

The Exciter
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Turn to the book of Luke. I changed my mind about what I was going to preach on tonight. Luke 23:1-5: *And the whole multitude of them arose, and led him unto Pilate. And they began to accuse him, saying, We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that he himself is Christ a King. (Now, those two charges about perverting a nation and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar were not so, but He was the King.) And Pilate asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And he answered him and said, Thou sayest it. Then said Pilate to the chief priests and to the people, I find no fault in this man. And they were the more fierce, saying, He stirreth up the people, teaching throughout all Jewry, beginning from Galilee to this place.*

Our Father, in Jesus' name, stir us up in Christ, and we will thank You. Amen.

I want to speak tonight on the subject, "The Exciter." *He stirreth up the people.* That was not a lie. Wherever He goes, He stirs up people. The two charges of perverting a nation and of stopping the paying of taxes were dishonest. But never a truer word was more spoken than that text, *He stirreth up the people.* Wherever the Lord manifests Himself, He stirs up people. Where there is life, there is excitement. Do you know more people go to fires than they go to funerals? There are more funerals than there are fires. Why? There is excitement at a fire. People are attracted to that. God is an exciting Being. He is not dull, He is not drab, and He is not dead. He is alive. Where God works, there is excitement. If you think Heaven is a place where you go and nod the rest of eternity, you are badly mistaken. You had better read the accounts in the book of Revelation. There is excitement in His presence. He spoke the world into existence — now, do not tell me there was not excitement in Heaven when an omnipotent God in the Word of His mouth spoke all these myriads of the universe into existence. Job 38:7: *When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?* Do not tell me there was no excitement when He rolled back the waters of the Red Sea, and they walked across dry shod. That was excitement. When they stopped the waters of Jordan for some few miles of river in order to allow three and a half million people to go across, that was excitement. A pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day — that was excitement. Did you know that this generation is characterized when it comes to spiritual things as dull and apathetic? The last church of the era is the Church of Laodicea. They said, *I am rich . . . and have need of nothing.* What would it take to excite boys and girls about Sunday School? They watch television, the comics on Saturday morning. If you want to destroy your boy's or girl's excitement in the Word of God, and you let them watch all that business, there is no Sunday School teacher that can compete with that — the constant excitement. What would it take to excite you? You say, "Man, I have got everything. I do not need anything." What would it take to excite you? I will tell you that the Lord Jesus is the most exciting Person in all the world. The devil has sold us a bill of goods about this matter in the modern church of a passive Jesus. Jesus never was passive. Wherever He was, there was life and there was activity. If satan cannot get us one way, he will get us on another. He will get us on the matter of formality. There is a difference between reverence and silence. Sometimes, reverence is very noisy. Silence is not a sign of reverence. It can be a sign of being dead. If you do not know the difference of deadness and being alive, the service can be very alive and yet silent. A service can be very reverent and very noisy. I did not say disorderly. Jesus was an Exciter. He is the Exciter. People go where there is excitement. If satan cannot get us a bill of formality, then he will give us wild fire, because people like excitement. If I was crazy enough, and I pulled a diamond-back rattle snake out of here, I kind of believe there would be some excitement here. If I just whipped him out here, I think you would be saying, "Where is the door? If there ain't one, I am going to make one." That is excitement. There are a lot of folks here that get excitement. They say, "Excitement is better than none at all." What do they do? They create wild fire. The Lord

