

Transcript

David Matson:

Thank you. You may be seated. Through the years of our experience here in Cedarville, we've had a remarkable and wonderful relationship with Central State University. Many of our faculty people through the years have gone there for classes. Many of our students have gone there and graduated, and we're delighted today to have on our campus Dr. Lionel Newsom, who is the president of Central State. He has come here today to make a presentation.

Dr. Lionel Newsom:

Dr. Jeremiah, distinguished faculty at Cedarville, lovely ladies and men of Cedarville College, I bring you greetings from Central State University. It is a pleasure for me, when I think of the relationship that exists between our school and yours. I was over [crosstalk 00:02:11]-

Speaker 3:

We are experiencing technical difficulties at [inaudible 00:02:14] right now, and we'll expect to resume broadcasting as soon as these are cleared up. Please stand by.

Dr. Lionel Newsom:

In one minute, and I say it was God's minute, I have just a minute, only 60 seconds in it, forced upon me. Can't refuse it. Didn't seek it. Didn't choose it, but it is up to me to use it. I must suffer if I lose it. Give account if I abuse it, just a tiny little minute, but an eternity is eminent. And so in a minute, Central State University was practically destroyed. A few minutes after I came out of the building and walked across the campus and looked at the devastation and wondered why? A young man came to me [inaudible 00:03:07] a week before at the YMCA. That young man had saved the life of a student or a young person in the swimming pool.

Speaker 3:

We are experiencing technical difficulties at the moment in our WCDR studio and expect to resume broadcast within a few moments. We are experiencing technical difficulties at our WCDR studio and expect to resume broadcasting within a few moments. Please stand by.

Dr. Lionel Newsom:

And to those young men and women who came to us, immediately following the tornado, though you had tornado trouble too, and worked with my wife in helping us get our things together and helping our university. And this is just a little bit of a token for just a minute. And it reads, "In appreciation, presented in recognition of your support to Central State University, to the students of Cedarville College." I present this to you. [Applause]

James T. Jeremiah:

Dr. Newsom, in behalf of the students, I accept this token of your appreciation, and I express appreciation to these young people for their attitudes and their interests. We are grateful for this, and we'll put it somewhere in this college where many people will see it because we're happy for our

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relationship. And we're so delighted that our young people were responsive in helping you. And I thank God for the relationship we have because of it. God bless you. Dr. Newsom has a meeting shortly, and we reserved a seat down there for him, so he can find a way out, and he wanted me to explain that he wasn't leaving because of my sermon.

James T. Jeremiah:

And most people leave when I preach and they don't explain it so I appreciate it. We're glad to have him here, and we appreciated his talk to our faculty members. We had a lot of comments about it, and we're grateful for his interest and our relationship together. We'll put this plaque where all of you can see it. I wish we had our photographer here today. I didn't exactly know what was going to happen so I didn't have any way of knowing about a photographer, but we'd sure like to have one. If some of you can... Well, I guess Dr. Newsom's going to leave before we get the picture. So we'll try to find a way to get this in our papers.

James T. Jeremiah:

I'd like to have you open your Bibles this morning to a scripture that you've heard me use before, I'm sure. And it's the fifth chapter of Ephesians. I'd like to read, beginning with verse 15. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is, and be not drunk with wine, for it is excess, but be filled with the spirit, speaking to yourselves in Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord. Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

James T. Jeremiah:

Dear Father in heaven, speak to us through thy word today, help us to know how to live the Christian life and be willing to do it as we submit to the God who saved us. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen. This is the fourth time that I've had the opportunity of speaking to chapel. There were other assignments, but I put somebody else in them as we had guests coming to the campus. And I've tried to carry through some kind of a theme in these days that we've had together. The first time I spoke to you, we mentioned something about the need of making sure that you're a Christian and pointed out some of the problems that come when we rest our hope on a poor foundation and actually may think we are, but really aren't born of God.

James T. Jeremiah:

Then the next one, we tried to point out how we may know that we are saved. How we may know that we've passed from death unto life and are personally acquainted with the Lord Jesus Christ as our savior. And last time, we dealt with the subject, as we started out, on how you can lose what you have. I hope it was more emphatic than that to say that what you have because of the grace of God in giving you the salvation gift you do not lose. We closed that message by referring to the fact that a security in Christ that produces a loose kind of living is not the kind of security that God provides for his people. In other words, if we are the Lord's people, somewhere along the line, there will be chastening because God, according to Hebrews 12, chastens his own children. If we go through life professing to be

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Christians and never have any chastening, never have any trials, the probability is that we're really not his after all.

