

DWELL DEEP!



TEXT: Jeremiah 49:8

THESIS: To show that real service for the Lord requires a sincere dedication.

INTRO.: A. In our text the Lord tells the inhabitants of a certain place to do 3 things when they were attacked to **"flee ye, turn back, dwell deep..."** This tribe of Arabs, called the Dedanites, lived w/the Edomites, the descendants of Esau. When God vented His wrath upon the Edomites, the Dedanites were to pack up everything they had, gather their families, leave the Edomites & run to the rose-red city of Petra. There they would hide in the caves & rocks of the city. (This city is possibly the place where Israelites will retreat to during the Tribulation.)

B. They were told to **"DWELL DEEP!"** They were supposed to find the safest possible refuge from God's wrath & protect their possessions & most especially their families. When danger lurked, they were to flee...run & **"DWELL DEEP!"**

TRANS.: It doesn't take a rocket scientist to find out that America, our values, our churches, & our families are under attack. We had better flee, run & learn to **"DWELL DEEP!"**

ILLUS.: The A.C.L.U. filed suit to block a law which would make the internet safe for children against the 60,000 pornographic sites there. The porn peddlers are after our children (& adults!), and the A.C.L.U. wants to help them, in the name of "free speech."

I. DWELL DEEP IN SALVATION:

A. Know It!

1. No one has to settle for anything less than a positive, assured, born-again, settled, absolute, biblical salvation experience.
2. The enemy of your soul is trying to short-change you w/something less, based upon your goodness, your works or your feelings.

ILLUS.: Don't settle for a substitute! Dr. Walter Wilson (the famous fundamentalist preacher) tells a frightening story of being called to the sick bed of another famous preacher who was dying. He said: "I have something to confess... I'm not saved, I'm not saved, I'm not saved." Dr. Wilson said: "Well, make it right!" The preacher w/glassy eyes, looked up & said: "Walter, I'm not saved, I'm going to hell, I feel the fire now!" Dr. Wilson said: "O.K., you know how to be saved. You've preached the Gospel. You've won folks to Christ. You know the Bible; trust the Savior, now!" But he just repeated: "I'm not saved, I'm going to hell, I feel the fire now!"

You had better **"DWELL DEEP"** in this matter of salvation. Don't settle for church membership, a ritual, ceremony, sacrament, beads, candles, baptism, confirmation, morality, money, fame or feelings. Know you are saved. Settle it!

2 Pet.1:10 *Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:*

II. DWELL DEEP IN SEPARATION:

A. Show It!

1. The world is our enemy & we are under attack. **3**
2. Satan is our enemy & we are under attack – we can't just resist, we must avoid! Run! Flee! Find the caves & hide! **"DWELL DEEP!"**
3. Our problem is that our flesh (which is also our enemy!) enjoys the titillation that comes w/temptation; we prefer living close to the edge rather than dwelling deep w/in the camp.

ILLUS.: Moses was God's man chosen to lead the children of Israel thru the Wilderness of Sin. He arranged the camp so that the Tabernacle & he were in the very center, surrounded by hundreds of thousands of Israelites on every side. Outside the camp were the idolaters, the false gods, the sodomites, the prostitutes, the soldiers of the enemy. Moses decided not to live on the edge, but to **DWELL DEEP!** If you are inside the protection of friends, the church, & family, if you fall you will still be safe. But if you are living on the edge & you fall, you fall to the enemy & rescue is nearly impossible.

It is easier to avoid sin if you avoid the temptation to sin. It is easier to stay clean if you don't flirt, listen to the dirty jokes, stay away from sinful pleasures, turn off the TV, avoid the casinos, throw away the credit cards, CD'S, tapes & records, dirty Hollywood videos, bad language, etc.

Ps.91:1 *He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.*

4. Our flesh enjoys the lust, enticement & allure of sin, so we choose to stay where we are rather than to flee, run & find a place to hide; but the only safe place is where we can DWELL DEEP!

Heb.11:24-27 *By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.*

ILLUS.: Moses had it made. He was considered the Pharaoh's daughter's son, w/all the benefits of living in the palace. He could snap his fingers & have any kind of sinful pleasure he desired. But he knew the long-range consequences of living in Egypt! He had his eye on the Lord **"who is invisible..."**

5. Our problem in this materialistic society is that we want it all & we want it now! It is our "right" as an American.
6. We have become accustomed to the "good life" & cannot conceive of an "austerity program" which would deprive us of pleasure, regardless of how God feels about it or the Christian life demands.

2 Cor.6:17 *Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,*

- a. Our Savior saves us FROM the world, calls us FROM the world.
- b. Our Savior calls us to DWELL DEEP in Him!

Jn.15:4 *Abide in me,* and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye **abide in me.**

NOTE: The Greek word "abide" is the equivalent of our word "dwell"! The Lord is saying DWELL DEEP in me. Don't leave me. When we indulge in temptation or sin, we leave Him. He doesn't want to participate in our sin. We cease to abide when we quit dwelling. Instead of hiding in Him, we expose ourselves needlessly.

III. DWELL DEEP IN SERVICE:

A. Live It!

1. Get your membership in this church! (There, I said it!)
2. Quit living on the scraps & start feasting on the banquet.
3. Quit enjoying the benefits w/out investing yourself in the ministry.
4. Get some roots down, before you wither.
5. Get involved before your kids go bad.
6. Quit praying about it & just get in all the way.
7. Don't be satisfied w/lukewarm Christianity.
8. Don't be satisfied w/sitting & soaking when you can be separated & serving.
9. You can't have rewards over there if you don't serve down here!

ILLUS.: Every weapon in Satan's army is pointed at your family. You need to build your family's life around the local church, not the ungodly little league. Your kids need the benefits & blessings of a Christian school as well as a Christian church. What excuse will you give the Lord when you stand at the J.S. of Christ?!

DWELL DEEP! Be here for S.S., AM & PM church, prayer meeting. **DWELL DEEP!** Get your kids involved in everything the church offers to them/ Go soul-winning. Make sure your kids go soul-winning. **DWELL DEEP!**

10. Jesus said "**Abide in Me**" not "*come visit me.*"

IV. DWELL DEEP IN SCRIPTURE:

A. Love It!

Jn.15:7 *If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*

1. Jesus said His words were to abide in you, not just ricochet off you!

Ps.1:1-2 *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 8 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*

Josh.1:8 *This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*

2. His Word is not to be treated like a trip to the Dr. for a dose of castor oil, or a trip to the dentist to have a tooth drilled; it is to be delightful DWELL DEEP! in His Word.

CONCL.: DWELL DEEP in salvation (**KNOW IT!**), DWELL DEEP in separation (**SHOW IT!**), DWELL DEEP in service (**LIVE IT!**), DWELL DEEP in Scripture (**LOVE IT!**).

The opposite of deep is shallow! How deep are you dwelling?

