SCRIPTURE: John 1:41-1-42 or 35-42

TEXT: John 1:39 -- "Come and see,' he answered. So they went with Him and saw where he lived."

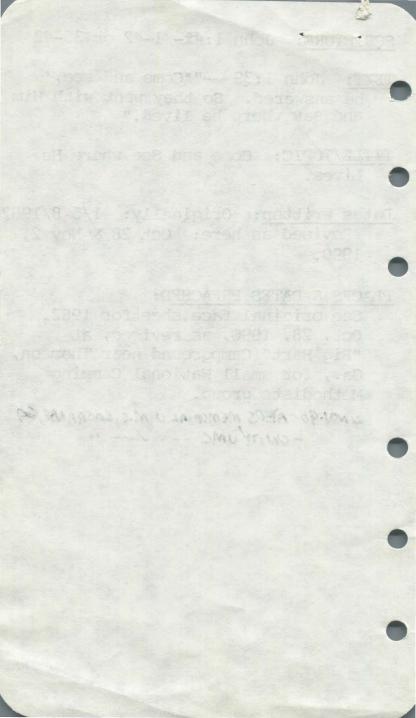
<u>TITLE/TOPIC</u>; Come and See where He Lives.

Dates written: Originally: 1/5-8/1982 Revised as here: Oct 28 & Nov 2, 1990.

PLACES & DATES PREACHED:

See original face sheetfor 1982. Oct. 28, 1990, as revised, at "Big Hart" Campground near Thomson, Ga., for small National Camping Methodists group.

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INTRODUCTION:

1. Pride and pleasure in showing friends and relatives our homes (or Recreational vehicles).

2. Interesting and pleasant to visit homes and RVs of others.

3. Scripture tells of 2 persons' curiosity and Jesus' invitation to see where he lived.

a. We do not know where or how he lived. Speculate. (Room, house, private or shared? Or ?).

b. Wherever or whatever it was, there was room for others to visit, and perhaps eat (in Scripture, "rest of the day" might include supper time).

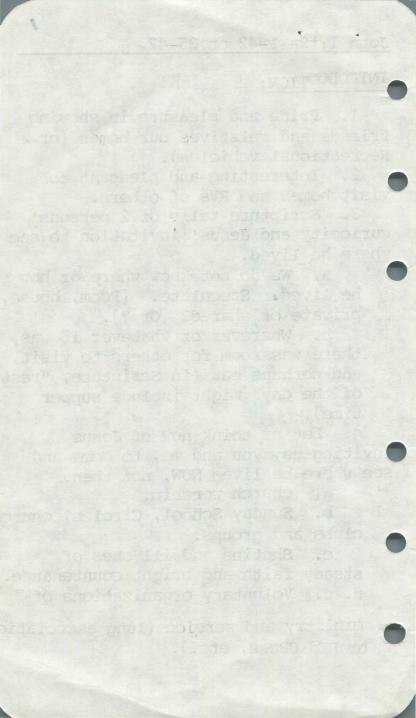
4. Let us think now of Jesus Inviting us, you and me, to come and see where he lives NOW, not then.

a. church woeship.

b. Sunday School, Circles, church clubs and groups.

c. Shutins and ill ones ofsteady faith and bright countenance.d. d. Voluntary organizations of

ministry and service (lung association or REd CRoss, etc.).



John 1:1-42 or 35-42

e. Governmental organizations (city, county, state, national, international) for service, relief, and help.

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I. Jesus' invitation to Come and See" indicates that He accepts us and offers us his friendship.

1. QUOTE: "My home is my place of retreat from stress, my sestle, the mostkkek treasured place in my life."

2. I invite you to my home only if I LIKE and accept you and think that you feel similarly about me. Criticism and disparagement are not expected nor wanted nor appreciated from a visitor to my home. The invitation is one of trust. I want h osts and guests to feel comfortable,

When we accept the invitations f of Jesus we do so because HE inspires the greatest possible feelings of being accepted in friendship and/or in love. Fear and desire to excape punishment and death are not the best motives for accepting His invitation, and are not indicated in this Scripture 3. Curiosity is not a BAD reason to accept an invitation to visit.

