

“HUME’S HAPPENINGS”

1st April 2024

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Greetings brethren ,

Thank you for your support , it is very much appreciated .
Following is my report for **March 2024** .

MY “HILBURN” REPORT .

My report this month is very brief re my work due to the arrival of **Randy** and **Judy Hilburn** from the U . S . They arrived in Tasmania on **Tuesday 5th March** , and plan to depart five weeks later on **Monday 8th April** .

The Hilburns lived in our “brethren’s apartment” on the ground floor of our home .

Randy is a preacher and elder of the **Rosedale** church of Christ in **Bakersfield , California** , one of my supporting churches . I expected him to teach all of Eastside’s Bible classes and preach the sermon each Sunday , but upon his arrival he informed me that the Rosedale elders had requested that Randy hear me teach one Bible Class and preach one sermon while he is here .

In Eastside's Sunday morning Bible Class I am in the process of teaching a fifty (50) lesson series on Jesus Christ . Unfortunately , the lesson in sequence on the **24th March** (*The secret of the easy yoke*) just happened to be one of the very few lessons in this series that does not invoke comments and discussion from the Eastside members .

I would have liked Randy and Judy to see and hear the usual wonderful "back and forth" banter that occurs every Sunday morning in this class , that results in me taking 2 - 3 weeks to complete a lesson .

In hindsight I realise now that I should have skipped this lesson on that particular Sunday and taught it out of sequence when Randy and Judy had returned to the U.S . It is too late to realise now what I should have done !

I have attached the one Bible Class and the one sermon that I taught / preached while Randy was with us . I hope they may be of some interest to you , and useful material for you to use .

WHAT DID I DO ?

1. Because I did not have to teach all of Eastside's Sunday Bible Classes and preach each Sunday , I took opportunity to photocopy , collate , staple , and bind new lesson booklets for my monthly world - wide mailing list .
2. I also spent many hours researching and compiling a series of lessons on the **A.D. 70 doctrine** .
3. A number of hours was spent on compiling a "study pack" of material as a result of a request from Andrew McKerihan (one of Eastside's members) .
4. The majority of this month was spent in Jackie and I acting as "tour guides" for Randy and Judy (see next item) .

HOBART TRIP .

On **Thursday 14th March**, Jackie and I drove Randy and Judy to Hobart, Tasmania's capital city (3 hours) where we spent three full days and returned to Launceston, my home city on **Monday 18th March**.

On Friday and Saturday we organised activities such as a city bus tour, a river cruise, a huge outdoor street market, and the historic town of Richmond.

On Sunday the 17th March we took Randy and Judy to the worship and Bible Class meetings of the **Mornington Hill church of Christ** where they met a number of brethren.

During the 3 hour drive home on the Monday, we stopped and explored all the historic towns.

CAR TRIPS AND "REST DAYS" .

Every second day Jackie and I took Randy and Judy to locations and attractions around northern Tasmania, and the alternating days were "rest days" in the apartment.

On many of these "rest days" Jackie drove Judy into our city for exploring and purchasing. I took advantage of these rest days to accomplish the things of item two above.

HILBURN SUMMARY .

Every member at Eastside has been overjoyed to have Randy and Judy with us for five weeks, their presence has given us all a spiritual "*shot in the arm*" and wonderful memories that will motivate us for a long time to come.

Randy's teaching and preaching was great, and it did wonders for the Eastside brethren to hear a voice and presentation other than mine.

Everyone at Eastside are hoping Randy and Judy can encourage more Rosedale members to visit and stay with us .

PLEASE TAKE NOTE .

Randy has agreed for any of my U.S. supporting churches to contact him and enquire about his first hand assessment of my labours here in Tasmania . His email address is rndhlbrn@gmail.com

LESSONS TAUGHT BY ME AT EASTSIDE IN MARCH .

Most of my Bible class and sermon subjects take several weeks to cover due to the nature of the Eastside members who need constant repetition , detailed explanations , and mutual discussions among brethren re personal applications of Biblical principles in their lives .

Also , I encourage members to ask questions re anything they do not understand or even something that is a side issue to what we are actually studying at the time . Thus it is very rare for me to ever complete a lesson in one Bible class .

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS .

