

Transcript

James T. Jeremiah:

Well, I'm glad for the opportunity to be with you today and give a testimony for the Lord. I enjoyed the young people's musical presentation, as you did. And I trust that today, as we look into the Word of God, again, we'll find some encouragement. I appreciated Dr. Dixon's message yesterday. I'm glad he is speaking on the family and giving you some important matters, will help you as you face the future. I think one of the great tragedies of sorrows that comes to our hearts is when Cedarville College, young people get married and go out from the school, and then we hear that the marriage is broken, and the divorce is coming. Don't let that happen. Make sure he's the right one, and she's the right one before you make the decision to get married.

James T. Jeremiah:

Now he took a lot of time to tell you how you fellas and girls ought to get along together. I want to read a little verse of poetry for you this morning, that show you how two fellas in a dormitory and two girls in a dormitory ought to get along. "Don't you think that's important too? Who borrows all your ready cash? Whose talk is senseless haberdash? Your roommate. Who borrows all your notes and maps, and plans to give them back perhaps? Who gets you in the worst scraps? Your roommate. Who keeps you wide awake at night? Who never puts the alarm on right? Who ought to go and fly a kit? Your roommate.

James T. Jeremiah:

Who always on your bedside camps? Who breaks the furniture and lamps? Who borrows all your postage stamps? Your roommate. But who's a constant pal to you, and who overlooks all the things you do? Who knows and loves you through and through? Your mother." I thought you'd like that. From about March of 1939 to the first of 1950, I pastored the Emmanuel Baptist Church in the city of Toledo. And during those years, and a little while before that, and sometime after that, I collected cartoons.

James T. Jeremiah:

There was a magazine published many years ago called the Sunday-School Times, and Dr. Pace did a lot of great drawing to illustrate spiritual lessons. Later on, a man by the name of Emerson Russell took over that responsibility, and he eventually became a faculty member on the staff of Cedarville College many years ago. I want to use some of these illustrations today to talk about an important thing. My theme would be look, live, and labor. We need eyesight. The light of the body is the eye. Jesus said, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So if your eye is sound, your entire body will be full of light, but if your eye is unsound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the very light is in you, your conscience is just darkened.

James T. Jeremiah:

How dense is the darkness?" Look through your eye of faith and see the will of God. When the eye of faith sees and obeys the will of God, one can have a life of happiness and a life of joy. We can look and see him in the scriptures, the Word of God. The woman of Samaria experienced life and invited others, "Come and see the man that told me all things that ever I did." She went to work because it goes on to

say that many of the Samaritans were saved because of this woman's testimony. She looked to the Lord and God gave her life. And when she had life, she went to work. An elderly woman, one time was given her first medical examination, I don't know how in the world she did this at age 77. How she escaped the medical profession until then I'll never know.

James T. Jeremiah:

Her health was good, but she did have failing eyesight. Glasses were prescribed. After she wore them for one day, she returned them saying, "Life looks more beautiful without false aids. I had never met an ugly person until I put these things on." Some people do choose to live with limited spiritual vision, and believe that no one is really bad. All are good. Spiritually, they're blinded to the truth. Over and over again you've heard this from this pulpit and in your classroom, but our gospel is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds, the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe the light of the gospel. We read also that God, our Savior, desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

James T. Jeremiah:

How do we get the truth? How do we know it? That comes by the work of the Holy Spirit, as we read, believe, and obey the Word of God. We see Him in the scriptures, from the beginning to the end, He's in the scriptures. New vision, great truths. I think one of the great passages of scriptures, the 119th Psalm. I know it's the longest one. Somebody said the Psalm if somebody wanted to be have read before they were executed, or while they were getting prepared for it. That will be a little longer than the 23rd Psalm, and give them a little more time. Anyhow, the Psalm is a great portion of scripture. I want to just call your attention to some verses from it, as you think about seeing Him in the Word of God.

James T. Jeremiah:

The writer says, "Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Thy law. Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things." Turn my eye to see wonderful things, turn my eye way so I won't see worthless things. "Revive me in Your way. Your testimonies are wonderful, therefore, my soul keeps them." God's Word tells us who God is, what He's done, what He is doing, what He is going to do. You don't find wondrous words like that in any other book in all of existence. You see Him, you see the Lord, you see the Savior. And this wonderful book does wonderful things, as it reveals the Lord. It convicts. I have a paper somewhere where I did, or I found about twelve to fifteen things that the Bible does to you when you read it. I'll just give you two or three of them.