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Curiosity was the motive for the 2 disciples of John the Baptist going home with Jesus as told in today's Scripture.

4. The greatest good comes from a visit to the home of another when you respond in the spirit in which the invitation is given, with interest and appreciation and friendship.

II. <u>A visit with Jesus may help us to</u> know and understand him better.

1. Most friendships begin with and continue to include a great deal of sharing.

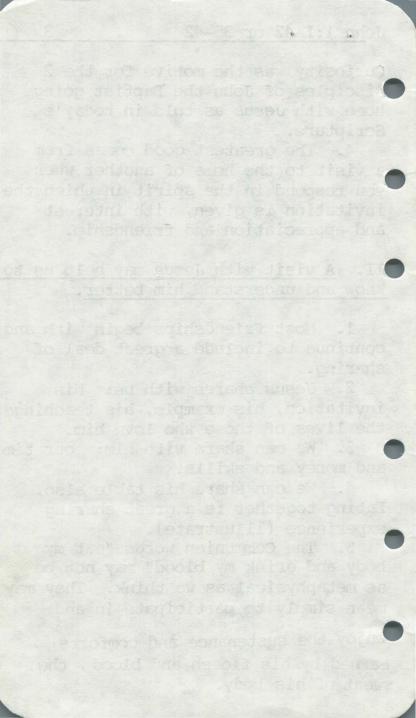
2. Jesus shares with us: his invitation, his example, his teachings, the lives of those who love him.

3. We can share with him: our time and money and skills.

4. We can share his table also. Eating together is a great sharing experience (illustrate).

5. The Communion words "eat my body and drink my blood" may not be as metaphysical as we think. They may mean simply to participate in and

enjoy the sustenance and comforts earned by his floesh and blood, the sweat of his body.



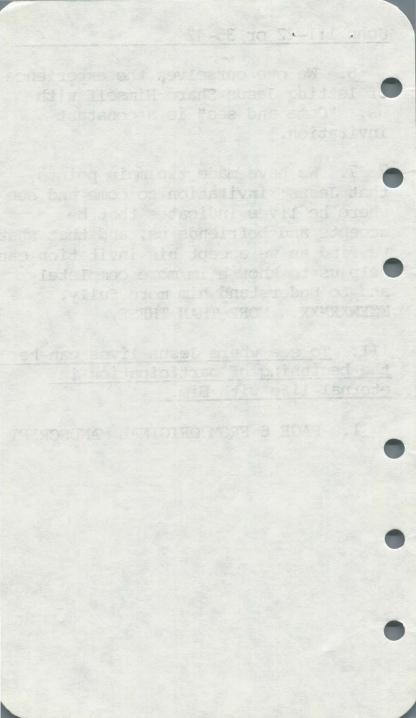
John 1:1-42 or 35-42

6. We owe ourselves the experience of letting Jesus Share Himself with us. "Come and see" is a constant invitation.

7. We have made two main points, that Jesus' invitation to come and see where he lives indicates that he accepts and befriends us, and that what we find as we accept his invitation can help us to know h im more completely and to understand him more fully.

III. <u>To see where Jesus lives can be</u> the beginning of participation in eternal life with Him.

1. PAGE 6 FROM ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT



John 1:35-42

1. In the past year Mrs. Stevenson and I became intrigued with "camping," deluxe style, in a small mini-motorhome which has most of the modern conveniences for luxury living in a very small place. When we visit relatives or friends now we tell them in advance that we either will stay in a nearby motorhome park. or else hook into their electricity and water and park our motorhome in their yards. At first they interpreted this as a rejection of their hospitality and sometimes even seemed resentful. While visiting them in this manner we usually have most of our meals as their guests, which they seem to want and expect. and do most of our sharing and playing in their homes. But sometime during the visit we have them into our motorhome For a mal, they see our color TV there, they perhaps play scrabble or Uno or share some other recreation with us. or we just visit and share with each ther in conversation. In every case so far they have come to understand why we enjoy this type of living and recreation, and most have even expresse a sort of envy that we are able to have such a way of free time living. They understand us and we understand them better as we share both their lives and they ours in this manner.