- March 3 - *"Adam , a type of Christ"* .
- 10 - **Randy Hilburn** taught the class .
- 17 - I took the Hilburns to the Hobart church .
- 24 - **I taught** , *"The secret of the easy yoke"* .
- 31 - **Randy Hilburn** taught the class .

SUNDAY SERMONS .

- March 3 - I preached , *"Two special people"* (**Phil 2 : 19 - 29**) .
- 10 - **Randy Hilburn** preached the sermon .
- 17 - I took the Hilburns to the Hobart church .
- 24 - **I preached** , *"The place of emotion in Christian's life"* .
- 31 - **Randy Hilburn** preached the sermon .

MIDWEEK BIBLE CLASS .

- March 5 - Viktor taught **2 Cor 5** .
- 12 - **Randy Hilburn** taught the class .
- 19 - **Randy Hilburn** taught the class .
- 26 - Viktor taught **2 Cor 6** .

Following is a repeat of the items that form the basis of my activities each month .

REGULAR MONTHLY ACTIVITIES .

Set up school .

Jackie and I arrive about one hour early on Sunday morning along with two other members and we set up an "auditorium" in the gymnasium of the Ravenswood Heights Primary School .

"Friend day" lunch at our house for brethren and visitors after Sunday worship on the second or third Sunday in the month .

Midweek Bible Class : Continues to be at my house .

Study periods : Preparing sermons and Bible classes for Eastside's meetings .

Lesson booklets : Ongoing typing , photocopying , stapling , and binding of new and replacement booklets for requests , and for display at our church meetings .

Study packs : Ongoing photocopying , stapling , and packaging of these as time permits .

Letterboxing : Jackie and I make every effort to continue this project on a weekly basis , but often a lack of time does not allow this to happen .

Thank you once again for your wonderful support , please visit us if you ever get the opportunity to do so ,

Yours in Christ ,

Barry Hume .

SECRET OF THE EASY YOKE

(MATT 11 : 28 - 30)

INTRODUCTION

A . STORY .

A young mother with three children was working in her kitchen, the phone rang, and when she answered it, the conversation went like this :

"Honey, this is mum, I called because I know you are busy with the kids, and dad and I want to give you some help".

I am going to come around and spring - clean your house, take care of the baby and prepare a meal for the boys when they get home from school.

I want you to get ready to go to my hairdresser, I have paid her already, she is going to give you the works, your appointment is at 1 pm. Give George a call at the office and tell him that you will meet him at the Ritz Restaurant for dinner, I have already paid for it".

At this point, the young mother interrupted the caller and said, "George, who is George" ? The caller said, "Your husband". She replied, "My husband's name is Fred".

"Oh, is this 63.26 1602" ? "No, this is 63.26 1601".
The caller said, "I am so sorry, I have the wrong number".

After a pause, the young mother said, "Does this mean the deal is off" ?

B . WHAT ABOUT YOU ?

Do you ever feel as though you would love to receive a phone call like that ? Do you ever wish that someone would come along and take care of things for you so you can get some rest ?

That is what Jesus offers in **Matt 11 : 28 - 30** . This passage has two parts to it which we are going to look at in this lesson , the first part is very comforting , but the second part is difficult for some to understand .

I WILL GIVE YOU REST

(VS 28)

A . A BEAUTIFUL PROMISE .

This is one of the most beautiful promises in all of the Bible . It was a promise God made to the Israelites as they headed toward the land of Canaan , it was a land of rest - **Deut 12 : 10** **Josh 11 : 23** .

It is a promise made to those of us who are Christians as we look forward to heaven - **Heb 4 : 9**
Rev 14 : 13 .

One of the things I am looking forward to when I get to heaven is being able to rest. Heaven will be a place where we will not experience the feeling of being so tired, so utterly worn out. I am especially looking forward to being without pain - **Rev 21 : 4**.

B . JESUS' PROMISE IS FOR NOW .

Jesus is not talking about heaven in **Matt 11 : 28** . He is offering rest for our souls here and now , someone to help us carry our burdens .

In **Gal 6 : 2** , Paul says to , "*Bear one another's burdens*" , and we can do that for one another . There have been (and continues to be) times in my life when I have gone through things I could not have handled without brothers and sisters in Christ who were there for me .

But what we do for one another in a small way , Christ does for us in a far greater way . Whatever burden you are carrying right now , Christ says He will be there for you .

