TITLE: **PERSONAL DISCIPLINE & GODLY CHARACTER**
TEXT: **SELECTED SCRIPTURES**

INTRODUCTION:

Living in the flesh contrasted with living in the Spirit.

Rom. 8:12-17

I Cor. 9:24-27 - "temperate" (v. 25) = self-control
(a rigid discipline for an athlete)

Self-control - temperance
- = = strength, power

Acts 24:25 - a conviction to a lost man

Gal. 5:23 - a fruit of Spirit
--Can character change? Yes!
Salvation can change you (via the Holy Spirit)

--Does character change? Seldom!
Why? We compare ourselves with others
We look at Scripture as an ideal, not a real

The tendencies of the old man (before salvation) will creep into your life if you don't put on the new.

If you were rude, lazy, late, impatient, undependable before salvation, you will have the same tendencies after salvation if not Spirit Controlled.

II Pet. 1:6 - an addition to your faith

Tit. 1:8 - a qualification for a pastor

Last days -
II Tim. 3:3 - "incontinent" - no ability to contain your lusts, without self-control

We are living in an <u>undisciplined</u> age. Where we constantly hear messages saying: "Do your own thing," "have it your way," "You deserve a break today," etc. Technology has given us more luxury, more time to be idle, and hence more time to sin. "Idle hands are the devil's workshop."

(Cp. the real sin of Sodom - Ezek. 16:49. 1) self-centered 2) plenty of goods 3) plenty of time 4) inconsideration of others)

The Bible says: In the last days, "men shall be lovers of pleasure, more than lovers of God" (II Tim. 3:4)

The word "disciple" means "disciplined one."

"Character" = the moral qualities, features, attributes or traits which distinguish you.

Character = what you really <u>are</u>
Reputation - what <u>others</u> think you are

"Character is what you are in the dark." (Moody)

"Character is destiny." (Elliot) ("Sow a thought, reap an act...")

PROPOSITION: THE NEED OF THE HOUR IS FOR US TO ALLOW THE HOLY SPIRIT TO PRODUCE PERSONAL DISCIPLINE AND GODLY CHARACTER IN OUR LIVES.

<u>How</u> can we gain personal discipline and godly character?

***I. BY <u>DOING RIGHT</u>, EVEN WHEN IT HURTS! (Acts 4:18-21; 5:29)**
(The Principle of <u>Duty</u>)

* Character id doing right, when it hurts.

It is telling the truth, even when it will cost you.
It is doing right, when you don't feel like it.
It is refusing to do wrong, even though "everybody's" doing it.

"Duty" - Lk. 17:10 - "So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do."

Ecc. 12:13 - "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."

<u>Character is:</u>
--Being committed to your marriage, even though the "feeling" is gone.

--Being faithful to Christ, even though others have lost their zeal and faithfulness.

--Witnessing for Christ, even though no one wants to hear.

--Setting a limit on how much you eat, sleep, have recreation, etc., even when your body says "I want more!"

--Praying and reading your Bible when you don't feel like it (or "too busy")

--Disciplining and teaching your children when the progress is slow or not noticeable

--Not quitting a job (task, etc.) until God says "You are done" - not when you become sick of it.

Character is what you <u>are</u> not what you appear to be.

"Out of the heart are the issues of life" (Prov.)

SEE Mt. 12:35

Character will always prove itself by what you do, but what you do will not always prove character (ILLUS: good tree produces good fruit) Your predictable behavior reveals character. Some of us can "luck out" and do good things now and then by accident, or wrong motive - this does not reveal character. (ILLUS: even a broken clock gives the right time twice a day.)

Your typical or predictable behavior reveals what sort of person you are (ILLUS: a man who has a batting average of 100 indicates that he probably will not get a hit 9 our of 10 times). I'm not speaking about perfect consistency, but consistency or tendency nonetheless.

It's not the person who vomits/gags at the smell of whiskey and has never tasted it who deserves a "Well done thou good and faithful servant" for being sober. Rather, it is the person who really enjoyed it at one time, but says "No" when tempted to give in.

It's not the person who would choke on a cigarette . . . It's the one who had a habit of smoking but gave it up - never to go back.

Not situation ethics.

Doing good does not come easy to those living in the flesh.