James T. Jeremiah:

This morning, I'd like to take a few minutes and give you what I believe is one of the secrets of living the life that Christ has given to us. And you will find that text that I'm sure that you're so well acquainted with in Ephesians 5, where the Apostle Paul says, "Be not drunk with wine for it is excess, but be filled with the spirit." This portion of scripture has been a special help and encouragement to me through the years. When I began my first pastorate, many years ago in western New York, a man came to our church to hold a Bible conference. He was a very unusual kind of preacher. His name was Leonard [Legturs 00:10:18].

James T. Jeremiah:

He was a Presbyterian preacher with a great interest in the Christian life. He had an unusual way of preaching. I think some of us Baptists ought to adopt the same fashion. He never used a pulpit. He stood down in front of the congregation. And when he did, if the people sat in the back seats, he moved to where they were. That's not a bad idea. And in that fashion, he would go back where they were. And if he had an illustration, he wanted to bring out, he talked to the people, and on one occasion, we had one deacon in the place who was so confident in my preaching that he would always come to church on Sunday morning and Sunday night, get comfortable against the end of one of the pews and go to sleep. Now, you can't be more confident than that.

James T. Jeremiah:

He was sure I would tell the truth because he never stayed awake to see. Well, he was doing the same, following the same confident spirit in one of those meetings and Mr. Legturs was talking about the ministry of the Holy Spirit. He came to the great truth in the Bible about the Holy Spirit being the comforter, one called alongside to help. And he began to deal with this subject that this is the ministry of the spirit of God in the life of a believer. He walked back to where this man was beginning to get his evening rest. It's nice. If you can't get anything out of the sermon, you ought to go to sleep. You ought to get something out of it anyway.

James T. Jeremiah:

And he was getting something out of it. Really, he was getting something out of that meeting. Mr. Legturs went back where he was, got him by the arm and started talking. The Holy Spirit coming alongside to help. He raised him out of the seat, marched him all the way around the church auditorium, talking all the time about the Holy Spirit coming alongside to help, never missing a comma, never missing a period, never worrying about a punctuation mark at all. Brought him back where he was and sat him down. And for the rest of that whole Bible conference that dear man every night stayed awake.

James T. Jeremiah:

But that brings to us a very important lesson. Once we are saved by the grace of God, the Holy Spirit comes to live in our bodies. The fact of the matter is the Bible is very clear in what happens when one becomes a Christian. In speaking to a very religious man, for example, the Lord Jesus said to Nicodemus,

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probably one of the most religious people of his time. "Ye must be born again." He said, "Except a man be born of water and the spirit, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

James T. Jeremiah:

Now that is to say that when one is saved, born of the spirit, he is given the absolute assurance of a prospect of heaven, born of the spirit, God's spirit comes to live in us. And then we read on in the scriptures, in the Book of 1st Corinthians 12, that wherefore by one spirit are we all baptized into one body. The spirit of God, places us into the body of Christ, making us relatives in a very real sense. That's the reason why when you meet another Christian who you've never met before, and you begin to talk about the things of God, there is a rapport, and there is a relationship, and there is a fellowship that you do not often have and sometimes do not have with your own relatives.

James T. Jeremiah:

We're members of the body. We're related to the Lord Jesus Christ. We are children of God. And we have a fellowship that nothing in the world can duplicate. And so we have here the same supposition, we are put into the body. We go on in the scriptures and we read also that, "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which ye have of God, and you're not your own." Our bodies then become God's temple and we become his possession. He comes to live in us.

James T. Jeremiah:

Now, I think whenever it's possible to build a nice building for worship, we ought to do it. And we're really working on that. But when you have a beautiful building with all of the things that go with it, to make it a nice place to worship, and the people of the Lord leave, that building is no more the temple of God than any other building. God doesn't dwell in temples made with hands. He dwells in the bodies of believers. That ought to make us realize Christians, we have temples. These bodies are temples of God. We ought to be careful what we put in them. We ought to be careful where we take them. We ought to be careful what we do with them. We ought to be careful what we put on them and make sure we put something on them. This church building is not the temple of God. Your body is.

James T. Jeremiah:

Believe me, when you get that in your soul and heart and begin to realize the truthfulness of that, it'll help you to realize the importance of behaving, living in this world for the glory of God. There's another wonderful truth about the spirit in relation to the Christian. We find it in Ephesians 1: 13 and 14, and in Ephesians 4:30, where we're told in very wonderful language, we're sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise unto the day of redemption. Now you say, how could you be sealed unto the day of redemption when you've been redeemed?