Reality is , life can be very difficult , but Jesus wants us to bring our burdens to Him so that He can share the load and give us the strength to cope . He is always on the lookout for hurting people , who are bold enough to admit , "*Lord , I need some help , I cannot carry these problems alone*"

C . HE WILL KEEP HIS PROMISE .

Notice that Jesus does not say , "*I might give you rest*" , or "*I probably will give you rest*" , He said , "*I will give you rest*" .

David said with assurance in **Ps 55 : 22** - "*Cast your burden upon the Lord, and He will sustain you*".

MY YOKE IS EASY
AND MY BURDEN IS LIGHT
(VS 30)

A . DID JESUS REALLY SAY THAT ?

Did He really say that the yoke of Christianity is easy, and the burden is light? That sounds nice, but does anyone actually believe it?

The popular concept of Christianity is that it is a heavy burden of responsibilities and obligations that only weigh you down. You have to do this, and you cannot do that etc.

To some extent I agree that it is not easy to be a Christian, sometimes it is very difficult, yet Jesus says, "*My yoke is easy, and My burden is light*".

John wrote something very similar in **1 Jn 5 : 3**.

Most people think just the opposite, they feel the commandments of God are a burden. Many Jews of the first century would have agreed because their religious leaders (the scribes and Pharisees) had created so many man-made laws, rules, and regulations about how to live on a day to day basis, that the people were overwhelmed by it all - **Lk 11 : 46**.

B. EASY YOKE AND BURDEN LIGHT ?

A yoke in the first century was made of wood, a huge wooden bar that was placed on the neck of an animal, the yoke was part of the harness used to pull a cart or a plow.

It was the means by which the animal's master kept it under control and guided it to do useful work.

We think of this huge wooden bar, then Jesus says, "Take My yoke upon you", and we do not see anything that is light and easy.

The yoke symbolises submission and obedience, it is a graphic picture of the weight of responsibility. So how can Jesus say it is easy and the burden light ?

C. ILLUSTRATION .

Ray Stedman, a gospel preacher, illustrates it this way :

"This burden of our Lord's yoke is like the burden of wings to a bird, like fins to a fish, like a motor in a car. What would you think if I lifted up the hood of your new car and said, 'Why do you carry this big chunk of iron around with you' ?

'Look at all the weight it adds to your automobile ! How much easier this car would be to push if you did not have this heavy motor here in the front'

"You would look at me very pityingly, and would

say, 'It is the weight of the metal that makes the difference between pushing and riding. If I did not have that I would have to push, but it is that heavy motor that makes free movement of the car possible" .

I like that illustration , because God's laws do not make life more difficult for us , they make our life better . All that God commands us to do is good for us - **Ps 119 : 97 - 104 .**

God's commandments are no more a burden than wings are to a bird , fins are to a fish , or a motor is to a car . But there are two things that we need to realise in order to understand the secret of the easy yoke .

THE GREATER OUR LOVE FOR GOD

THE LIGHTER THE BURDEN

A . CONSIDER THIS .

We need to read **1 Jn 5 : 3** again and consider that there is a direct correlation between our love for God and the fact that His commandments are not a burden to us .

B . ILLUSTRATION .

This can be illustrated by a husband or wife who is permanently ill and cannot do many things for themselves any more . Their spouse must do many things

to assist them every day , but if they had to do these things for other people it would be burdensome to them .

But because they are doing it for their spouse , and because of the love they have for them they do not consider it to be a burden , but rather , a privilege to be able to help them .

Likewise , the greater love we have for God , the less we will view His yoke of submission as a burden .

But there is something else involved re the "easy" yoke .

THE GREATER OUR COMMITMENT

THE LIGHTER THE BURDEN

A . DIVIDED LOYALTIES .

In considering this point , let us read **1 Kings 18 : 17 - 21** where we find a problem that still plagues us in our lives as Christians today .

You may think this is a strange passage to quote re any problems in our life today , because it is most likely we do not have any Baal worshippers in this room . But the truth is , the problem Israel had is still a problem for God's people today .

Israel were worshipping God (Jehovah) and Baal side by side , though sometimes we get the impression that

they abandoned God , but they did not do that as their usual practice , rather , they worshipped Him side by side with false gods .

B . WHY DID THEY DO THAT ?

Well , when the Israelites came into the land of Canaan , they came into a land with all sorts of worship of false gods . They had always been loyal to Jehovah , but what did they really know about Him ?

