, not that He was risen, but that the body had been taken away and laid she knew not where. When the women told the other disciples how He had met them, "Their words seemed to them as idle tales and they believed them not." Peter and John, as John himself informs us, "knew not the Scripture, that He should rise from the dead." Could anything be more pathetic than the words of the two travelers to Emmaus, "We trusted that it had been He which should have redeemed Israil"? When the disciples were met together, "they mourned and wept." There never were men more utterly disappointed and dispirited. But o the joy that came to His followers when they finally came to the realization that "He is risen as He said." o the joy that came to Mary magdalene when she heard Jesus speak her name in the garden and turned and saw Him standing there. O the great joy that came to the other women when they saw Him. O the joy when Jesus appears to the Disciples and finally to Thomas who said he would never beleive untill he had seen the wounds in His hands and His side. When Thomas did see Him He cried out with Joy "My Lord and my God".

Then I think of how down by the sea side Jesus restored backslidden Petter. I'm sure he had great joy to know that the Lord was willing to receive him back again. Jesus resurrection ment everthing back then, but what does it mean to us today?

I am thinking of Pauls words in 1Cor. 15: 13,14 # But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: and if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is vain. and V. 17 and if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye yet in your sins.

to 22

Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ. we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. If Christ had not risen then we would still be in our sins and on our way to hell without any hope whatsoever. If Christ had not risen that would mean that the Devil had His way and we would all be lost. If Christ had not risen there would be no hope for anyone on the face of the whole earth. We should be so thankful that he lives today, ~~that we would~~ <sup>thankful enough to</sup> be true and faithful to Him always. I'm so glad for the blessed words of our Lord when He said, " I am the resurrection and the life, ~~whoever~~ he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." He also said, because I live, ye shall live."

No other religion has a risen saviour Like the Lord Jesus Christ, the hope of the world is Jesus. I wonder dear listening friend how much He means to you today. Does He mean everything to you or is He only a dim shadow in your life which has very little effect on the way you live. Many people these days like to gamble a lot they will wager and take chances on most anything hoping to win. many are sadly disappointed and some lose everything that they have. Let me say this that sometimes we try our best to make good in this life and never have much, But If we will put our trust in the resurrected saviour we will never be sorry or disappointed. I can't see who I am speaking to but just the same, whover you are I want to help you to trust in Jesus for if you trust in Him with all your heart you will gain everything, but if you don't trust in Him, you will be eternally lost in hell forever and ever.

There are many disappointments in this life, sometimes even the best of friends will fail you or may not be able to help you. But Jesus is a friend that never fails, because He not only has perfect love for you but also has the power to help you to live a life now in peace and joy and the life hereafter in everlasting bliss. He proved His love at Calvary and His power when He rose from the dead. Where is He now? Sitting at the right hand of the Father, Making intercession for you and me. So let us trust Him with all our heart. And give the best that we have to Him.

## Rain

This is Bro. Gibbs again this morning coming to you on the devotional time.

The Scripture lesson is found in James 5:17-18. "Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain; and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit."

My hasn't it been dry this summer. It has rained very little for three months. Some people say it is the driest time they can remember. There is an old saying, "you never miss the water until the well goes dry." There is certainly a lot truth in that. We all have a tendency to complain about what we don't have and spend so little time giving thanks for all the good things God has provided for us. lots of farmers are suffering because of the drowth this summer but it don't compare with the suffering that went on during Elijah's time.  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years with no rain or even dew. This account set me thinking and trying to imagine just what Ky. would be like if there was no rain for  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years. I guess most of the trees would even die, all the little streams would dry up and perhaps even Green river would only be a little trickle. Grass fires and forest fires would be raging. Houses of many people would burn because of no water to put out the fire. Farmers would all go broke.

Some wonder why we have had such a great drowth this summer. Scientists always have some kind of explanation for everything that happens. Sometimes they are right and sometimes they are wrong. The great drowth of Elijah's time was caused by one thing. "Sin". God was sick and tired of the way King Ahab and his wicked wife Jezebel were doing. Worshipping other God's and leading the people to do the same. So He sent the man of God Elijah to tell them there would be no rain or due until God got ready to send it. Instead of listening to the prophet they tried to kill him. Many people are like that today. When Jerry Falwell said he believed God was bringing judgement on the Homosexuals by giving them the aids disease, Many wicked people thought that was terrible for him to say that, but according to the scriptures God often brings punishment on those who defy the laws of God.

It may very well be that God is trying to tell us something through the lack of rain this summer. He has so richly blessed us that we have had such a great surplus of grain that we didn't know what to do with it while for years the people in Russia have had crop failures ##### and have bought grain from us and other countries. The communist leaders have defied God for years. Now the people in the U S are defying God by demanding that doctors kill unborn babies by the millions if the mother so desires. Homosexuals are demanding and in many places given equal rights with married men and women. The sin of Sodomy was what brought the wrath of God on the acient city of sodom and gomorrah when He destroyed it with fire from heaven. God told Abraham he would spare the city if he could find ten righteous people there. He couldn't find that many so he destroyed it.