does not have a thing in the world to do with it. God does not have us playing with snakes. You say, "What about Moses?" If God tells you to pick it up, and you pick it up, and it turns into a rod, go ahead. But if it does not turn into a rod, the devil told you to do that. Do not play with snakes. I like snakes. I like them dead. I am not afraid of them. I just like to kill them. If he cannot get you with the wild fire, then he will put on a rock concert. Do not come in here and tell me it is *Christian* rock. You are just as bad as saying a *Christian* devil. You cannot call it *Christian* rock. That is just like taking a can of beer and putting "*Christian* Joy Juice" on the outside. No, it is still beer on the inside. You may put *Christian* on the matter of rock, but rock music does not glorify God. You cannot tell me that it makes you want to get on your knees and worship God. You cannot tell me that. What happens? We bring in the bands and the drums, and we get people. I will guarantee you, if I could play this afternoon, if I could play this evening, I could go over to the keyboard and would have your hands clapping, your feet going up and down, and your blood rushing. God does not have a thing in the world to do with that. The keyboard has to do with it. That is the reason you go into these restaurants that have fast music playing so that you can eat and get on out of the way for somebody else to come and take your place. "Turn the music down. I want to eat slower." Martial music, the bands — what do they want you to do? It makes you want to go enlist. That beat makes you want to enlist. I was in Germany. I bought some music — polka. I thought, "Boy, that sure would be good to play during the offering." It will motivate you. The Lord is not in that. That is music. That appeals to the physical and stirs us up. We say, "Well, we are going to have excitement in church." So, we put on. We excite. We stir. People go away saying, "Man, didn't we have a good time?" Yes, you did. I had a good time on the dance floor, too. It got awfully quiet just then. I was on the dance floor before I got saved. Man, I tell you. The band was over there, and, "Wew!" I would hoop and holler like that. I was not hollering because I was praising the Lord; I was hollering because I felt good. We go to church to feel good. We are looking for feeling. You forget your feeling. You get your mind on God. There is something greater than your feelings. It is very satisfying. The most thrilling place that I have been in my life has been inside the building called the church. The most excited that I have ever been in all of my life is in God's house where the Word of God was being preached. He does excite people. Jesus Christ does not put us to sleep. He wakes us up. He is the Exciter. If Satan cannot get you with wild fire or formality, he will get you with excitement. He will get us to fighting each other. That is excitement. I preached a meeting in Lockwood, Florida. The church had a young pastor. He had been a pastor for about six months. When I gave the invitation, an old, white-haired man sitting up in the front stood up, walked back to the back, and shook his fist in the face of a man. Before that service was over that night, we had a fight. I did not start it. It was excitement. You had better believe it was excitement! Bam! Bam! Chairs flying everywhere! It was exciting. The devil puts that in the newspapers. He likes for us to get excited like that. He will get us excited by getting us angry at each other. That is exciting. Your adrenaline glands work overtime. That is excitement. That is the devil's business. But God excites us in a way that makes us wholesome. It is refreshing. It is renewal of your strength. Jesus Christ is the Exciter. He does not put us to sleep. Satan's crowd gets excited. You had better believe they are excited. Man, they get out on drugs. Why are they on drugs? They want drugs because they want excitement. "I am not satisfied with this world," so they get on drugs and live in an imaginary world. A man gets drunk and gets excited. A man in immorality gets excited. What happens? The world calls for excitement. They put this stuff on television. What happens? Excitement! Excitement! You are emotionally drained when you have watched that hour after hour. It ruins, wrecks, and destroys you. Satan's crowd gets excited. They got excited and cried, "Crucify! Crucify!" They got excited and stoned Stephen. They got excited and threw dirt up in the air for two hours as they cried, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!" They got excited. They got excited and cried and hollered and cried for the blood of the Son of God. The world gets excited. The best sellers are books that are exciting, adventurous, books on romance, sports, exploration of space, etc. The world thinks those things are exciting. The need of the hour is the Holy Ghost excitement. Turn to 2 Peter 1:13. The Bible tells us to take charge of our self. I am trying to do something tonight that the Scripture commands me to do and