They knew He was good at providing for them in the wilderness , and He was good at leading them to victory in battles , but that was about it . And so they had to wonder , can He make the crops grow ?

They did not know the answer because He had never had to do it before . But , lo and behold , what god was the Canaanites worshipping ?

They were worshipping Baal , the fertility god , so the Israelites started to worship Baal to make their crops grow .

But they kept worshipping Jehovah because you never know when you might get into a battle and need assistance . The Israelites were having "50 cents each way" , worshipping Jehovah one day and Baal the next day . They tried to keep both happy .

Thus Elijah says to them , *"How long will you hesitate between two opinions" ?* What he is really saying is , *"How long are you going to keep trying to have it both ways ? Stop being divided , make a choice , it must be either Jehovah or Baal , but it cannot be both" .*

C . HOW DOES THAT APPLY TO US ?

That is exactly the problem many brethren have today , they have not ever abandoned God , but they are divided in their allegiances . There are aspects of their life that they have not brought into harmony with God's will .

Think for a moment about the most spiritual person you know , someone you admire for their spirituality . Now , what is it about them that you admire ?

No doubt , it is the fact that what they believe re God has influenced every aspect of their lives .

It affects the way they act in the church building , in the workplace , around their family , and it even affects the way they play sport .

It affects everything they do and say , because that is what spirituality is , having all of our life under God's control .

Someone once said that we have too much sin in our life to enjoy our Christianity , and too much Christianity in our life to enjoy our sin , so we just end up feeling guilty all the time .

We need to stop being divided spiritually , as the Israelites were in the days of Elijah .

Now , if Christianity involves so much commitment , how can Jesus describe His yoke as being easy and His burden as being light ?

THE SECRET OF THE EASY YOKE

A . PRACTICE DEVELOPS INSTINCT .

If you have to think about whether you are doing the right thing , then Christianity is a tough battle to fight . It is only when the right thing to do becomes the natural thing to do that the yoke is easy . Let me explain what I mean .

When a person decides they want to learn to play a musical instrument (for example , a guitar) , they begin by learning all the chords and they find it very difficult . Will it ever be easy for them ? Yes !

At this point , every time they pick up the guitar they are thinking , *"I have to put my index finger here , and put my middle finger there"* .

But eventually , after practicing over and over for months and months , there will come a time when they will not even have to think about what they are doing . Their fingers will naturally go where they are supposed to go , and playing the guitar will be easy .

B . SPIRITUAL APPLICATION .

Now let us make the transition back to the spiritual realm . When you have to constantly be thinking , *"I have got to be careful not to do this , or say that"* , then living life as a Christian can seem like a burden , and it is very difficult .

But when you have practiced it to the point where you do not have to think about it, where the right thing to do is the natural thing, then it is easy. It is not a burden at all, the yoke is easy and the burden is light - **Heb 5 : 12 - 14**.

A lifetime of commitment, practicing daily for years to bring our lives into line with what God expects of us. The problem is, we focus too much on the moment of decision, which is way too late.

What we do each day, how we react to any given situation, has already been decided a long time before it ever comes about.

We need to be more concerned with the rehearsal than the actual show, because how we react in our spiritual lives is determined by who we are in the months and years before - **1 Tim 4 : 7**.

We will make little progress in the area of spirituality until we get our focus off the many moments of decision, and start getting our focus on the lifetime of preparation that leads up to those moments. Because if you have to think about doing the right thing, you are already in trouble.

Paul taught that it is possible to develop a lifestyle where our initial reaction is the right reaction, where we will be living, breathing, walking examples of the living Lord - **Gal 2 : 20**.

C. HOW CAN WE ACHIEVE THIS ?

God says that is within our reach , but how do you get to that point where our initial reaction is the right reaction ?

We need to clearly understand right now that there is no three step , five step , or ten step program to a life of spirituality that will give you instant results .

What is needed is a lifetime , day by day commitment of putting yourself in a position of developing spirituality over the course of a lifetime . Then when that moment of truth comes , and a tough spiritual decision comes your way , you will be ready to instinctively make the right decision .

CONCLUSION

A . CHRIST'S INVITATION .

Today Jesus extends to each of us the wonderful invitation found in **Matt 11 : 28 - 30** . If your love for God is strong enough , then the burden will be light , and when the right thing to do becomes the natural thing to do , then the yoke becomes easy .

