

Transcript

Speaker 1:

A charter week would be incomplete without hearing from our chancellor for 25 years. In those early days in 1953 to 1978, God wonderfully used this man and his wife, Ruby, his family. We're so thankful for him. He has continued in his chancellor's role now for 20 years. so now with a tenure of almost 45 years at the end of this academic year, there are few men who, over the course of time and the history of this college, who've contributed so much and invested so much. Would you welcome with me, our chancellor, James T Jeremiah.

James T. Jeremiah:

Really, I'm not as old as I look, but I'm glad the Lord has saved me and taken care of me through the years. It's great to know you have a God who is concerned about you and watches over you.

James T. Jeremiah:

I want to begin my communication this morning by a verse that helped me when I was a young Christian. It was one I depended upon a great deal when I came to Cedarville College. I think it might be of help to some of you who are facing times of decision. I had to make a decision as to whether or not I would work for IBM, where I had a job or go to school and prepare for the ministry.

James T. Jeremiah:

I'll never forget going to see my boss and telling him I was going to quit. His name was Tommy Flynn. He wasn't a Baptist. He was a Catholic. And, I said, Tommy, I'm going to leave and go to school, prepare to be a minister. I'll never forget that fellow's commendation to me and commitment to me. "Jim, it's a good thing to do. You'll never regret it." I can always hear that old fellow say that verse that came along in those days was this, "For the Lord God is a sun and shield. The Lord will give grace and glory. No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly." Psalm 84:11.

James T. Jeremiah:

God is one who is going to guide us. What a wonderful thing to have the light of the sun to see your way along through the way of life. He's going to guard us. He's a shield. He's going give to us. He gives grace and glory. He's going guard us too. Of course he wants us to be godly in our walk. For it says, no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.

James T. Jeremiah:

Down through the years of this school, there have been many, many people who have been that kind of individual who looked to the Lord and they pleased the Lord and they wanted to please the Lord as the school went along.

James T. Jeremiah:

I want to talk about one of those men today, as I think of the past of this college, his name was Harold Engel. Harold Engle Was a deacon in the Emmanuel Baptist church in Dayton. One evening, we came to

James T. Jeremiah  
A Look at Cedarville's Past  
January 29, 1998

a deacons meeting and I can still remember this very clearly. I met Harold at the opening at the front door of the church.

James T. Jeremiah:

He said, "do you think there are any of our schools that need any room for advancement in building buildings and so on?" I said, "yes, the one in Cleveland needs that they need property for dormitories and so on. Why do you ask?" "Well," he said, "my father lives in Cedarville and he said that school over there was either going to close or merge.

James T. Jeremiah:

What do you think? Do you think the fellows, trustees would be interested in that?" "Well," "I said, "Harold, I think the only way we can find out is for you to make an appointment for us to go over and talk with those people."

James T. Jeremiah:

So, Harold Engle and I came over one night and met with these men up the second floor of the, what we called old Maine, the ad building, founder's hall. However you name it, up where the classroom is now and we had a meeting. And as we listened to these men talk, I listened and I thought we'll never merge with this crowd. I whispered that to my friend. He said, "let's wait and see what they say."

James T. Jeremiah:

Finally, these people said, we're going to resign some of our people. Some of yours will be elected until all of ours have resigned and all of yours have been elected. I said, I think we can cooperate with that kind of a program. So, that's the way it began. We want to talk a little bit about it. Talk about Cedarville yesterday. Well, the sign you may read is a little antique, but by this time, some of us know the meaning of antiquity. It's a long time ago.

James T. Jeremiah:

Jesus Christ is the same, however, yesterday, today and forever. How grateful we ought to be for that wonderful promise of scripture. Elihu, one of Job's friends, said, "listen to this O Job. Stand still and consider the wondrous works of God," Job 37:14.

James T. Jeremiah:

As God spoke to Israel, he wants to speak to us so that people may see and know they may consider and understand that the hand of the Lord has done this, that the holy one of Israel has created it. Isaiah 41:20.