"The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

***II. BY <u>DENYING YOURSELF</u>, WHEN YOUR WILL CONFLICTS WITH GOD'S! (Mk. 8:30-38)**

(The Principle of <u>self (Spirit) control</u>)

Why does conflict come between our will and God's? Why is it so hard to <u>deny</u>

ourselves?

1) The temptation of Satan (v. 33)
Satan tempts us to mind ("savour") things that are of men.
NOTE: Preceding context: Peter had no sooner pronounced Jesus as the "Christ" (Messiah) (Having learned it of the Father - Mt. 16:17), than he turned around and rebuked Jesus (under Stan's influence) for saying that He would suffer and die.

God's will was that Christ would die. (NOTE v. 31 "must" . . . v. 33 - "things that be of God").

When our will conflicts with God's, who wins? Beware of our adversary.

2) The pull of the world's pleasures (v. 33, 36, 38)
"Things of men" (v. 33)
"Gain the whole world" (v. 36)

We live in an "adulterous and sinful generation" (v. 38)

3) The selfish love of your own life (v. 35)
Man by (old) nature is selfish, seeks comfort, pleasure, etc., even at the expense of doing what is right.

4) The cost of sacrifice (v. 34)

Self-denial requires sacrifice. The phrase "take up his cross" meant a lot to those who heard it, because they lived in a time period when thousands were crucified on crosses.

If we are not willing to deny ourselves a little sleep, time, and money so that we might serve God and give to God -- what makes us think that we would ever die for Him??

"Deny himself" = the basic idea is to say "No." It is to disown oneself, to turn away from the idolatry of self-centeredness.

How do we deny ourselves? ("take up cross")
--Consider ourselves dead to our own selfish will (Ro. 6:11-14; Col. 3:1-ff)

Why do we deny ourselves? ("Follow Me")
--Our goal in self-denial is to simply follow Christ!
Anything, anything, anything that hinders ourf ollowing Him, we must give up!
(and the thing [whatever it is] may not be sinful in and of itself)

We don't give up things:

1. to impress God or others
2. merely because they are evil

But because they are weights, etc., that hinder our walk with Christ (Heb. 12:1-2)

What would motivate us to sacrifice in such a way to follow Christ?

Our love (devotion) to Him)cp. Mt. 10:37-39)

ILLUS: If you and your family are starving to death, and you are given a piece of bread, who gets it? If you love, you will see that your family gets it.

Everytime you give up something for Christ's sake, you are saying, "I love you, Jesus!"

The answer to self-control is not celibacy, monkery, asceticism, anorexia nervosa, inflicting pain on yourself (self-torture).

The body is not evil (I Cor. 6:18-20).
Sex is not evil (Heb. 13:5)
Food is not evil (I Tim. 4:3-8).

The answer to self-control is simply putting yourself under the authority of God's will.

Don't offer excuses. EX: "This is the way God made me." "I'm stuck in this situation, and there's no way out."

Your life is like an unfinished story; why not make the conclusion of your life one in which your character was changed and became what God intended.

III. BY WORKING HARD AT WHAT REALLY COUNTS IN LIFE! (I Tim. 4:7)

(The Principle of priorities)

This verse teaches that you must:

A. Dedicate yourself to making personal effort

"Exercise thyself"

1. Our "nourishment" - God's Word (v. 6)

2. Our "exercise" (training) (v. 7) -_____ - from which we get "gymnasium"

"Exercise yourself" - no one can do it for you. No pain, no gain!

The disciplined person will:
work while others waste time
study while others sleep
pray while others play

B. Dedicate yourself to having a priority goal
"Unto Godliness"

Why "unto Godliness"? Why this priority?

1. This exercise is God-centered!
(as opposed to man-centered)

NOTE: preceding context (4:1-5), which describes the man-made, self-centered ascetic struggle of an individual for his own moral and religious perfection.

Whereas Paul lived by training himself for the unhindered pursuit of God's purposes. We live for the glory of God, not the glory of ourselves.

(I lift weights, etc., sot hat I can serve God better and longer; I want a sound mind, strong heart, etc., so I can be more useful to God. This is my priority goal!)

2. This exercise gives greater profit!
("profiteth little)

The quality of the benefit of physical exercise is less.

3. This exercise gives longer profit!
("life now and to come")

The quantity of the benefit of physical exercise is less.