The question is , are you living your life in such a way right now so as to lead toward that kind of spirituality ? There is one burden in particular that Christ will help us with , one that David made reference to in **Ps 38 : 4** .

B . MOVIE .

In 1987, there was a movie released called, "The Mission", and in it, a soldier, Captain Mendoza, kills his brother in a feud over a woman they both love.

Afterward, desperately depressed and consumed by remorse, he feels that the only way to get rid of his burden of guilt is to perform some form of penance.

So he ties a huge net to his back, fills it with boulders, and sets himself to climb a high mountain. He travels over rocks, swamps and thick bush, across rivers, and through forests.

You see him, cut, bruised, and bleeding, crawling up the mountainside, the huge weight dragging behind him. From time to time, others in the group urge him to let go of the burden, "You don't have to carry it anymore". But he cannot leave it.

Eventually, reaching the top of the mountain, he collapses, totally exhausted, and then a little boy comes up to him and cuts the net from him, and as the net and rocks cascade down the mountainside, Captain Mendoza is filled with a feeling of total release, his burden is gone.

What was pictured in that movie is a reality in Jesus Christ. He wants to relieve you of the burden you are carrying today, the burden of sin.

EMOTION IN A CHRISTIAN'S LIFE

INTRODUCTION

A. TWO EXTREMES IN RELIGIOUS WORLD.

1. EMOTIONALISM.

This attitude is based on subjective standards and vague feelings to determine truth and to express that "truth" in everyday life .

What "*I feel in my heart*" is considered to be more important than what the scriptures teach . Scriptural authority for everything believed and practiced in the religious realm is considered to be of little importance .

This extreme is primarily found in religions such as Pentecostalism and Mormonism etc , but sadly there are more and more individuals in every denomination and sect (even in the Lord's church) who are beginning to embrace this unscriptural concept .

2. STOIC FAITH.

Others have a stoic faith consisting of cold , emotionless facts , sterile rituals , and academic exercises .

I believe that many people have become this way due to an over – reaction to their fear of succumbing to the sin of emotionalism , and their concern for always having scriptural authority for everything they do .

The outcome of this fear is that these people live a life of practicing a legalistic , Pharisaical religion whereby Bible study becomes a technical , academic exercise and Bible classes and worship services become nothing more than emotionless rituals .

Everyday living is reduced to nothing more than a constant adherence to a list of legalistic rules . One can profess soundness and just be , "*going through the motions*" .

Services can start at 10 am sharp, and end at 12 noon dull !

B. GOD'S WILL LIES BETWEEN THESE TWO EXTREMES.

1. We must indeed have scriptural authority (book , chapter , and verse) for everything we believe , think , and practice in the religious realm - **Col 3 : 17**
1 Cor 4 : 6 .

2. At the same time we need to appreciate the value of emotions in our efforts to get to heaven .

God is an emotional God , He made us as emotional beings , and we need to get excited and emotional about the gospel message and the fact we are Christians .

ALL GREAT BIBLE CHARACTERS **WERE EMOTIONAL PEOPLE**

A. OLD TESTAMENT EXAMPLES .

1. JOSEPH .

When Joseph's brothers brought Benjamin with them on their second trip to Egypt , Joseph was , *"deeply stirred over his brother , and he sought a place to weep"* - **Gen 43 : 26 - 30** .

Note his demeanour when he revealed himself to his brothers - **Gen 45 : 1 - 2** .

2. MOSES .

When Moses came back down Mount Sinai , after receiving the Ten Commandments , he saw the Israelites engaged in idolatry , and , *"Moses anger burned , and he threw the tablets from his hands and shattered them at the foot of the mountain"* - **Ex 32 : 19** .

3. JOSHUA .

When men of Ai killed Israelites , "*Joshua tore his clothes and fell to the earth on his face*" - **Josh 7 : 5 - 7** .

B . JESUS DISPLAYED EMOTION MANY TIMES .

1. TEARS .

As He approached Jerusalem **Lk 19 : 41** .

During His grief in
Garden of Gethsemane **Lk 22 : 39 - 44** .

At the grave of Lazarus **Jn 11 : 33 - 36** .

2. COMPASSION .

When He saw the
lost , confused masses **Matt 9 : 36** .

Toward the two blind
Men sitting by the road **Matt 20 : 29 - 34** .

