

Date written: May 27, 1945

Scripture: Matthew 4:1-4

Text: Matthew 4:4

Theme: The word of God as the  
"Staff of Life."

Proposition: The word of God is the  
"staff of life."

Places preached:

Patmos }  
Providence } 5 = 27-45-  
Mt. Herib }

Independence 6-17-45

Leitch 2 45

Rocky oak }

Rowland } 12-9-45

Huntington, art, 12/7/47

Cranston, Wyo. } Jan. 1, 1949

Keeneland, Wyo. }

Cheyenne, Wyo., Inter-church

Leadership Training School

Nov 18, 1957

1

Sermons  
New Testament  
Matthew  
4:1-4

Handwritten text in blue ink, possibly a signature or a note, located in the lower right quadrant of the page. The text is mirrored and appears to be bleed-through from the reverse side of the paper.

2  
Scripture: Matthew 4:1-4

Then was Jesus led up of the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

470  
532  
And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered.

And then the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Text: Matthew 4:4b

Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Introduction:

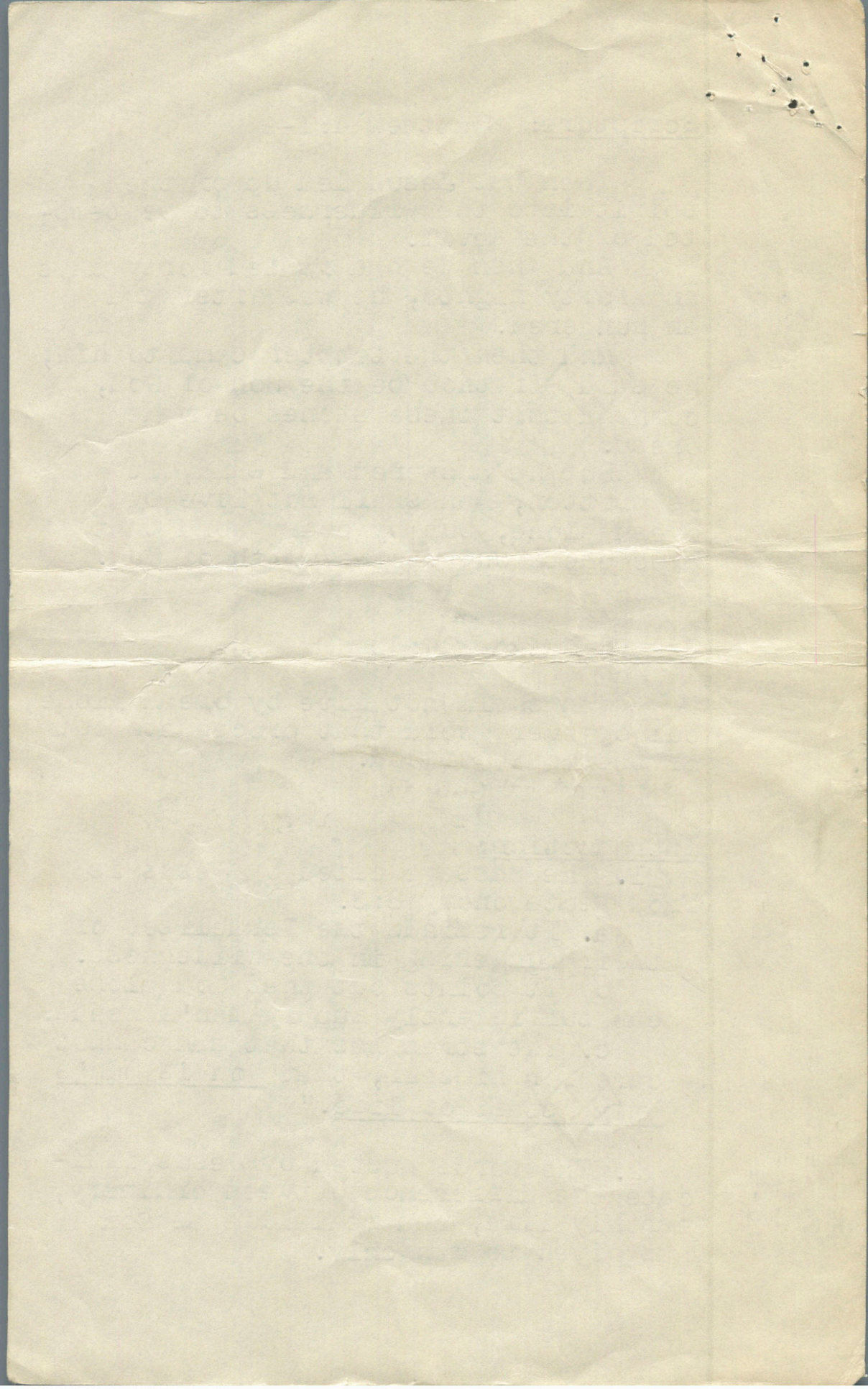
1. The passage cited by Jesus is from Deuteronomy 8:3.

a. It reminds the Israelites of their hungering in the wilderness.

b. It points out that God alone can sufficiently supply man's needs.

c. The stress was that man cannot care for himself, that God is man's only "staff of life."