Work harder at:

--Memorizing Scripture than memorizing the number of calories or grams of protein in a product.

--Laboring for the spiritual well-being of your family rather than the physical!

--Working out your knowledge of God's will, than working out with weights.

Rule of thumb: If I can't take it with me to heaven, I won't live for it here and now!

We need spiritual discipline, far above physical discipline.

And spiritual discipline is much more difficult (can't see results with eyes; takes faith) but much more rewarding!

WHICH DISTURBS YOU MOST? A soul lose in hell--or a scratch on your new car? You missing the worship service--or missing a day's work? A sermon 10 minutes too long--or lunch a half hour late? A church not growing--or your garden not growing? Your Bible unopened--or your newspaper unread? The church work being neglected--or housework neglected? Missing a good Bible study--or your favorite TV program? The millions who do not know Christ--or your inability to keep up with the neighbors? Your contribution decreasing--or your income decreasing? Your children late for Sunday school or church--or late for public schools? Which disturbs you most?

IV. BY WAKING UP, WHEN YOU WANT TO SLEEP JUST 5 MINUTES MORE! (Prov. 6:6-11)

(the Principle of prudence [moderation])

What is a sleepy sluggard?

V. 7 - The ant needs no overseer, the sluggard must be prodded (ILLUS: wife poking the husband to get him up)
The "ant" is the "harvester ant" which are common in Palestine.

V. 8 - the ant knows the time (the urgency of the hour); to the sluggard, all time is alike ("summer and harvest") (He thinks, "What's the big deal; let me alone; let me sleep")

V. 9 - The sluggard refuses to hear admonition to get up. You ask him, "How long?" "When?" -- and he doesn't know! Doesn't want to hear it.

V. 10 - The sluggard is a good rationalizer (excuse-maker) (Prov. 26:13, 22:13). He wants only "a little...little... little..."

V. 11 - A sluggard learns his lesson too late

1) "Travelleth" = a highwayman (a poor hitchhiker). You will be like a vagabond who goes begging from town to town.
2) You will also be like a man who has just been robbed by an armed man.

The time you waste is irreversible.

Why don't people like getting up in the morning?

1) lazy
2) depressed (have nothing to look forward to)
3) went to bed too late the night before
4) don't live by schedule

How to get up out of bed:

1) Determine to do it
2) Pray for strength to do it the night before
3) Get right up and stretch out; get busy

It will take about 5 - 6 weeks to establish a habit. Then it will be automatic.

Wake up - when you feel lazy!
Wake up - when you feel like sleeping in!
Wake up - when you feel like breaking the alarm clock!
Wake up - when you feel like pressing the snooze button!

Go to bed on time, so you will wake up on time! Prepare for church on Saturday!

ILLUS: George Whitefield--an early riser--4 o'clock. He was equally punctual in retiring at night. As the clock struck ten, no matter who were his visitors or what conversation was going on at themoment, he rose from his seat and, advancing toward the door, he would say good-naturedly to his friends, "Come, gentlemen, it is time for all good folks to be at home" (Sanders, p. 76).

Disciplined character belongs to the person who achieves <u>balance</u> in his life.

We take what we <u>need</u> without being obsessed or controlled by something.

<u>Excess</u> in any direction (other than Godward) is sin! (SEE Prov. 4:23-27 - fix your attention on the correct goal, and don't let any obstacles deter you)

Paul would not be brought under the power (control) of anything other than Christ (
)

Prov. 26:14 - "As the door turneth upon his hinges, so doth the slothful upon his bed."

Spiritual slumber -
Rom. 13:11 - "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed."

I Th. 5:6 - "Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober."

Eph. 5:14 - "Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light."

V. BY NOT PROCRASTINATING, WHEN "LATER" SOUNDS APPEALING! (Prov. 3:27, 28)

(The principle of promptness [punctuality])

What is a procrastinating sluggard?

1) He does not begin things (Prov. 26:13, 22:13). Good excuse-maker ("There's a lion outside")

2) He will not finish things (His quarry goes bad - 12:27; and his meal gets cold - 19:24, 26:15).

3) He will not face things - He's a good rationalizer (26:16). He has a habit of choosing the soft choice (20:4)

He has an unsatisfied life (13:4, 21:25, 26)
He has a difficult life (15:19)
He has a wasted life (18:9)

What are some things that we tend to put off?