James T. Jeremiah:

It convicts. Out of the Psalm you read, "Your Word, I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You." It cleanses. How can a young man cleanse his way? How can a young lady cleanse her way? "By taking heed according to your word." The book says. It counsels us. "The testimonies are my delight and my counselors. Make me walk in the path of Your commandments for I delight in it." Many, many times you will have experiences of having comfort from that book. You probably already have had some. "This is my comfort in my affliction, for your Word has given me life. I remembered Your judgment of all, O Lord, and I have covered myself.

James T. Jeremiah:

I hope in Your word. My eyes failed from searching Your word, saying, "When will You comfort me?" You can think about the Bible as the Word of God. It is the great doctrine we must hold dear. Every student

in this institution ought to have convictions about the Bible being the Word of God, being God's truth. We ought to handle it as though it is. I mean, as we study it and be convinced of the message that is there. As we think about the Word of God and all that comes from it, built upon it, the rocks or the stones that are built upon the foundation are built upon the Word of God. And after we see in the scriptures, we're going to see Him as, He is our Savior, see Him as the Savior.

James T. Jeremiah:

A young man once saw an old fellow with a back bent and his limbs trembling as he walked down the street. He had a cane, he was leaning on the cane, doing the best he could to get along. Hair was white, his eyes dim, and his face was furrowed. He observed the elderly man, this young guy did, and still seemed happy and fond of life. As he walked, he hummed the tune of a hymn. "Aged friend," The young fellow said. He didn't call him old man. That's nice. "Aged friend, why should an old man be happy?" Well, he did get it in there. Didn't he? "Aged friend, why should an old man be happy?" "Or why not?" Replied. "Then why should you be happy?" "Because I belong to the Lord." No one, young, or old is happy unless they know the Lord Jesus Christ is Savior. Only as we individually trust Him can we know him as the great giver of eternal life.

James T. Jeremiah:

Look through your eye of faith, see Him. Way back in the Old Testament, just a brief word to this, we read out of Isaiah 45 and verse 22, "Look to Me, look to Me and be saved all you ends of the earth for I am God, and there is no other." Not long after the promise was given, when Israel was on the way out of Egypt, some of the Israelis sinned, and they were told by Moses to look at the blazing serpent, and whoever would look would live, a type of a picture of the coming of the cross of Christ. We read also that our Lord Jesus Christ is typified by a lamb for the man, a lamb for a nation, a lamb for the world. He's the one who died, and we read, "Behold, the Lamb of God who has taken away the sin of the world."

James T. Jeremiah:

A lamb for a man, a lamb for family, a lamb for a nation, but great of all for us today to know is He's the lamb that died for the world. What does that mean? Out of this book are wonders things? The lamb that died for the world, died for you, and died for me. We didn't deserve it. Let me just mention three or four things that happens when we trust the Lamb. We have deliverance from wrath. Paul wrote, "God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we're yet sinners Christ died for us. Much more than having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him." What does that mean? That means hell. That means judgment. That means eternal, everlasting suffering. God, the Savior.

James T. Jeremiah:

When He died on the cross, saved us from wrath. The experiences of forgiveness of sins. In Him, we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins. Do you ever feel guilty? Your sin make you guilty, and you found out when you came to the Lord Jesus, and remember that if we confess our sins, He's faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanses from all unrighteousness. He could do that only as he died in our behalf. Peace with God. I like this one. Peace with God. By Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross. Freedom from fear. Fear of what? Fear of God.

James T. Jeremiah:

Listen, Hebrews 10:19-20, "Therefore brethren, having boldness to enter the holiest place, heaven, by the blood of Jesus, by a new living way, which He consecrated for us through the veil, that is His flesh." Having boldness. Oh, isn't it great to know you can come to the Lord every day, talk to Him, pray, praise His name, and you don't come in fear, you come in acceptance, freedom from fear, holiness of life. The blood of bulls and goats. Therefore, sprinkling the unclean sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ through the eternal spirit, offered Himself without spot, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve a living God? See Him in the scriptures, use your eye of faith. See Him as the Savior. And now, let's see Him as our strength.

James T. Jeremiah:

A man was driving country one day and saw a fellow sitting on a fence, watching as the cars go by. Stopping to pass the time of day, the traveler said, "I never could stand living out here. You don't see anything, and I'm sure you don't travel like I do. I'm on the go all the time." So a boy was sitting there on the fence, looked down at him, at the stranger and drawled, "I can't see much difference in what I'm doing, and what you're doing. I sit on the fence and watch the autos go by, and you sit in your auto and watch the fences go by. What difference they make? We're seeing something just the way you look at things." Hmm. The way you look, well, it is... You have to look by faith. It isn't where you look, oh yes it is, you have to look to the Savior.