2. The words quoted by Jesus indicate the difference between ordinary, earthly life, and real life as God has given to man only.



3

a. Ordinary, earthly life man possesses in common with all other living things. The dictionary speaks of life in that sense as being: "the quality which distinguishes a plant or animal from inorganic or dead organic matter; especially manifested by metabolism, growth, reproduction, and internal powers of adaptation to environment."

b. Life peculiar to man is, according to the dictionary, "conscious existence, conceived as a quality of the soul or as the soul's nature of being."

3. These words are to be taken to mean that the life of man's soul can only be sustained, or supported as if by a staff, by God's word.

4. The text would mean, then, that the word of God is the "staff of life!" That is, man's soul-hunger is satisfied only by the word of God.

3

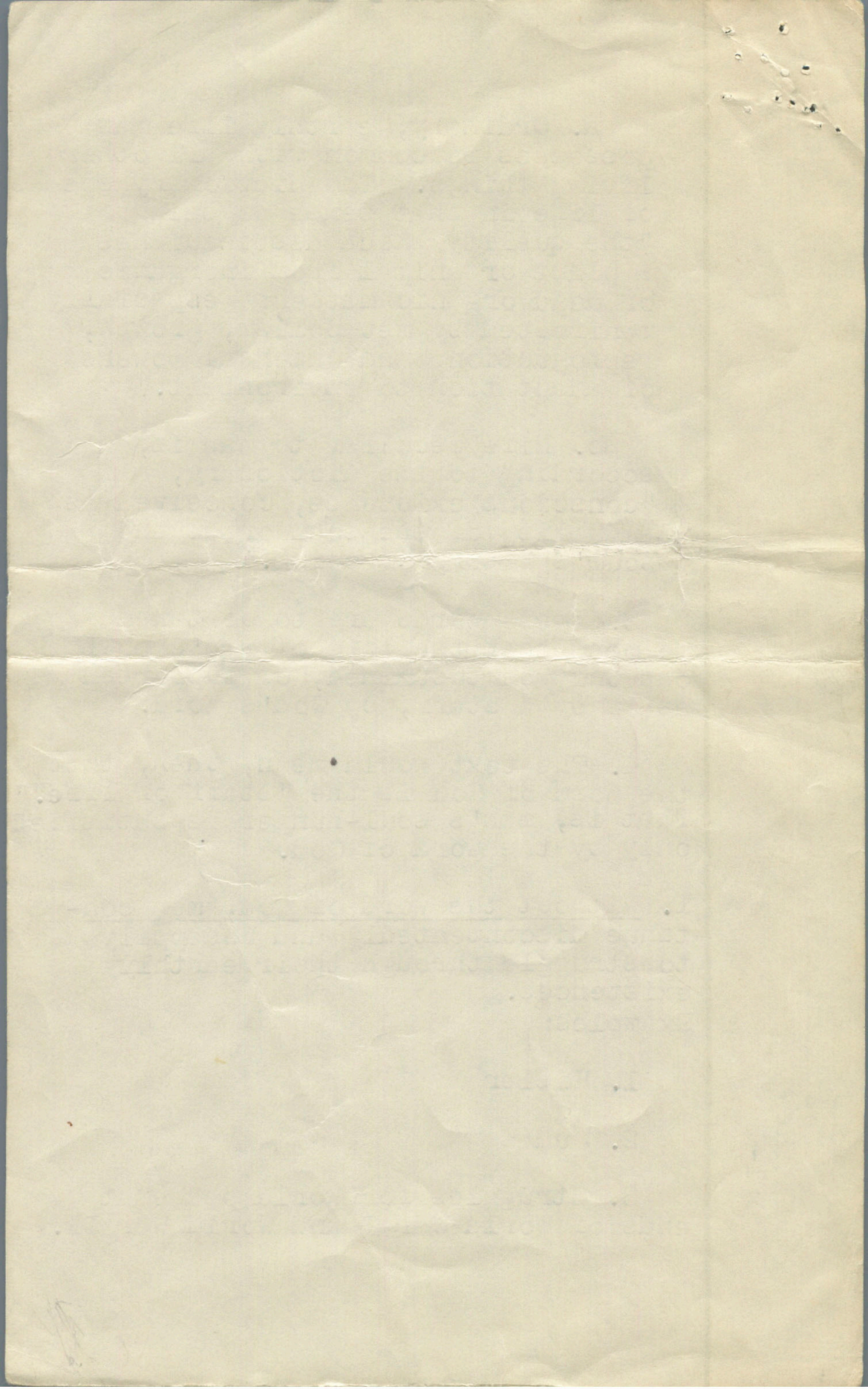
I. Without the word of God, men continue discontentedly and unhappily to struggle through their earthly existences.