commands us to do to ourselves. Look at 2 Peter 1:13: *Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you . . .* How do you stir up? Well, rev up the piano. No, it did not say that. Bring out the drums. No, it did not say that. . . . *to stir you up by putting you in remembrance*; He will stir you up by faith and by Heaven. That ought to stir you up. You know, we are really excited about going to Heaven — just as excited as a Sunday school teacher teaching, who said, “How many of you want to go to Heaven?” Everybody raised their hand except one little boy. The teacher said, “Son, don’t you want to go to Heaven?” “Oh, sure, I want to go to Heaven, but I thought you were taking up a load now.” They are not very excited. We talk about Heaven, and there is no excitement. When I was overseas and coming home, home was an exciting thing. I was in combat. I slept in a tent day in and day out, week in and week out, month in and month out. When my name came up that I was going home, I want to tell you that it was exciting. I watched that thing. You heard me tell about the trip back home. That was exciting. When I touched down in West Palm Beach, Florida, I am telling you that was an exciting event. Did you know we are on our journey Home? Did you know that we are one day closer to Heaven than we were yesterday? Did you know the coming of our Lord is closer to us than it was yesterday? Do you know that our rewards in Heaven are closer today than they were last week? Do you understand that our reunion with our loved ones who have gone before us — There is mom, papa, Bud, Silvia, Fred over there. I can begin to name. — is closer today than it was yesterday? They are all over there. Is it real, or is it all talk? It is real. We ought to be excited about that. He said *to stir you up by putting you in remembrance*. How do you get stirred up? It starts with your mental capacity, not your emotions. It starts with your mind. It is intelligence. Think about it. Paul wrote to a young preacher, Timothy. Look at 2 Timothy 1:6: *Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands*. What did he do? He said, “I put you in remembrance.” Remember what God gave you and stir it up. Do you remember when God saved you? I watched a young man. I will not embarrass him. I watched a while ago, and I saw him singing. He had never done that before. I watched him tonight as he was singing. He got saved during the Johnson Crusade. He had made a couple of professions of faith and had gotten baptized. There is no doubt in my mind that he got saved. It has changed dullness. He does not mind me. He was one of those “walk the hall” classes. He does not mind me now. He is saved. Why? He did what lost people do. They avoid the Word of God. They go in and out. He got saved. Do you remember how exciting it was? Do you remember when you first got saved? Do you remember those first services where you could not get enough? Do you remember the preacher never preached long enough? Do you remember when you looked forward to the next service? Do you remember the excitement and the thrill? That song that they sang a while ago about Beulah Land — your heart leaped, and you anticipated Heaven. You thought about the coming of the Lord. You went to work. You worshipped the Lord and talked to the Lord all day long. You prayed about everything. You prayed about parking spaces. You prayed about a dime. You prayed about a nickel. You prayed about everything in the world. Now, you are used to it. That is what happens to marriage. When you get used to it, you are in trouble. Paul said to the young preacher, “I once called you to remembrance. Now, you remember the day of your ordination.” *Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands*. The need of the hour is excitement, spiritual excitement. I heard a joke about a preacher. He wanted some excitement in his service. He was preaching on the Second Coming. He had a member of his church who played the trumpet who hid out in the baptistry. The preacher said, “Now, when I begin to read 1 Thessalonians 4:13: *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God*: when I say, ‘the trump of God,’ you blow that trumpet.” When he did, the preacher hit the floor behind the pulpit. I want to tell you, there was excitement. You talk about excitement when Jesus comes for His own. The world is going to be excited. Mom and dad are serving the Lord. You know it is not very cool to do so. When you wake up in the middle of the night to find mom and dad, and you find their room empty with mama’s negligee and daddy’s pajamas, I guarantee you that you are going to be excited. It is gone and goodbye forever. There will be wrecks of airplanes,

wrecks of automobiles, and wrecks of trains where those at the controls were Christians. We are going to make headlines. It is going to be an exciting day. There will be excitement. He fed 5,000. Do not tell me that was not excitement. He took a little boy's lunch and fed 5,000. Do not tell that was not excitement. Do not tell me that was not excitement down at that house when He turned the water to wine. Do not tell me that. Do not tell me that it was not excitement when He walked across the water. Jesus Christ is alive today. It is supposed to be an exciting life of fellowship with Him. I am not talking about all the signs and wonders, but walking with Him and fellowshiping with Him is the sweetest excitement I have ever had in all my life. I have flown bombers. I have flown airplanes upside down and every other direction with excitement here and excitement there, but I have never had any excitement comparable to the excitement of knowing Jesus Christ as personal Savior and fellowshiping with Him and enjoying His presence. There has never been and there will never be anything more exciting than that matter of walking with Him. He stirreth up the people.