James T. Jeremiah:

When anyone has trusted Jesus as Savior, it matters a great deal to whom, and where we look after we have been saved. We must keep on looking to Jesus. This look of victory is described in Hebrews 12:1-2. I like this. I hope you find a great joy in Hebrews 12:1-2, "Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance, or patience. The race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the sin, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." My friend, when our eyes are fixed on Jesus, the source and goal of our faith, then we will love to know and do His will.

James T. Jeremiah:

This is the look of victory. And how do you keep your eyes on Jesus? Study that book. You see Jesus through that book, through what it says. You don't have physically visual pictures, but you have a constant reminder in your heart. You see the Lord Jesus who took your place. And Paul or the writer of Hebrews, which could have been Paul, I guess, was on to point out that we ought to consider the priorities. In that same chapter talks about the great crowd, or the great cloud of witnesses. It refers to the great people who've gone on before in the chapter of faith. And they are the priorities. Think back to these people who've gone on before.

James T. Jeremiah:

Think of the examples of people you know today, your mother, your dad, your pastor, people are living for God in your church, they're an encouragement for you to look to the Savior who strengthened them. I've gone through some experiences with some of these people who have come to the end of the journey. And I think of one old man, I'll never forget him. He was a deacon in the church, and was taken ill, and was in a hospital, or a care center for a long time. I'm remember going to see him. He said,

"Pastor, I have good news for you. I'm going home pretty soon." Well, I said, "That's nice. When are you going to go home?" Well, he said, "I'm not quite sure, but the doctor says it won't be long."

James T. Jeremiah:

"Oh," I said, "You're going home to heaven?" "Yes, sir. That's where I'm going, to see Jesus." Well, he said, "And I'll be there to welcome you when you get there." I said, "I'm going down Collinwood Avenue, and it's a pretty strenuous street, I might get killed in automobile accident and get there ahead of you." "Oh, I don't think you will, but you count on it, I'll be there to welcome you." This, my friend, is the kind of a faith in the hour of crisis that all of us ought to be prepared for, because we're going to face it, unless the Lord Jesus Christ comes before then. Get rid of the problems, everything that hinders, and the sin that easily entangles, be occupied with a pioneer. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the perfecter of faith for the joy He endured.

James T. Jeremiah:

Be sure of a pattern, looking onto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. He kept His eye on the joy before Him. The Lord Jesus, when He went to the cross, had a joy ahead of Him. Who was it? You and me and the rest of the redeemed, who would be bought with a blood He shed, and He kept His eye on the goal, all to help us in our day to do that. See Him in the scriptures, see Him as a Savior, see Him as our strength, and then see Him as the sanctifier, the sanctifier. Sometime ago, I traveled, I visited a beautiful garden, a lovely estate, and I asked caretaker, "How long have you been here?" "25 years." I said, "How often has the owner been to see you?" "Four times." "When did he come last?" "12 years ago." "Who comes then to look after things?" "I'm pretty much alone." "You keep the garden spick and span that one would think you were expecting the owner tomorrow." "Today, sir, today." Replied the caretaker.

James T. Jeremiah:

Jesus told His disciples, "Therefore also be ready for the Son of Man is coming in an hour when you don't expect Him." How come they were ready for that day? The Bible gives us an answer, that question very clearly put. Titus 2:13-14, "For the blessed hope, looking for the blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from every lawless deed, purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works." Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. We must by faith see Him now, as we're going to see Him then. This is the message which we have heard from Him, and declare to you that God is light, in Him is no darkness at all.

James T. Jeremiah:

We confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins. We shall see Him then, and be glad we see Him now. Beloved, we are the children of God, and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. Listen now, this is the sanctifying power of the Savior, as you look at Him. Everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, even as He is pure. Do you believe the Lord's coming? I think He can come today. We ought to plan for that. There's no reason why He couldn't. Some of us have been saved Christians for some time. I was saved when I was 19, and I listened to a man in our home church, a college student, seminar student, in the absence of the pastor, he had the prayer meetings for a few weeks.

James T. Jeremiah:

He had a chart about the [inaudible 00:23:15]. How the Christ was going to come to receive His own unto Himself. He was going to come in great power and glory and take over the world eventually, and we would reign with Him. And I listened to that, and it got to me. I was doing a lot of things in the world I shouldn't be doing. I remember going to one of those great entertainments that you think is necessary for your well-being, it was for my downfall, if I'd kept on going. But I sat there in that place and I listened, and I thought I could never get out. I thought the Lord had come before I made the door. I was so convicted. I'll tell you folks, if you keep your eyes on the future, and you think about the Savior coming, it'll do two things.