1. salvation
2. obedience
3. work (chores)
4. apologizing
5. We basically will tend to put off what we feel is not vitally important or what we don't particularly like (what goes against the flesh).

How to avoid procrastinating:

1) Organize your life (plan your time or someone/something else will; use a calendar - "Daytimer")

2) Do the hardest job first (ILLUS: eating up of food you don't like first and saving the best for last)

3) Prioritize your day (list jobs in the order of importance - first on the list would be things that you have to get done ... last would be things you would like to do)

II Cor. 6:2 - "For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation"

Prov. 27:1 - "Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth."

James 4:14 - "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

Acts 24:25 - "And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time, when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee."

Mt. 25:8 - "And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out."

"Putting things off" is always what our old nature delights in. The only thing we are to "put off" is the old man! (Eph. 4:22)

What is the difference between:

One who spends time with God
and one who does not have time?
One who picks up his clothes
and one who lets them lie?

One who is prompt in appointments
and one who is notoriously tardy?
One who is faithful in church attendance
and one who is on and off?

(The difference is not time or distance to travel - it is discipline vs. non-discipline)

VI. BY NOT COMPROMISING, WHEN "GIVING IN" IS THE EASIER CHOICE! (Daniel chapters 1, 3, 6)

(The principle of convictions)

SEE Jn. 12:42-43. (Example of No conviction)

SEE Ex. 10:24-26. (Moses - example of conviction - He didn't give in one bit)

We must be convicted of our need for:

1) Personal separation
2) Personal obedience
3) Personal devotions

A. PERSONAL SEPARATION (Daniel 1)
(We need conviction not to defile ourselves)

Daniel 1:1-21 (*v. 8)

To sever ties (to cut off) from their heritage, Nebuchadnezzar changed their names and their diet.

You can't do anything about what people want to call you, but no one can force you to do something against your convictions.

V. 8

"Purposed" = established; a firm once-and-for-all decision

Daniel didn't decide at the last minute. He had a conviction which he had settled in the past.

Daniel resolved not to "defile" himself.

"Defile" = to pollute, make unclean, to stain.

"Meat" = dainties of a king. Not ordinary meat, but the best, choice meat anywhere.

Why did Daniel refuse?

1) Food not kosher (Dt. 14:3-20)
2) Offered to idols (they would ask their god to bless the ones who ate of that food). Daniel, therefore, would be giving consent to their gods.

NOTE: How Daniel handled the government officials (v. 8) in defending (upholding) his convictions.

1) "He requested" = he asked permission. He did not tell them.

2) He treated the officials with kindness and respect.

You gain respect from:
1. who you are (your position)
2. what you do (your productiveness)
3. what you are (your personal character)

Daniel respected authority.

3) He asked with patience and wisdom

V. 12 - "I beseech thee" is another way of saying "please)

Daniel's decision meant:

1) He would disobey the king rather than God (v. 5 - "appointed" = assigned or commanded). The king ordered the menu; therefore, it was law!

2) He would lose out on the finest food in Babylon.

3) He might spoil his chances for advancement. (It was an honor to be selected by Nebuchadnezzar)

4) He might lose his life.

Picture yourself in these circumstances: Teenagers among heathen, barbarious people who wouldn't think twice about killing another king's sons before his eyes and then to gouge his eyes out (Jer. 39:6, 7); or roast someone in a slow fire (Jer. 29:22).

Why not give in? After all, they were a long way from home! Nobody would have ever known! Everyone else is doing it!

You need to purpose in your heart not to defile yourself with:

1. Evil Sexual thoughts (Tit. 1:15)
2. Fornication (I Cor. 6:18-20; Rev. 14:4)
3. Adultery (Heb. 13:4)
4. Alcohol (Prov. 20:1)
5. Materialism (Heb. 13:5)
6. Worldliness (Ja. 4:4)
7. "A root of bitterness" (Heb. 12:15)
8. Sinful words (speech defiles - Mt. 15:11; Ja. 3:6)

SEE I Cor. 3:17 - Don't defile the temple.

When you decide to do right:

1. God immediately begins working on your behalf (v. 9). God was already in the process of delivering Daniel. "When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him." (Prov.)