3. TENDERNESS .

Toward little children **Mk 10 : 13 - 16** .

4. HIS LIFE AND TEACHING .

His emotional outburst

inside of the temple..... **Jn 2 : 13 - 16 .**

His motivating parable
Of the Good Samaritan..... **Lk 10 : 30 - 37 .**

His parable of
The Prodigal son..... **Lk 15 : 11 - 32 .**

C . APOSTLES WERE EMOTIONAL CHARACTERS .

1 . PAUL - Acts 20 : 31 .

His spirit was provoked
when he saw idolatry..... **Acts 17 : 16 .**

Fears , comforted ,
and he rejoiced..... **2 Cor 7 : 5 - 7 .**

His letters to the Philippians and Timothy are simply packed with emotion - **Phil
1 : 4 & 8 & 18 Phil 3 : 18
2 Tim 1 : 3 - 4 .**

2 . PETER CUT OFF SOLDIER'S EAR - **Jn 18 : 7 - 10 .**

3 . JAMES AND JOHN - FIERY DISPOSITIONS - **Lk 9 : 52 - 55 .**

Now let us note some areas where emotion belongs in our life today .

IN PREACHING

AND IN TEACHING

A. THE GOSPEL .

God intended the gospel to be both informative and inspiring , because the gospel is , "*the power of God unto salvation*" - **Rom 1 : 16** .

The word "power" is translated from the Greek DUNAMIS , from which we get words like "dynamite" , "dynamo" , and "dynamic" .

Like dynamite that is placed in the side of a cliff will move that cliff face , the gospel , when place in human hearts is intended to "move" people toward salvation .

B. KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT ZEAL .

In trying to avoid the danger of having , "*zeal without knowledge*" (**Rom 10 : 1 - 2**) some people have developed , "knowledge without zeal" .

Thus much preaching has become legalistic , sterile , and without emotion . Sermons are informative , but they do not "move" or "inspire" people .

Preaching and Bible Class content sound like technical or statistical data to the listeners .

We should not expect people to be excited and joyful about things that we preach in doleful , technical , unemotional terms .

C. PETER PREACHED WITH EMOTION - Acts 2 : 14 - 36 .

Not with emotionalism , much of his sermon was cold , hard facts , but he intended to reach the hearts of his audience - vs **15 - 21** & **24 - 35** & **22 - 23** & **36 - 37** .

D . WHAT ABOUT US ?

In **Acts 2 : 38** Peter gave the answer that we give over and over again . But we often give it to people who have never asked us the question - vs **37** .

They have never been made to feel the guilt of sin enough to really want to know the answer !

IN DEALING WITH SIN

A . SORROW FOR THE LOST .

We should feel sorrow for other people around who are lost in sin - **Phil 3 : 17 - 18** .

"My eyes shed streams of water , because they do not keep Thy law" - **Ps 119 : 136** .

Jesus felt compassion for the lost , confused masses in all the cities and villages - **Matt 9 : 35 - 36** .

Are we burdened in our hearts that millions are lost spiritually , not having obeyed the gospel of Christ ?

B . EMOTIONAL ABOUT OUR OWN SIN .

Acts 2 : 37 says , *"Now when they heard this , they were pierced to the heart"* - they felt a deep , acute anguish and alarm re their own guilt .

The Corinthians reacted emotionally when Paul taught re their sin , they felt godly sorrow - **2 Cor 7 : 8 - 10** .

Felix listened to Paul and became frightened - **Acts 24 : 24 - 25** .

Simply Jesus looking at him was all that was needed for Peter to go outside and weep bitterly - **Lk 22 : 54 - 62** .

To feel bad about sinning is bad - but it is worse if you don't ! Paul describes people who are past such emotions , and it is a terrible thing when people feel no shame and guilt for their sins - **Eph 4 : 17 - 19** .

IN CONVERSION

A . OUR OWN CONVERSION .

A person should feel great emotion when they are converted to Christ , as the Psalmist said , *"My soul shall rejoice in the Lord , it shall exult in His salvation"* - **Ps 35 : 9** .

1 . ETHIOPEAN EUNUCH :

"Went on his way rejoicing" - **Acts 8 : 27 - 39** .

2 . PHILIPPIAN JAILER :

"Rejoiced greatly" - **Acts 16 : 22 - 34** .