James T. Jeremiah:

Well, we show you a picture of what's beautiful. Well, it was then. When we looked at it, 19 acre campus. 19 acres, 10 buildings, 12 instructors, and about 140 students. Not very much, but that's what we had when we met for the first year and God blessed that.

James T. Jeremiah:

I want to take a little time to look at a bird's eye view. We're going to look at some of these along the way. They might be helpful. We see a trailer court for married students. They had to live in trailers. We

James T. Jeremiah  
A Look at Cedarville's Past  
January 29, 1998

look at Rife Hall that building burned one day, and I'll never forget some of the students who had been living in that and others who lived around them wept as the building went up in smoke.

James T. Jeremiah:

Then we think about the first section of Faith Hall. You see that in the picture. We'll talk about that in a minute. We'll have another bird's eye view of it. The Founders Hall, Old Maine, Science Building, a rebuilt storage building became a chapel. Let's think about these two old buildings, Old Maine and Science Hall. Remember the days of old, the Bible says, consider the years of many generations. Ask your fathers and he will show you, your elders and they will tell you, Old Maine, quite a place. Would you believe it had a workshop in the basement where their office is now? They could back their cars in and get them greased and so on. And, there was a shop down there as we're going to look at in just a minute.

James T. Jeremiah:

And the cars were serviced. All offices on the first floor on that day, all the classrooms on the second and eventually WCDR on the third. I've often thought of the third floor in that old building. When some of my dear friends were having their offices up there, I used tell them, when you walk up there, you get to the place when you walk to that top floor and you're puffing and you can hardly make, it's time to retire.

James T. Jeremiah:

I don't know if they like that or not, but it's a long ways up. It's almost as far as it is going up here in this building. I've hesitated to try it. Founders Hall, storage buildings and so on. Now let's think about this building, the Old Maine, as we've mentioned, this workshop in the basement, and then I want you to look at the picture of the Old Maine building with the only sidewalk on campus.

James T. Jeremiah:

You think of the miles of sidewalk we got on this place now. This was the sum total of all the sidewalks, the only sidewalk on campus. Then next thing we see is students walking along that highway. Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like Eagles. They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint. They're going to work, going to class. What a sight it is to see great gangs of young people going to class and a Christian school and realize that the Lord is there to speak to them.

James T. Jeremiah:

Now, some of you are going to be shocked beyond reason with this next one. There was a football team in Cedarville College, football. The first year of our operation, 53 and 54, we inherited football equipment from the old school, but it was going to cost a lot of money to make a football team go. So, we practiced intramurally for a year. I had two boys who were younger then and they wanted to play football, but there would be no football for them. I suppose we could, excuse ourselves by saying bodily exercise profits, a little.

James T. Jeremiah:

So, the Bible says, but it does say honestly, now Godliness is profitable to all things, having promise of a life that now is, and that which is to come. 1 Timothy 4:8. We're not arguing against athletics. We

James T. Jeremiah  
A Look at Cedarville's Past  
January 29, 1998

believe in it. We believe in the teams we have. I still wait for the day when Dr. Dixon can raise enough money to start a football team. I thought that would get a response. But, isn't it great to see how God has provided for us along the way and how the things he's given to us that he wants us to have.

James T. Jeremiah:

Now, the next thing I want to show you is Faith Hall on the way to college. Faith Hall came from right Patterson air force base. That back section of that building was hauled here by a truck. I tried my best to find a picture I know exists, where it's coming down the street, the whole business, but at least you can have a guess of what it was like. It was Faith Hall on the way to school.

James T. Jeremiah:

Then we built a building. We built that building in the position. Then we built a sidewalk as you'll see in this picture all the way to the street, then eventually, we built in front of it and took out the sidewalk and shortened it so you didn't have so far to go to get to the street. So, you see all of this started out very different than it is today, but God used it. He's still using it.