2. God will bless you beyond your imagination.

Daniel received -
--physical blessing (v. 14-16) (NOTE: God is not promoting vegetarians, but faith)
--intellectual blessing (v. 17)
--political blessing (v. 18-21)

B. PERSONAL OBEDIENCE (Daniel 3)
(We need conviction not to bow down to anything other than God)

Daniel 3

To test political and religious loyalty, Nebuchadnezzar sets up a golden image on the plain of Dura and commands worship. Three men had enough character (conviction) not to bow down (even without their leader, Daniel, being present).

1. Obedience requires knowing God's Word (SEE v. 12)

   They knew the command against idolatry (Dt. 6:13, 10:20)

2. Obedience requires faith in God (v. 17)

   They didn't question God's ability, only God's will (perhaps God would not choose to deliver).

   Their faith was anchored in God's person, not in His benefits.

3. Obedience requires submission to the will of God (v. 17-18)

   It's easy to say we have convictions until they are tested. A conviction is a belief you are willing to die for.

The test of a man's convictions is what he will compromise.

Whatever you compromise on, is not a true conviction with you.

You may be intellectually convinced of some things, but until your life is affected, you are not truly convicted. (Conviction requires submissiveness to be real.)

Are you convicted that:

1. Premarital sex is sin?
2. Marriage is forever?
3. The Bible is God's Word?
4. You are not to yoke up with unbelievers?
   a. Not in dating/marriage relationship

b. Not in business
c. Not in church-to-church relationships

5. Children need to be disciplined?

C. PERSONAL DEVOTIONS (Daniel 6)
(We need conviction not to stop communing with God)

How was Daniel convicted of his need to spend time alone with God?

1. Daniel didn't care what it might cost him ("Knew the writing was signed")

Law of Medes and Persians could not be changed even by the king (cp. v. 8, 15).

If you are convicted about the need for you to meet God daily, you will make the time and effort.

2. Daniel let nothing interfere or change his habit.

"Windows open...toward Jerusalem"

(NOTE: In O.T. and even in N.T., when they prayed, they prayed out loud)

"Toward Jerusalem" - cp. I Ki. 8:44.

Why didn't Daniel pick another room to pray in--a secret place?
1. He was accustomed to pray here
2. He would lose his testimony
(others knew his habits)

3. Daniel had set apart specific times to spend with God.

"3 times a day" (cp. David - Ps. 55:17)

Praying 3 times a day was associated with the morning, noon, and evening sacrifice (cp. Acts 3:1, 10:30).

We need good prayer habits before a time of crisis to encourage us in a time of crisis (EX: Dan. 2:6, 9, 10).

What you decide to do at any time and in any manner will probably be done in no time and in no manner!

Schedule God into your day!

4. Daniel spent time with God faithfully

"As he did aforetime"
He didn't begin praying to spite those who opposed him.

Are we convinced that we cannot make it without:

1. Reading and meditating on the Bible? Is it our food? (Mt. 4:4)

2. Praying? Do you really believe prayer changes things? You answer to that question is found by your asking yourself "How much, consistently, do I pray?"

SEE Oswald Sanders Spiritual Leadership (p. 86-87, ILLUS: about Martin Luther).

We compromise on personal preferences, never on the Word of God.

VII. BY NOT QUITTING, WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH! (Acts 13:13; 5:36-41; II Tim.4:9-11)

(The principle of patience [endurance])

Do you ever feel like giving up?

Do you ever think you are at the breaking point; where you cannot go on anymore in some area of your life?

Does it sometimes seem hopeless, so you ask yourself, "Why try?" You want to escape, pack it in and run?

Let's be honest - all of us feel this way at times.

Multitudes are giving up on their marriages
children
ministry

It's easy to quit. Anyone can quit.
But it takes character to stick it out!

Christians (who would be horrified at the thought of touching liquor or indulging in gross immorality) can [and have] fallen into self-indulgent living.

EX: running from difficulties
avoiding certain people/problems/challenges
seeking the easy way out, rather than the right way
spiritual and physical lethargy

Luke-warm Christianity sickens God! (Rev. 3:15, 16)

The Bible says: "If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small"

Why do people quit in some areas of their walk with God?

1. Unsaved - They were never really saved to begin with. Like the rocky soil (in Mt. 13), they seem to start off great, but they were never truly rooted in Christ. Or like the thorny soil, other worldly things draw them away.