I'm glad we still have a few people like Elijah that are not afraid to cry out against sin. He had to suffer some things along with the other people but God Took care of him. God sent him to a little brook where he could get plenty of water and commanded the ravens to bring him food. He got along very well until the brook, went dry. Elijah probably wondered why that happened, if God could send ravens to feed him why couldn't he cause water to be in the brook. God caused water to come out of a rock for the Isralites in the desert. Why did the brook dry up. Know doubt God was testing Elijah's faith. He must learn that his faith must not rest in brooks, even though God-given, but in the God that made the brook and other things as well. His security must not be in the brook but in the voice of God. Hundreds of years later Jesus announced this truth to Satan, saying. "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

The brook which dried up had been located by the word of God; now another word was forthcoming - a word from the same One who had issued the first word. The brook was dry but the God of the brook was not. He had other plans. The prophet was not to have not #

only food and water, but a home and fellowship. Besides that, he was to care for others—a widow and her son. Why was he sent to the home of the widow? Jesus commented on this in His day, saying, "Many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias," but he was sent to only one. God evidently had something in mind for Elijah. He was to see new miracles and thereby gain strength to meet the 450 false prophets, wicked Ahab, and horrible Jezebel.

All the poor widow and her son ~~had~~ <sup>about</sup> for food when Elijah arrived was a little bit of oil and a handful of meal. They were ~~seen~~ to die of starvation. But God took that small amount and continued to multiply it as long as the drowth lasted. It is always right for us when things don't go as we expected to trust in God enough that he has something else for us to do and often something far better than we had. Obedience and faith was the secret of Elijah's successful career. That was the secret of Christ's success and the success of every other successful man of any age. "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat~~e~~ of rams" (1 Sam. 15:22). God does not promise to give us ~~brooks~~ that will not go dry, but He does promise that when and if they do dry up He has another plan. Job is another illustration of the divine giving and the divine taking away, climaxing with the graciousness of the Lord in returning double for all that was taken.

Yes dear friends, this has been a dry season. We don't enjoy seeing all nature suffer because of a lack of rain. When we see the corn leaves rollup and the grass turn brown. It is not a pleasant sight. But when the rains come again and new life begins I am sure we will appreciate the water much more than we did before. I believe God is trying to tell us something. If we will pray and listen to His voice we will be much better off than we were before.

Sometimes in our spiritual lives we seem to go through a long period of a lack of the felt blessings of God. But I have found that afterward my joy was greater than it was before. During dry periods in our lives we need to exercise more faith than ever before because the scripture says "the trying of your faith worketh patience," and that we have need of patience, which is worth more than gold.

Shall we pray together, Heavenly Father, were so glad your ways are higher than our ways. Many times if we had our way we would be in serious trouble, though many times you seem to send something we do not want because we can't see how it would help us, yet we have found through many experiences down through the years that you know best. Help each one today to be willing to except what God sends and trust and love you with all their hearts for it is in Jesus name we ask, Amen.

11  $\frac{1}{2}$  min

my devotional took ~~of the~~ concerns  
2 dogs. and a man who said he one  
~~of the dogs.~~ First I want to tell you about  
a dog named King, a Border  
Collie that belonged to my son  
Herbert. He was a beautiful dog  
friendly and good with all people  
and children and other dogs.  
We got him as a small pup and  
he grew to be much loved by  
everyone. Something happened  
one day that seemed very strange  
to me. Our neighbor got a small  
Labrador Retriever dog. They named  
him Bear. He came over to our  
place and the first thing he met  
King. They looked at each other  
and King immediately decided he didn't  
like Bear so he growled and  
snapped at him and put him down.  
Bear tried to get up but he  
wouldn't let him. Finally Bear

was ~~to~~ get up and go back<sup>2</sup>  
home. Every day the two dogs  
met & it always King hated  
Beor and made him lie down.  
This went on day after day.  
It seemed King just enjoyed  
seeing Beor suffer. He seemed to  
just stand over him and laugh.  
One thing King didn't seem  
to think about was the fact  
that Beor tried to be a good  
neighbor but King had no  
concern for him whatsoever.

Well, Beor was growing and  
it became harder and harder  
for King to put him down.  
One day King tried his best  
but Beor put him down. Now  
the tables were turned and  
King became the underdog.  
Beor enjoyed putting him down  
now, no matter how he tried King

Couldn't help him. ~~He~~ came some<sup>3</sup>  
a very big strong dog and King  
was afraid of him. Now ~~Beor~~  
tormented him and King was  
very unhappy. King never tried  
once to be friends one day  
he was hit by a car and died.  
I have often thought how much  
happier King would have been  
if he had only been friendly  
with Beor from the beginning  
instead of wanting to put him  
down. ~~want to do~~

You and I have seen people like  
that, haven't we. always ~~showing~~ jealous  
~~and hateful~~ at the expense of  
~~to show off~~ others and in the end finding  
themselves very miserable. ~~when~~  
~~others get ahead of them~~.