NUMBER ONE, SALVATION OUGHT TO EXCITE US. How long has it been since you really sang that song, "Amazing Grace," and it was amazing? When you first got saved, you sang "Amazing Grace," and when you sang it, it was not just words. You stood amazed. "I stand amazed in the presence of Jesus the Nazarene and wonder how He could love me a sinner condemned unclean." It was amazing that you were saved. It was amazing that He came into your heart. It was amazing. As you sang that, your heart was stirred. From the depths of your being, you sang, "Amazing Grace." The sad thing about it is that we get over it, and it is not so amazing. We forget the wonder. We forget that He saves us from hell. We forget that our names are in the Lamb's Book of Life. We forget all about that, and we settle down. We forget it. We tell other folks when they get saved, "Well, you will cool off after a while." You do not have to. Salvation ought to excite us. Paul never got over it. Wherever he went, he recounted his experience of salvation by faith in Jesus Christ. I have heard Dr. Lee Roberson tell about a man who got saved in a service. It was a cold night. I forgot the state where he was preaching, but it was cold. A man got saved that night, and the man said, "I want to be baptized tonight." "Well," the preacher said, "You will be baptized Sunday. We do not have any water in the baptistry." He said, "Sir, if you do not mind, I would like to be baptized tonight." So they went to tell the preacher. The preacher said, "Tell him it will take until 11:00 to fill the baptistry, and not only that, we do not have a heater in the baptistry. It will be ice cold." The man said, "If you don't mind, sir, I would like to be baptized tonight." Well, they sat around and turned the water on in the baptistry. They sat and waited until 9:00, 10:00, and 11:00, until the baptistry was filled. Then, they offered him some clothing for him to put on to be baptized in. He said, "If you do not mind, sir, I want to be baptized in the clothes that I got saved in." They said, "Well, you need to take your billfold out of your pocket, or you will get the papers wet." He said, "If you don't mind, sir, I got saved, and I want my billfold baptized when I get baptized." They said, "Sir, you will ruin your shoes. Take your shoes off." "If you don't mind, sir, I got saved in these shoes, and I want to be baptized with the whole business." After 11:00 that night, I kind of think that guy got excited. If he was not excited when he went into that water, he was afterwards. I was in Chattanooga Valley. They forgot to turn the heater on. It was cold. It was cold. You learn when you baptize in cold water like that to put your foot in very slowly so your circulatory system will get into high gear. I slipped in there. This other fellow that was getting baptized slipped down there, "Huh! Huh! Huh! Huh! I-I-I am going to-to have a h-h-heart a-a-attack!" I said, "Just settle down." I finally baptized him. It was exciting. If he was not excited before then, he was excited then. Salvation ought to excite us. Hebrews 2:3 says: *How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation . . .* Do you know that Baptists used to shout? They have lost their shout. They did not lose their salvation, but they lost their shout. They lost it so much that the Pentecostals think they originated shouting. No, sir! You go back farther. The Baptists introduced the shout. That did not start with them. The Baptists lost their shout, but they have not lost their salvation. If you do not shout now, you get pruned up. I will guarantee you, when you burst through the gates of Heaven, you are not going to just sit there and say, "Well, I'll be." No, you read what is going on. Salvation ought to excite us. When I think about salvation, salvation excites Heaven. Luke 15:10: *Likewise, I say unto you, there*

is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth. When somebody gets saved around the world, my, my, there is noise in Heaven all the time. There is somebody coming home to Heaven from India, from China, and from around the world. They get saved. There are shouts for those who are going home. Heaven is a place of excitement and thrill. Luke 15:10: *Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.* Did you know that there is excitement in hell over lost people over salvation? There is a man in hell. Jesus said a certain man. He is so excited. Luke 16:27-28: *Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.* Salvation not only excites Heaven; salvation excites hell. Salvation ought to excite the saved. Mark 5:20 shows the poor, wild demoniac of Gadera. The Scriptures say: *And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis . . .* which means ten cities. He went over ten cities and told the story that he had been saved. Salvation ought to excite us. Turn to Isaiah 14:9. Do you know when people go to hell, there is somebody that is evidently here? This is a strange passage of Scripture. This talks about the anti-Christ, the beast, and how he loved hell. Isaiah 14:9-11: *Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, even all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations. All they shall speak and say unto thee, Art thou also become weak as we? art thou become like unto us? Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, and the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee.* Lost person, there is a reception waiting for you in hell! This thing called salvation is something that ought to excite us. I repeat again, the greatest excitement I have ever had in all of my life has been inside the walls of a church when somebody has been preaching about the Lord Jesus Christ. My heart has soared. My spirit soared with joy unspeakable and full of glory. I can look you in the face. Nothing in all the world is compared to the excitement and the thrill in the matter of worshiping the Son of God. Just think! That is forever and forever and forever. There is no veil between my face and His — no darkness, no shadow, no broken fellowship, no being away from the Lord, no testing, and no trial. We can look on His face. What a thing of excitement! I have heard of people dying. I have watched people die. I have talked to people as they died. Pete Wood's daddy before he died raised his hands and said, "He is on the throne!" Heaven is not sitting on a cloud somewhere and strumming your harp or strumming your guitar. If you think Heaven is dull, I have got news for you. We will serve God over there like we have never served Him over here. We shall serve Him with our entire being, body, soul, and spirit. Our whole being will be united to serve Him. I want to tell you that is exciting. You will never get tired of it. That is excitement. Salvation ought to excite us.