2. Unfocused - You lose your focus - Take eyes off of the Lord.

a. Lack of commitment - Weak determination, lack of convictions, indecisive. Double-minded! (Ja. 1:8). You must determine that you will be committed to your Lord, to His children, to your family. We only quit what we don't think is vital.

b. Unconfessed sin - The load becomes too heavy, because you are carrying something God never intended. He did not make your shoulders big enough to carry around a load of sin. That sin will discourage you and eventually destroy you. We can get sidetracked when the glitter of the world catches our eye.

c. Bitterness - Blaming God for not doing what you thought He should do. Blaming others - fault-finding, inconsistencies, disillusionment. you will only answer to God for yourself. Don't let others cause you to quit.

d. Discouragement - (EX: Elijah - I Ki. 19:1-18) You feel like you are all alone (even Paul faced it - I Cor. 18:9-11). You feel like your labors are in vain (I Cor. 15:58). You feel like a born loser - Satan whispers, "You can't do anything right."

Get your eyes off your problems and look at God's answers! Get your eyes off yourself and focus on God. Get your eyes off your situation and let God renew your vision.

What does Satan use to tempt us to quit?

--Doubt - he whispers, "Nothing works. God isn't interested in your problems. You have prayed 1,000 times! So why not quit, give up?" (David felt this way - Ps. 44:23-24)

Why do people quit? You take your eyes off of Christ. Lack of faith. It is your faith in God that will keep you going.

If you do what you do for Christ, you will never quit.

Don't quit on your family.
Don't quit on your work commitments.
Don't quit on your ministry for Christ.
Don't quit on your growing in Christ by reading the Word and praying.

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N.,-gD..un their duties and responsibilities by the church Charter of Incorporation. They are responsible to the church at all times and in all matters.

11. The secretary of the board shall be custodian of all the legal documents of the church.

12. Not purchase, sell, mortgage, or encumber any real estate belonging to the church, or use in any way money, real estate, or gift of any kind, assigned to the church, without authority in writing given by the church at a regular or special business meeting.

13. Have no power to alter or make any major changes in the church property without consent of the church.

14. At least two deacons (one of which is the Treasurer or Financial Secretary) shall be responsible for counting all the church offerings.

15. The deacons shall never be allowed to exercise authority over the pastor or over the church, nor be allowed to take any action not described in this constitution unless they have been otherwise authorized to do so. Nowhere in Scripture are deacons given any governmental authority.

16. The Deacons shall take care of the preparation for baptism and the Lord's supper.

D. Duties of Officers:

1. Chairman

a. Chair all meetings of the Board of Deacons.
b. Ex-officio member of all committees.
c. No permanent member of any committee.

d. Be responsible to carry out constitution governing the Deacons.
e. Be spokesman for the Deacons at all meetings of the Church, or appoint another Deacon to perform that task.

2. Vice-Chairman

a. Assist the chairman in all duties.
b. Be chairman in the absence of the chairman.
c. Officiate at the church business meetings in the absence of a Pastor.

3. Secretary

a. Keep an accurate account of all business meetings of the Board of Deacons, regular and special.
b. Be responsible to give a copy of all minutes to all Deacons two (2) weeks after the meetings.

4. Treasurer

a. The Treasurer shall be a Deacon.
b. He shall record (with the financial secretary) the giving in church records; shall keep record of the total deposits; and shall fill out the deposit slips and deposit the money into the account of the Church.
c. He shall write and distribute checks after receiving vouchers from the financial secretary.
d. He shall keep a full and faithful account of all monies received and paid out.

He shall specify the purposes for which the money is received and expended, and he (together with the financial secretary) shall prepare a report for the Deacons monthly and for the Church quarterly and annually.
e. His books and accounts shall be examined by a public accountant yearly.

5. Financial Secretary

a. The Financial Secretary shall be a Deacon.
b. He shall record (with the Treasurer) the giving in church records; and shall keep record of the total deposits.
c. He shall make vouchers (request for payment) and give them to the Treasurer for budget items.
d. He shall receive the bank statements and cancelled checks for official records.

CONCLUSION:

We must do all of the above out of a _____
_____!

We must do all of the above by the _____
_____! (as we yield to Him)

We must do all of the above based on the _____
_____! (as we submit to it)