James T. Jeremiah:

Well, the fact is we have been redeemed so far as our souls are concerned, but one day we're going to be redeemed so far as our bodies are concerned. And you know, the longer you live, the more important it becomes that you're going to have a redeemed body. You may not think it's important now that the body needs to be redeemed, but you will one day. It'll become more realistic. When you become acquainted with bifocals and you become acquainted with other parts that you put on to make the old thing run, you're going to be glad for a redeemed body.

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James T. Jeremiah:

Now that ought to encourage some of you, who've gone through times of sorrow, because the Bible says these bodies are sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise unto the day of redemption. When the Lord comes again to redeem, to resurrect and make new the body. And I hear some skeptics say, "Well, I don't understand how in the world God's going to take care of all those bodies that have died. All these centuries been buried at sea, even buried in the dirt and the body has turned to dust. How's God going to do that?"

James T. Jeremiah:

Well, to tell you the truth about it, I don't know, but if you'll tell me how he made it out of dust in the first place, I won't have any trouble describing to you how he's going to do it in the second place, but he's going to do it. New bodies transformed, made like unto the body of his glory. That ought to challenge us to live for God. Now in this scripture, I just come to the text now, in Ephesians 5. There are certain words that wrap around this little text, 5:18. Redeeming the time, understanding the will of the Lord. Speaking in Psalms, singing, giving thanks, submitting.

James T. Jeremiah:

That tells us how to live the Christian life. Redeeming the time. Dr. Newsom quoted a few minutes ago, a little poem about a minute, and there aren't many minutes left. Say, "Well, I am a teenager. I'm in my early twenties." You may be in your sixties, but no matter how you measure it, relationship to eternity, there isn't much time left. Redeeming the time. What does that mean? The word really means to buy up a scarce commodity, buy up a scarce commodity. There isn't anything more scarce in all the world than time. Redeeming it, using it to the best advantage. How are you going to do that? Be not drunk with wine for it is excess, but be controlled of the spirit.

James T. Jeremiah:

Let the spirit of God control your life and He'll help you to redeem it. Get your priorities in right places, right directions. Some of you young people came here as freshmen and some of you are going to graduate and some of you are going to flunk out. Some of you probably will leave under other reasons. And the main reason why some of you do it is because you don't have your priorities arranged. And the reason you don't have your priorities arranged is because you don't have a right fellowship and dedication to the God you profess to serve. Redeeming the time, buy up the opportunities. Use the time advantageously.

James T. Jeremiah:

One thing you'll discover later in life, that to your shame and to your disappointment is that you lost the opportunities that could better prepare you to live a life more productive for God and for the work unto which he calls you. Redeeming the time. And you do that only as we live, we do it only as we live under the control of the Holy Spirit. Now, when you redeem the time, then you can come to the place where you can understand the will of the Lord. I question very seriously whether God is going to make his will known to anybody who deliberately wastes his time. We go through life, living our lives to our own selves and our own satisfaction and to our own interests, without putting priorities where they belong. And we expect God then out of the blue of the glory to come down and reveal to us what his will is. And we've just wasted his time.

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James T. Jeremiah:

The probability of understanding the will of the Lord is very remote. Every once in a while, I meet somebody who is very concerned about knowing the will of God. And they give me the impression that they want God to reveal his will to them so they can vote on it. And when they do, they wonder why they don't have any answers. When the spirit of God controls us, we will want to know and understand his will in order that we might do it, not vote on it. Living the Christian life then, controlled by the spirit, redeeming the time, understanding what the will of the Lord is.

James T. Jeremiah:

Now, speaking to yourselves... By the way, incidentally and out of context, every time I read this, I always think that according to some people, Paul the Apostle missed his finest hour. If ever there was a place in all of the Bible where the Apostle Paul should have put a matter of tongues as a result of a spirit filled life, this is it. But strangely enough, he didn't put it there. The reason he didn't put it there is that Paul didn't believe, the Bible doesn't teach, that speaking in tongues is an evidence of the spirit filled life or necessary to the spirit filled life. It just isn't there, but I'll tell you what is there that's far more important than going through some kind of a gibberish that nobody understands. And that is to have a life that rejoices in the Lord. Singing, making melody in your heart to the Lord.

James T. Jeremiah:

We Christians ought to be happy. Now, some of us were born with faces that can't be happy, and you'll have to understand that, but there ought to be a song and there ought to be a joy in the heart of a believer, no matter where he is, no matter what circumstances he faces. Singing into yourselves in Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. Singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord. Let me ask you, this is a good time to ask it, almost the end of the school year, and some of you look like you've been through the great tribulation. At least about the first three and a half years. And you're you're down and tired. I see some of you on the campus and I speak to you, and you speak back after a fashion. And I know how it is. I know something about that because some of us get tired about this time a year too.