James T. Jeremiah:

It'll make you want to go to work, go to laboring, laboring for the Savior. And it'll make you want to live to glorify the name of the Savior who died for us. He's a sanctifier. How does He do that? How does He make us holy? How does He make us... He's coming again? He that has this hope in him, purified himself, even as He is pure, pretty clear, pretty plain. The look of hope in the Savior's coming leads to holiness in the Christian living. Here's a little light[?] I found somewhere. "Oh, Lord, we long for you to come and catch your bride away. We wish it were tomorrow Lord, or better yet today. We want to see the heavens rented, hear God's trumpet sound, and see the dead in Christ arise as shouts of joy abound.

James T. Jeremiah:

Then we'll be changed, made like our Lord, and we shall see His face. O blessed hope, it's ours because of God, God's great love and grace." See Him in the scriptures. See Him as the Savior. See Him as our strength. See Him as the sanctifier. See Him as the servant, the servant. An elderly man told his doctor he wasn't feeling well. "You know I can't help you," said the doctor. "You know I can't make you feel like a young man." "I don't want to be like a young man," the old fellow replied. "I just want to keep on growing old." Other words, you just want to keep on living. Another old timer at 88 was found in the street corner, handing out tracks, giving his testimony for Christ. When he was warned against doing so much, he replied, "I must do what I can while I'm young."

James T. Jeremiah:

How does that mean anything to me? You see, there's no difference between an 88-year-old man and an 18-year-old kid. In this college, death could be as certain for one as the other. We ought to live for God, serving Him every day, as that may be the last day. I think that Jesus, He looked and He saw the people, He came to the Samaritan people, and all they said to Him, "You don't have anything to do with the Samaritans." But He demonstrated His willingness to reach everybody He could. And so He reached the Samaritan woman, led her to Christ, which makes us see, we must seek to win every lost sinner to Christ, regardless of their creed, color, or condition. He gave a command to every believer to look at the field of harvest. "Look at the field of harvest." He said. White unto harvest.

James T. Jeremiah:

I wanted to ask you a question. If it was white unto harvest when He saw it and said that, what must be the color now? The harvest is great. The reaching of people for Christ is beyond our comprehension, as we think of the tremendous need. Every redeemed-born-again-saved Christian is commanded to look at the harvest field and get busy winning a lost. God called us to serve, called us to serve. Look, I don't know what your major is. Maybe majoring in psychology, business, maybe majoring in science, but in a

school like this, your major ought to have with it the idea that you're going to use it to serve the Lord. "Well, sir, I can't preach." I'm talking about using your major to serve the Lord. Now, the other side of it is, I have known young people, and older ones as well, who rather than to make a statement that they want to do what God wants them to do and serve what God wants them to serve, they hide behind everything that you can see on that picture, business, pleasures, their own ideas, their own plans.

James T. Jeremiah:

And as they do, they miss out. What about you tonight, today? God's spoken to you about serving Him, witnessing for Him. Out in that mission field, there are places where you can be a businessman, or an engineer, or a scientist, or a psychologist. You could be that and serve God. I'm not saying everybody ought to be an ordained preacher, but I am saying everybody who knows Christ who died on the cross to redeem us is called of God to be a witness. You are witnesses of Me. And there are some of you here, undoubtedly, who are battling the business of full-time service as a pastor, or as a missionary. I know what the battle is, I've been through it. The last thing in the world I wanted to do was be a preacher. I used to tell my mother two things, "I'll never be in a preacher's [unintelligible word]."

James T. Jeremiah:

And I met some people since who feel I've fulfilled my mother's ambition. Listen, I know what it means to go through the battle, but I know what it means too, my friend, when you say yes to the Lord, and the joy, and the blessing of serving Him. Out and beyond this college today, there are thousands of students in universities, they never hear anything about the call of God. The limited body of believers that the Lord has, He's depending on us. I wouldn't want you to go out as a pastor, or a missionary, under any circumstances under the sun, if it wasn't God calling you, but don't be like that old boy, trying to hide everything with a baggage. If He's calling, remember, we see Him as servant, the field is white unto harvest.

James T. Jeremiah:

And he talks about... And I haven't time to do this, but you can find out how many times Jesus says, "As My Father sent Me." "He sent Me." "I am here to obey Him." "He sent Me." "I am His servant." If Jesus Christ was a servant, and coming to get you saved, then we ought to be servants in response to reap some others who need to be saved. God is speaking to you, don't turn away, ask Him for help and strength and counsel with your friends, counsel with the faculty, counsel with any of us, we can help you. God is speaking to you. God bless you, and give you His strength.

James T. Jeremiah:

Our Father, thank You for today, this opportunity of being together. Thank You for our friends here, and we pray to bless them, Lord. Oh, give them wisdom. Help them in the days they face the responsibility of serving Christ, that they know and do His will. Help them to look, and be sure of living, and put to work what they know, and go into the labor for the Lord, in Jesus' name, amen.