NUMBER TWO, SERVICE OUGHT TO EXCITE US. I graduated from the United States Army Air Force on June 27, 1944, with a commission in the United States Army Air Corps Second Lieutenant — Pilot. Boy, the planes flying overhead and the challenge — that was an exciting day! That was an exciting day! I graduated from college. That was an exciting day. I graduated from seminary. That was an exciting day. But, I want to tell you that there is nothing so exciting as the matter of service for the Lord Jesus Christ. Next to the fact of salvation and worshiping the Lord, the thing that excited me, stirred me, gripped my heart, and blessed my heart was back yonder in the eons before He made the heavens and the earth that God had something for a little country boy to do. Paul says in 2 Timothy 1:9: *Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,* "Do you mean, God, that You had something planned for me to do with my life before You made the heavens and the earth?" That is what 2 Timothy 1:9 says. It is a holy calling. It is a sacred calling. It is a call not according to our merits but according to His own mercy and grace. All of that puts me on my face in joy and wonder that God had something for me to do. By the way, He has got something for you to do. When you find out what it is, you realize that God planned and had something for you to do before He ever made the heavens and the earth. It makes this thing of Christian service exciting. If God planned me for it, I am not going to quit today. I

am not going to quit. God gave it to me. Happier are those who got a hold of this service that God gave to them. Service ought to excite us. I think about service and excitement. I think about Curtis Hudson preaching. They were in a revival meeting or some service. He said to his people — I remember the illustration, not the service — “Now, don’t anybody miss this service tonight.” There was a dear man and his family, and just before they got ready to go to the service, the wife rushed in and said, “Hey, the water line has burst in the kitchen, and there is water all over the floor. It has ruined everything, and it is still running. What do we do?” He went in there and found where he could turn off the water, but there was water everywhere. He could not turn the water off completely. He went and got a brace and bit and bored a whole into the kitchen floor so that the water could run out underneath the house so that he could go to church. That is excitement. Have you ever been to church and afraid you missed something? You ought to. I have been to camp meetings that have lasted all day. I did not leave for lunch. I did not leave for the evening meal for fear that I would miss something. I sat and sat and sat. One day, early in the morning, somebody ran down and put some money in an offering plate. Did you know that they did that until 5:00 that afternoon? There was no preaching. It was an offering that ran from about 9:00 in the morning until about 5:00 in the afternoon. They were giving away farms and automobiles. They were giving away hogs, cows, money, and rings in an old-fashioned camp meeting. I would not leave. Why? I was afraid that something would really get going while I was outside. I did not want to go to the bathroom. I did not want to leave. The house of God ought to be such that we are afraid if we stay away, we will miss something. You will miss something if you stay away. Thomas had his doubts because he stayed at home. Read it. The excitement that I am talking about is not the manufactured excitement such as, “Here, hold my baby; I am fixing to shout.” I am not talking about that business. Do not pull that stuff on me. It just slips up on you. Service ought to excite us. I preached at the Southwide Baptist Fellowship for the first time in Jacksonville — I forgot the year. I did not sleep. They called me on Saturday night. The service started on Monday night. I was to be the kick-off speaker. You talk about excitement! I could not sleep. When I finally got up to speak, I was so scared I could not read my text. The text was: “Whatsoever God does, He does forever.” I read, “Whatsoever God *doos*, He *doos* forever.” I finally got it out. I was scared. I could not see the congregation. About halfway through my message, God got a hold of it. That night, I walked the floor trying to walk off the steam. My wife can testify of it. I did calisthenics. I did hop-saddle-hop. I did push-ups. I took a hot bath and then a cold bath. I did not get unwound from that until about 4:00 the next morning. I was geared up. I was wound up. Why? I was excited. Now, I do not want you to get that kind of excitement. That is a nervous excitement. That is bad for you. That was excitement of fear and fright about the service. That is bad. You need to sleep so that you can go home. When God excites you, it is refreshing — the glory of our calling. Peter, James, and John got excited when Jesus passed by and said: *Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.* They left their business. Isaac got excited and outran the horses back to the city. When you outrun the horses back to the city, you are excited. Isaiah was excited and said, *Here am I; send me.* The early church got excited, sold all that they had, and laid it at the apostles’ feet. Livingstone got excited and lived his life in Africa. The apostles were excited as they saw the dead raised, the blind to see, the lame to walk, and the dumb to speak. Handel who wrote the *Messiah* was excited when he wrote the “Hallelujah Chorus.” The disciples on Emmaus Road thought their Lord was dead and that it was all over. Jesus appeared to them the risen Christ. Their hearts burned. They were excited. They got up the same night and went back to Jerusalem. They said, “He is risen. We talked with Him.” They were excited. Salvation ought to excite us. Our service for Christ ought to excite us. Souls ought to excite us. We have forgotten that there is a hell, People who die without Christ go to hell forever. We say we believe it. Do you? We have heard it, and we have got accustomed to it. When you play with things that are wrong, you lose a burden. A young man a few days ago said, “I used to have a burden for my loved ones, and now it does not bother me that they are going to hell.” Why? We have played with sin, and we have lost the sharp edge of a burden. Souls ought to excite us. The scarcity of laborers ought to excite us. You think about a county or city. When you take from every church in this city