This would certainly be a better  
world if everyone would practice  
what Jesus said. "Thou shalt love  
thy neighbor as thyself."

here

This account makes me think<sup>4</sup> of another King, not a dog but a real King mentioned in the Bible. His name was Saul.

Saul was a very fine young man when he became King.

but he became jealous of the young man David.

David a Shepherd boy went out and killed the giant Goliath and brought about a great victory for Saul.

David never wanted to get ahead of King Saul or take his place. David played for him on the harp and did every thing he could to help him.

but Saul threw his javelin at him to kill him but David ran from him.

Finally Saul had his whole

Army seeking David to kill him. David had chances to kill Saul while he was asleep but David wouldn't do anything to hurt him.

The spirit of God departed from Saul and an evil spirit troubled him.

The death of Saul was so sad. He went out to Battle and was wounded. He tried to kill himself by falling on his sword but it didn't kill him. A man came by and ~~saw~~. Saul begged him to kill him which he did.

How sad Saul's life was just because he was jealous of David who never once did him any harm.

and the Golden Rule. "as ~~ye~~<sup>the</sup> would that men should do to you, do ye also unto them for this is the law and the prophets."

also "He that would have friends must first show himself friendly."

It seems that we as God's supreme work of creation would have sense enough to be better than a dog.

We don't need to be that way if we will yield ourselves completely to the Lord. He will deliver us from a selfish proud unforgiving spirit. The Bible says "inasmuch as lieth within you live peaceably with all men." If God's Spirit dwelleth within us we will yield the peaceable fruits of righteousness."

I was very ashamed of the  
way my dog acted toward his  
neighbor dog. I don't want  
God to be ashamed of the way  
I act toward my neighbor. Do  
you?

Let us pray. Heavenly Father  
we come before you all who are listening,  
we couldn't see into their hearts  
even if we could see their faces.  
but we know you know all  
of us even better than we know  
ourselves. We pray you would  
help every one whatever need  
they might have. Please all  
to be honest with thee and face  
ourselves as you see us. In  
Jesus name amen.

This morning I want to call to your attention something we all see most every day. Something that is used by God to bless this earth and is mentioned in the Bible as being used by God as His chariot. Can you guess what it is? Ps 104:3 gives us the answer "Who maketh the clouds His chariot."

The first mention of clouds is found <sup>in</sup> Gen after the great flood. God said, "I do set my bow in the cloud." Without the clouds there could have been no rainbow. The rainbow was a symbol of God's promise never to bring another great flood on the earth.

a column of illumined cloud led the Israelites across the wilderness. In that hot barren desert it was a cooling shade to them

God used the cloud as a vehicle to guide them on their journeys. at the Red sea God placed the pillar of cloud between the Israelites and the Egyptian army. It became light to the Israelites but darkness to the Egyptians all night while God was getting the Red sea rolled back so the Israelites could cross.

When Moses went up on Mt Sinai to receive the ten commandments. God used a thick cloud to cover the top of the mountain. Moses ~~went~~ talked with God while God concealed himself in the cloud.

In the Book of Job, Elihu, watching the clouds, could not understand why they did not fall, or why they did not all roll together, the laws of evaporation and condensation then not being understood, and he cries out; "Dost thou know the balancing of the clouds?"

3

David measured God's goodness, and found it so high he said, "Thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds."

As in the wet season, no sooner does the sky clear than there comes another cloud; so says Solomon, one ache or ailment of old folks has no more than gone than another pain comes "as clouds return after the rain".

As a mountain is sometimes entirely hidden by the clouds, so God says, "I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions."

In the New Testament we read of how Jesus took Peter James and John up into a high mountain and was transfigured before them and His face did shine as the sun and his clothes white as the light. Moses and Elias appeared and talked with Him. Then, "a bright cloud overshadowed them; and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him."

After Jesus was crucified and had risen from the dead after 40 days he was with his disciples on the mount of olives when suddenly he was taken up and a cloud received him out of their sight. While they stood looking up into heaven two angels stood by and said. "This same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

You can see that God uses clouds a lot for his benefit and ours.

Jesus went up in the clouds and he is coming back in the clouds. Rev 1:7 says: Behold he cometh with clouds; "and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him; and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him."

Not only is He coming back  
in the clouds but <sup>1 Thes. 4:16-17</sup> say  
"the dead in Christ shall rise first  
Then we which are alive and remain  
shall be caught up together with  
them in the clouds to meet the  
Lord in the air: and so shall we  
ever be with the Lord."

Dear friends you can see how  
God can use such a simple  
thing as a cloud which is  
only water vapor to accomplish  
so much good. Just think  
how much more valuable  
we are to Him if we only  
are willing and obedient to  
Him.

Let us pray. Dear heavenly Father  
we love you and want in every  
way to serve you. Bless every  
one listening today and may they  
turn their lives completely over  
to you. In Jesus name we pray <sup>and</sup>