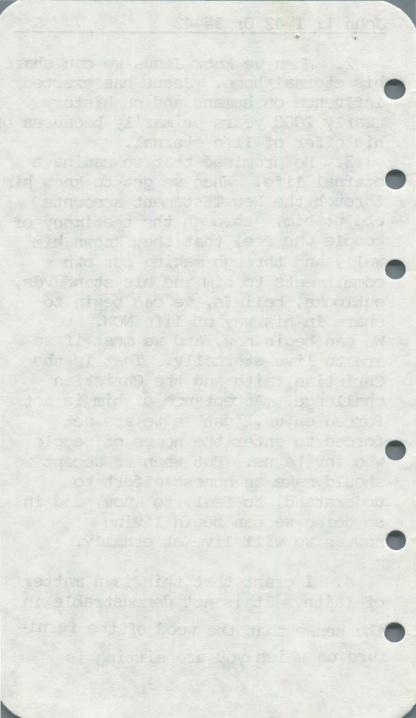
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2. When we know Jesus we can share his eternal home. Jesus has exerted influence on humans and on history nearly 2000 years primarily becauses of his offer of life eternal.

3. He promised that we can have eternal life. When we get to know him through the New TEstament accounts abo ut him, through the testimony of people who feel that they known him well, and through making our own commitments to him and his standards, outlooks, beliefs, we can begin to share in his way of life NOW. We can begin now, and we must if we are to live eternally. That is the Christian faith and the Christian challenge. Acceptance of him is not forced on us, just as we are not forced to enter the homes of people who invite us. But when we accept we should make an honest effort to understand, to feel, to know, and in so doing we can begin living now as we will live et ernally.

4. I grant that this is a matter of faith. It is not demonstrable inThe sense that the wood of the furniture on which you are sitting is



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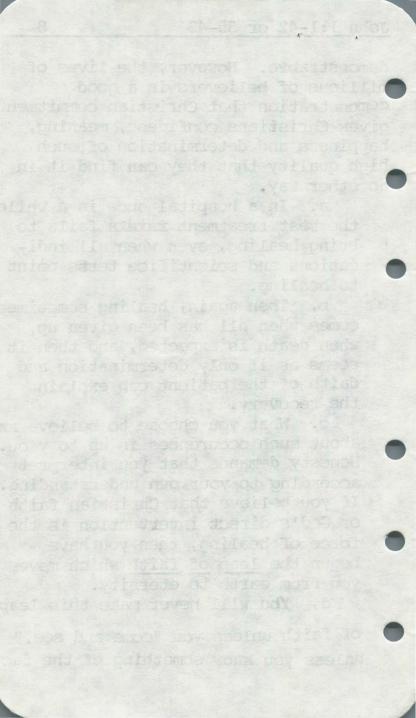
demonstrable. However, the lives of nillions of believers is a good demonstration that Christian commitment gives Christians confidenc, meaning, happiness and determination of such high quality that they can find it in no other way.

a. In a hospital once in a while the **best** treatment **faints** fails to bring healing, even when all indications and scientifice tests point to healing.

b. Then again, healing sometimes comes when all has been given up, when death is expected, and then it seems as if only determination and faith of the patient can explain the recovery.

C. What you choose to believe at about such occurences is up to y ou. Honesty demands that you interpret according to your own understanding. If you believe that Christian faith or God's direct intertention is the force of healing, then you have begun the <u>leap of faith</u> which moves you from earth to eternity.

d, Xou will never make this leap of faith unless you "come and see," unless you know something of the fact



John 1:1-42 or 35-42

e. The leap of faith may not bring bodily healing, and usually does not, because we have to die, and some suffering is normal before death. All must die. "The rain falls on the just and the unjust alike," Jesus said. Bodily and emotional healing is not always proof of Christian faith. Healing sometimes is a result of faithh, but there is no cettain consistency or pattern of which we know. Even id healing does not come when it seems so desperately needed, the feeling for persons of Christian faith is that a friend is always near, sustaining and comforting

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forever and ever. That feeling is for you and me when we say "yes" to Jesus' invitation to "come and see."

CONCLUSION:

1. The Scripture of today expresses for us an invitation to "come and see" where Jesus lives, as it did to two disciples of John the Baptissi long ago.

2. An acceptance of that invitation Changes our lives it did theirs