everyone that is trying to be a soul winner, I will guarantee you that you will put them in this building and have lots of space to spare. If you put every soul winner of every church of every variety in this building, you would still have room to spare. Jesus taught to pray the Lord of the harvest that He would send forth laborers unto the harvest. The danger of men and women going to hell ought to excite us. People go to hell. We get excited about the earthquake in Central America, and we send supplies and workers. Around the world, we are excited by physical tragedy. There is something worse than physical tragedy, and it is the spiritual tragedy of a man losing his soul in hell. That ought to excite us. I have witnessed to a man named Doc Stoker. He was a lost man. In the winter in Chattanooga Valley, the last time they saw him was on the top of Lookout Mountain. People came to me and said, "Pastor, have you seen Doc Stoker? Would you pray for him?" I witnessed to Doc Stoker. Do you know what those men did? They joined hands across the top of Lookout Mountain. They walked right down the top of Lookout Mountain where they could reach out and almost touch each other. They walked right down until they found that man, Doc Stoker. I went on top of that mountain. I helped pick Doc Stoker up. I helped carry Doc Stoker. I was one of the four that carried his clothes and body. He had fallen. His left foot had hit a slippery rock and went over to the right, and he fell over and hit his head on a stone. That did not kill him. When he slipped, his foot that slipped went under a log and he could not get his foot out. He pulled and pulled. His head hit the rock. He pulled and pulled. He died. He froze to death there on the mountain. I helped carry him off. Would it not be wonderful if God's people got so excited that come visitation, we said that we are going to comb this city for men and women going to hell? But, we do not get excited about that. The world unites, and the world gets hold of this. Why? They are concerned about it. This is a community upset over just one man. He was lost. We sought for him, but it was too late to reach him for Christ. He is dead. Souls ought to excite us. The scarcity of laborers ought to excite us. The urgency ought to excite us. The fact they are going to hell ought to excite us.

NUMBER THREE, THEIR ABSENCE OF LIFE OUGHT TO EXCITE US. They do not know what they are missing. Lost people do not know what they are missing. They think we are crazy. They do not understand. They do not know what they are missing — the absence of life. Excitement. When God made Paul, the greatest missionary, He did not send him to hell; He sent him to Heaven. He came back and was not allowed to tell what he saw. God's greatest missionary, God's greatest soul winner, was made not by a trip to hell but by the trip to Heaven. What men miss when they miss Heaven ought to excite us.

NUMBER FOUR, SIN OUGHT TO EXCITE US. It excited Christ enough to die for us. It stirred Paul's heart as he looked over a city and saw it given to idolatry. The broken homes, the pornography, the alcohol, the dope, the adultery, the nudity, and the national decay — I see it everywhere I look. Sin ought to excite us. Unnatural sin, vile sin, wicked sin — it ought to excite us. It excited our Lord. Jeremiah's heart was broken when he said in Jeremiah 9:1: *Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!* Amos talks about what they were enjoying. Amos 6:4-6: *That lie upon beds of ivory, and stretch themselves upon their couches, and eat the lambs out of the flock, and the calves out of the midst of the stall; That chant to the sound of the viol, and invent to themselves instruments of musick, like David; That drink wine in bowls, and anoint themselves with the chief ointments: but they are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph.* He said they had everything, but they were not grieved. Therefore they went into judgement; they went into the harvest before him.