James T. Jeremiah:

And, he used a lot of blessing in the hearts of people who've gone on to serve the Lord since then. There's a building downtown called, in the old days, McChesney Hall. There was a man in our student body then who became the full fledged all time maintenance supervisor, Bob Rogers. He lived there. He also had a part-time place for boys to stay the college kids to stay there. McChesney Hall, still existing, not a part of the college anymore, but it's there as a reminder of it.

James T. Jeremiah:

God sent some very wonderful people to help us. Folks that had a desire to see young people prepared in the ways of the Lord and to on to serve him and they came to help. One of those men was Pop Marshall we called him. He had a very decided effect upon us as he worked hard to help the school go along. He made concrete blocks. He even got me involved in making concrete blocks. I'm not sure I want to try it again, but I tried it then and Pop Marshall is here giving me one.

James T. Jeremiah:

What a man he was. He loved the Lord and wanted to see people go on for God. As we think about it, we are God's fellow workers. Listen, friend. I don't care what you do in this school, whether you have what you think is a small job or a big one. We all work together for the purpose of God's ministry. For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field. You are God's building, according to the grace of God, which was given to me as a wise master builder. I have laid the foundation that another builds on it, but let us each one take heed how he builds on this was Paul's word to the Corinthian Christians. God has a place for us to serve, and we better be about our father's business.

James T. Jeremiah:

Well, graduation in the early days was out where the president and the chancellor park their cars. That used to be the place where we had open air commencement and you'll see the graduates on the way to commencement. And, then you'll see commencement, in the next picture, in progress. This meant as much to those grads, in those days as it means to you. We're going to have great days when we have graduation in our buildings and you're going to see great crowds.

James T. Jeremiah  
A Look at Cedarville's Past  
January 29, 1998

James T. Jeremiah:

And, it's a great experience, a wonderful thing, but it was wonderful for those folks in that time. It went on the Lord used His word to reach many for his glory. Commencement in progress.

James T. Jeremiah:

Then we got to talk a little bit about where did we eat? Well, here's a picture where they're waiting to get in the dining room. You see it. I'm glad it's there. How would you like to stand outdoors to wait to get in to eat? Chuck just makes you stand out there in the hallway. In the rain you don't get wet, but out there you got wet anyhow. The dining room, I may read a verse scripture, oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness. Thanks to the Lord for his goodness and, for his wonderful works to the children of men for he satisfies the longing soul, fills the hungry soul with goodness. Isn't it wonderful to see how God has provided along the way.

James T. Jeremiah:

Things are much better now, but they were great for the time when we were there. The dining room, then the college choir, the bus, we used to have a bus owned by the college. It would take the choir out to tours and what a wonderful time it was. We think about this and thank God for what he did to help us.

James T. Jeremiah:

Waiting for an entrance of the dining room, let's look at that. Waiting for an entrance, eating in the dining room. There you are leading, sitting down to eat. The dining room was presently the post office and the radio station. And, you'll see a picture, I think, of Paul Gathney there. The man who helped us start the radio station has worked with it all these years. Oh that men would give thanks to the Lord for his goodness, his wonderful works.

James T. Jeremiah:

College choir and the bus, we've talked about that. I want to look at another thing quickly. Once a storage building, let's look at the old storage building. Then the chapel, once a storage building. It was just an old shack. Then the old building chapel became a classroom, now it's the bookstore. Quickly, you'll find the picture, I think, of the students attending chapel in the bookstore, is that right? Yeah, you nod your heads cause I can't see through the back of my mine. Okay. Thanks. College choir singing in the chapel. What do you think of that for a great place to sing, in the bookstore. I'll tell you folks, those who have come before have had a lot to do with what is now here. God has helped us.

James T. Jeremiah:

Then I want to make a little comment about accreditation, accreditation announcement. When we came, for many years, we were not accredited. There were many, many who criticized us for ever wanting to be, it was a very much of a compromise. We kept pressing on. Dr. Maddox, Dr. Johnson and Mr. St. Clair and all the rest of the people who worked then were working on that and trying to get it done.