We too should rejoice that we have been reconciled to God , forgiven , and saved .

B. THE CONVERSION OF OTHERS.

When someone else is converted, we should feel emotion, just as the brethren in Phoenicia and Samaria did - **Acts 15 : 2 - 3.**

Jesus told parables of a lost sheep, a lost coin, and a lost son, but notice in each parable what the "finder" of each thing lost expected others to do - **Lk 15 : 6 & 9 & 23 - 24.**

There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents - **Lk 15 : 10.**

IN WORSHIP

A. EMOTION IN CHURCH SERVICES.

Do we get excited about "going to church" each Sunday morning, or is it a ritual we go through without much feeling? Do we sometimes wish we could stay home occasionally, or go somewhere else for the day?

The Psalmist said, "*I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord*" - **Ps 122 : 1.**

B. TRADITION LEARNED BY ROTE.

Worship that is, "*tradition learned by rote*", is not acceptable to God, thus we must never allow ourselves to just "go through the motions" re our worship - **Isa 29 : 13 - 14.**

LORD'S SUPPER .

How can we partake of the Lord's Supper *in a worthy manner* , and not be moved emotionally ? - **1 Cor 11 : 23 - 30 .**

PRAYER .

How can one pray , *being conscious of God* , and not feel a sense of awe and reverence ? - **Lk 18 : 13 .**

Contribution .

Our giving to the treasury must be something that is done *cheerfully* as we purpose in our heart - **2 Cor 9 : 7 .**

C . SINGING .

How can we sing , making melody in our heart , and not feel emotion ? - **Eph 5 : 19 .**

How can we sing these hymns , and not feel emotion ?

"*Marching to Zion*" And not feel joy ?

"*Love lifted me*" And not feel gratitude ?

"*Oh how I love Jesus*" And not feel love ?

"*There's a day coming*" And not feel fear ?

D . EXAMPLE OF EMOTION IN WORSHIP .

Read **Neh 8 : 1 - 9** , and consider :

The "preacher's" actions vs 3, 5, 8.

The people's reaction vs 3, 6, 9.

IN DEALING WITH OUR BRETHREN

A. EMOTIONALLY INVOLVED IN THEIR LIVES.

Emotion should be a natural, and fundamental characteristic that is evident in all of our relationships as brethren.

"Fervently love one another from the heart" - 1 Pet 1 : 22.

If one member suffers, then all suffer, and if one is honoured, then all rejoice -
1 Cor 12 : 26.

We need to rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep -
Rom 12 : 15.

We need to be emotionally involved in the lives of brethren, and it would be difficult to imagine a more touching scene than in **Acts 20 : 36 - 38.**

A SERIOUS WARNING RE EMOTIONS

A. EMOTION - NOT EMOTIONALISM !

Emotion has a place in a Christian's life , but emotionalism does not ,it is contrary to biblical teaching .

The suffix "ism" means , "*devotion or adherence to*". Emotion is a means to an end (bearing fruit for the Lord) , emotionalism becomes the end in itself !

Our emotions must always be tempered with self - control , because self - control is an essential quality that we must possess - **Ga1 5 : 22 - 23** & **2 Pet 1 : 5 - 11** .

Some people become hysterical in their emotional displays . But in contrast , Jesus was emotional , but always in control , even in the Garden of Gethsemane - **Lk 22 : 39 - 46** .

B. NEVER THE BASIS OF OUR CONVICTIONS .

If we allow emotion to modify our beliefs - it then becomes emotionalism ! Emotion in preaching , teaching , and worship should never come from artificial means .

E . G . Turn down the lights , hold hands , or change the order of worship .

It should come from a heartfelt and genuine appreciation of what the Lord has done for us and what He means to us .

CONCLUSION

A . GOD'S FAITHFUL HAVE ALWAYS BEEN EMOTIONAL .

Just as emotion played a major role in the lives of early Christians , it is very much needed in our lives today .

WE NEED TO HAVE :

More hatred for sin
and for false doctrine **Ps 119 : 104 .**

More deep love
for our brethren **1 Pet 1 : 22 .**

More sympathy for
the distressed / needy **Lk 10 : 30 - 37 .**

More fear of judgment
day and of eternal hell **Heb 10 : 26 - 31 .**

More longing for
Our heavenly home **2 Cor 5 : 2 & 8 .**