NUMBER FIVE, THE SECOND COMING OUGHT TO EXCITE US. *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;* He is coming again. That is not theology; that is real. Turn to Matthew 24:44: *Therefore **get ready** — No, it says: Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.* The Lord is coming. He is coming when we do not expect Him to come, but He is coming. How wonderful that would be if when He comes

He find us working. Somebody asked John Wesley, "What would you do if you knew that the Lord was coming today?" He said, "I would do what I did yesterday. I would get up at four o'clock in the morning, and I would spend so many hours in my study by the Word of God and in prayer." He said, "I would do just exactly what I did yesterday." That is being ready for the coming of our Lord. If we thought He was coming tomorrow, I will guarantee you that we would not act like we did yesterday. There would be some adjustments to be made. One day, He is going to come at an hour that you think not. He is going to come, and happy are we if we are doing that which He left us to do. How sad we will be if He comes and finds us doing that which we ought not to do! The second coming ought to excite us. It is coming. Surely our Lord's coming draws nigh.

NUMBER SIX, SINNER, YOU HAD BETTER GET EXCITED. You are going to Hell. You are going to die. When? I do not know, but I do know that there is just a heartbeat between you and hell. Life is gone just like that. Those astronauts who died never expected to die, but they died. You are going to die one day. If you are lost, you are going to go to hell. The thought of facing a Holy God ought to excite you. *And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened . . .* I want to tell you, sinner friend, that you are going to stand one day before God Almighty. You are going to stand, and nobody can stand with you. You cannot have an advocate, and you cannot say "my civil rights." You will be speechless; you will not say one word. It will be reality, and your conscience will admit that exactly everything that was said is true! You are going to meet God. You had better get excited, because of the possibility that you do not have to go to hell. You can go to Heaven. You ought to get excited over the fact that *there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared.* You ought to get excited over the possibility of going to Heaven. God said, *I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.* Listen, Heaven ought to excite you. The possibility of being saved and going to Heaven ought to excite you. The matter of dying without Christ ought to alarm you and put fear in your heart that you cannot sleep. You are lost, and you will go to hell unless you get saved. It does not take a lifetime for you to go to hell. Excitement. Child of God, where there is love, there is excitement. I heard Dr. Jack Hyles tell this story. He said this happened in his church. A little girl named Cathy and a little boy named Bobby were little playmates. They were primaries. They played together, and one day Cathy became seriously ill and was taken to the hospital. She was there for days, and Bobby could not go to see her in the hospital. They found out that Cathy was going to die. I did not get this out of a book of illustrations. I heard it from Dr. Jack Hyles. He said that it happened. Bobby asked about his playmate. He found out where the hospital was, and somehow, Bobby made his way to the hospital, got inside the hospital, and found the room where this little girl lay dying. Her parents were there. Bobby saw the little girl dying. He saw her life ebb away, and it seemed like every breath was her last breath. Little Bobby edged up to the side of her bed and began to whisper, "Breathe, Cathy. Breathe, Cathy. This is Bobby. Breathe, Cathy. Don't die, Cathy. This is Bobby. Breathe, Cathy. Breathe, Cathy." I do not know how long that went on, but after a while, Cathy began to breathe to the cadence of Bobby's talking. "Cathy, breathe. Cathy, this is Bobby. Don't die, Cathy. Don't die. Cathy, this is Bobby. Breathe, Cathy. Breathe, Cathy. Breathe, Cathy. Breathe, Cathy. Breathe, Cathy. Breathe, Cathy." God touched that little girl, and down deep inside, there came a will to live! That little girl lived and went home and got well. She owed her health and revival to life to a little boy that was concerned and said, "Breathe, Cathy. Don't die. Don't die, Cathy. Breathe, Cathy!" Would it not be wonderful if we fell across our bed and cried, "Oh, class, don't die! Class, breathe! Class, breathe! Class, don't die! This is Bobby. Don't die. Don't die. Breathe, class!" Do that to your bus route. Do that to your home. Do that over that wayward boy. Do that over that wayward girl. Do that over that broken home, that shattered romance, and say, "Oh, God, I'll not let go! Breathe! Breathe! Breathe!" Hey, earnest excitement touches the strings where you think all hope is gone. *He stirreth up the people.*