James T. Jeremiah:

And we say, "Well, how in the world will I make it?" Well, you can't, you might as well give it up. Quit the whole business. Oh, that's not the way, the Lord enables his people. Even to take tests, even to write papers, even to have council meetings with faculty members. He'll put joy in your heart. I'm glad for the fact he put it in our hearts. Glad the Lord didn't say, "If you're going to be a Christian, that's happy, you have to sing and make melody to the congregation." Somebody down here this morning was wondering if I was going to sing a solo. We'd have comedy days, they said. President's going to sing a solo. We'll have comedy day in chapel. How do you like that?

James T. Jeremiah:

Well, they understand that I'm a musical moron. I don't know a whole lot about the notes. I remember in class one day in school, the teacher said to me, "What is the signature of that hymn?" And I don't even know what the signature is. What is it anyway? I don't know. Say, well, how did you pass? Well, that is a good question. But I thank the Lord for this, that he can put a joy in your heart as you live for him and you obey Him, and there's a peace and the joy the world can't give. I tell you there's no

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advantage, no great advertisement for the cause of Jesus Christ if we go a lot around looking like we've been weaned on sauerkraut juice. There's nothing that really makes the Christian life happy, as we have faces long enough to drink buttermilk out of the bottom of the churn, and a lot of other things I could illustrate this with.

James T. Jeremiah:

The spirit of the Lord lives in the believer when we are willing to put priorities where they belong, understand his will, will put the joy of the Lord in our hearts. And then it goes on to say giving thanks. Oh brother, is this a tough one? Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I like to think that perhaps the Apostle Paul is putting us back in his message here to the first chapter. You want to find a statement that will really challenge your hearts for the rest of the day and the rest of the school year and the rest of your life, analyze Ephesians 1. I've been trying to do it for a long time.

James T. Jeremiah:

The old days when the school teachers used diagrammings, they would put a sentence on the board and you'd have to go and diagram it. I'd suggest you try diagramming one of those sentences in Ephesians 1. It'll thrill you, it'll give you some long thoughts of what God has done. Listen, friend, when the road is tough, the money is hard to get and the tests are difficult and the people you work with and study with are sometimes unbelievably disappointing, if somehow or other you've grasped the thought of what it means to be a Christian and start giving thanks, it makes a lot of difference. And one last thing that's very important in the Christian life and the spirit of God enables us to live it, submitting. Submitting yourselves, one to another, in the fear of the Lord.

James T. Jeremiah:

That means a Christian, under the control of the spirit of God, submits to the authorities that God defines. You want to read what's wrong with the American home, you read the rest of that chapter and then just take the word submitting and recognize that this isn't being done today. You'll find the answer. For the submitting, let me talk to some of you engaged couples and the rest of you who wish you were and some of you who have been engaged and are now married. The secret to a happy home is found in that word, submitting. First of all, as a family, submitting to the authority of God. The wife and her relationship to her husband, and the husband submitting to God and loving his wife, but that principle of submission to authority involves all of us. None of us live without it. None of us can be happy without it, submission to authority.

James T. Jeremiah:

I wish I had time this morning to take you to Colossians and deal with letting the word of Christ dwell in you richly, which produces the same results as being controlled by the Holy Spirit. And what I'd like to say in closing, then is, in the light of Colossians 3:16, is that there's no such thing as a spirit-controlled life without a Bible-filled life. I'm not just talking about memorizing scriptures now, not talking about memorizing the kings of the Old Testament and the journeys of the Apostle Paul. All of that's important. I'm talking about knowing really what it says and obeying what it says.

James T. Jeremiah:

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I come back to something I've said often here, there's only one way to have happiness and blessing in the Christian life, and that is to know God's word, trust it, obey it. Simple but complicated. Be not drunk with wine, but be filled with the spirit. How does a man get drunk? By drinking. How's he stay that way? Just keep on drinking. How does a man become controlled or a woman become controlled by the spirit? Drinking in what God has given, obeying it and just keep at it. God saves us, keeps us saved and gives us the enablement to live the salvation he has provided for us.

James T. Jeremiah:

Dear Lord, bless thy word to our hearts this morning. Thank thee for the privilege of opening up the book and thinking together, bless each student, each faculty member, as we seek to serve the Lord in these days. In Jesus' name, amen.