James T. Jeremiah:

We didn't have to fear that because it says "only fear the Lord and serve him in truth with all your heart, for consider what great things he has done for you." I Samuel 12:24. There were opposition people. I

James T. Jeremiah  
A Look at Cedarville's Past  
January 29, 1998

remember going with Dr. Johnson, who I guess the final meeting I had at accreditation in the city of Chicago. We sat in that meeting and we were hearing a report about the school and one of men in "the staff or the committee said to me, with a whole room of people, what would you do in that school, if some professor decided he didn't believe what he said he believed when he came? What would happen to him?" I said to myself, "Jeremiah, this is your finest hour." I said, "that man would be fired." And, that man from the other side said "he ought to be. He ought to be." I was amazed, but I am amazed friend that God has used it to help you have a better education. I think it was worth fighting for.

James T. Jeremiah:

Let me tell you what I enjoy. When this college was accredited, we had the word from Chicago that, that was was true, I sent a personal announcement to the greatest critic. Thought he ought to know it from the horse's mouth. We were accredited. Thank the Lord. Exultation, promotion comes neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge. He puts down one and exalts another.

James T. Jeremiah:

Well, we continue to do some remodeling. And, so we have a remodeled old gym, Alford Hall. Alford Hall's had quite an experience. It first was a church, and then it was a gymnasium. Then it became a chapel, finally, it became a theater. But, it served well through the years. Look at the Patterson Hall, two story building. Is it there? It's there, two story building, and then it became a one story building. The tornado hit it in 1974, a wreck. Boy, what a discouragement. But what an encouragement, no one was hurt.

James T. Jeremiah:

Lord is my rock and my fortress, we read, my deliverer, my God, my strength in whom I will trust, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. He also brought me out into a broad place. He delivered me because he delighted in me, Psalm 18:2 and 19.

James T. Jeremiah:

What a wonderful thing to see these buildings and there are many more things that could be said. But, through the years the hand of God, the God who is the sun and the shield and the giver of grace and goodness, the one who has provided it. I plead with you who are here today as faculty and staff and students, may God help us all to realize that what God is for the devil is against. And let us commit ourselves to God to see that this school stands what it is and goes on even to greater heights to serve the Lord.

James T. Jeremiah:

That's why God put it here. That we might see the hand of God in the lives of people as we go out and reach them for the Lord Jesus Christ. I think one of the greatest pictures that you're going to see, so far as I'm concerned, is the next one. As we walk together, I like that picture. I like it. We both look a little bit younger.

James T. Jeremiah:

But when you realize that goes, at least back to 78, you have a reason to believe that it's a little bit younger, but I thank God for the brother that came to our school as president. Thank God for what he's done, what he's doing. Thank God for what he's going to do. We've never had an argument that I know

James T. Jeremiah  
A Look at Cedarville's Past  
January 29, 1998

of. We might have had a difference of opinion and gone home and thought about it, but we don't argue. I'm glad for what he does. Thank God for the leadership he's been to us in these days. I want to show you also, I think we have a picture of an early faculty that we're going to show you a picture, I think of that. Is that an early faculty or an older one, then we'll have the final one. The final picture is going to be the recent faculty.

James T. Jeremiah:

Listen, these people are here, staff and faculty alike to have a ministry to every student on this campus. They love you, or they wouldn't be here. I appeal to you, friend, boy, man, or woman. Listen now, be loyal to the cause and do your work and honor the Lord and be loving to the people who love you. And, as you go on to serve Him, may it be a greater day than ever. I show you no new pictures of new buildings. You don't need them. You know where they are, go take your own. But, you can look at the pictures as they are, how wonderful it is.

James T. Jeremiah:

Oh, there's a lot more I'd like to say, but that I've said this much is probably, in some people's minds, too much and I'm going to quit.

James T. Jeremiah:

Let's pray together. Thank you Lord for this day, for the wonderful grace you've shown toward us and for your love and for your guidance and your protection and your help in all the things that we face in our lives. We pray Father to bless this student body and the faculty and staff. Bless us as we seek to continue to preach and teach the word of God and Lord help us to live it as well. Guide us through the day now, in Jesus name. Amen.