Examples:

1. Hitler

2. Judas

3. Struggles for world peace at ends of World War I and World War II.



4. In individual life:
- a. Undersired and disrepected by fellow-men if without God.
  - b. Destructive friction with fellows if without God.
  - c. <sup>non-remorseful</sup> Undurable motives if without God.

5. Man's life without God is really only an animal life, like the lives of other living things.

II. With the Word of God, men find the challenging, progressive, satisfactory support for the life of the soul or mind.

1. Jesus himself lived by the word of God.

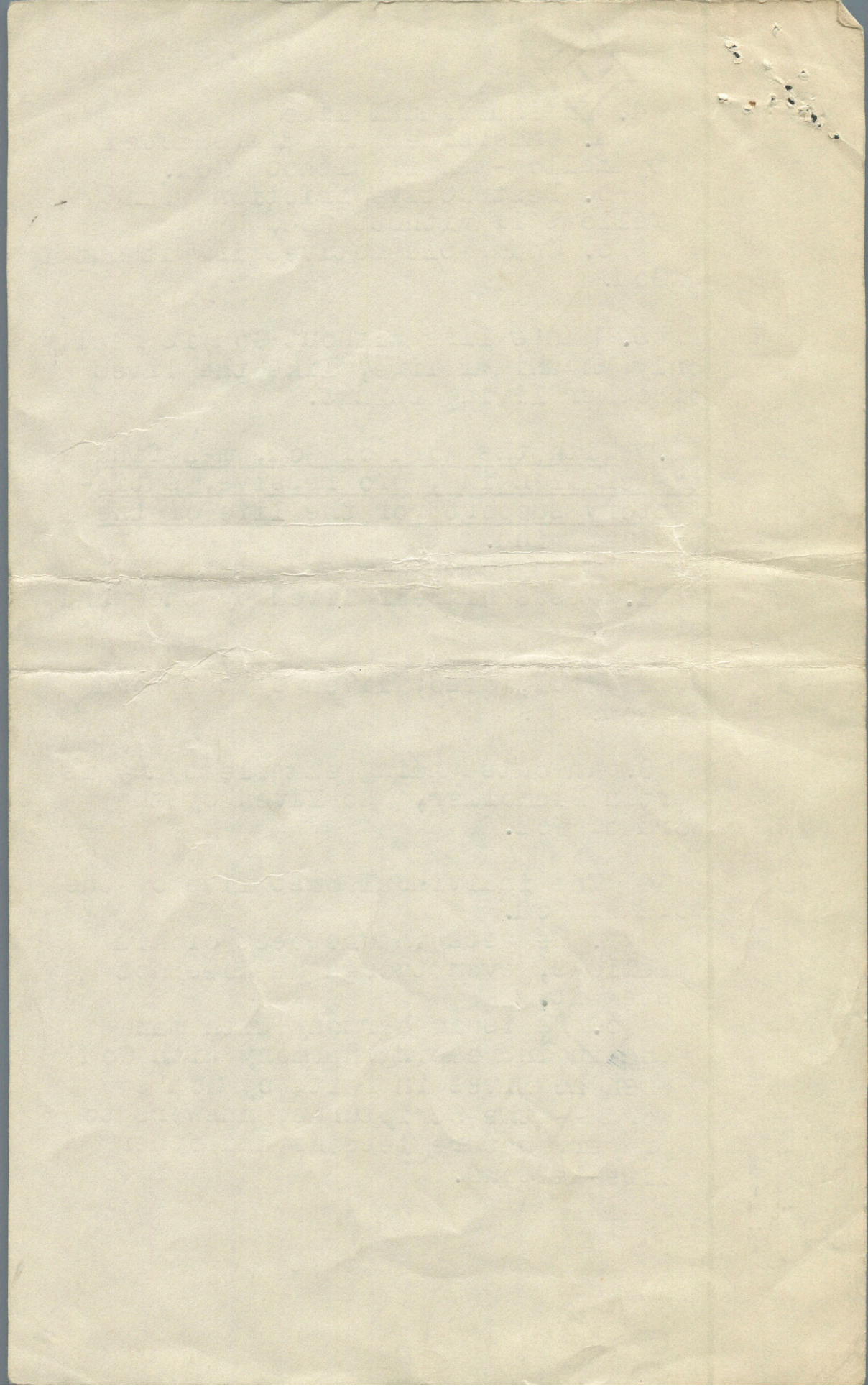
2. Paul, also, lived by the word of God.

3. An outstanding example <sup>as recent history</sup> today is Martin Niemoller, who lived by the word of God, <sup>defied Nazism, then Communism,</sup> to stand for his beliefs.

4. The individual must live by the word of God.

a. He gets the respect of his fellows, even though he does not seek it.

b. He is in harmony with man and in increasing harmony with God when he lives in faith by God's word -- the Scriptures, answers to prayer, nature lessons and other life-lessons.





*can not be destroyed*  
c. His motive ~~is indestructible~~  
by others, for it is faith in the  
word of God, from above him; from  
within himself.

5. A true life of the soul is  
available only to man, among creatures  
with the earth's type of life; and only to  
*men who know God's book, who see God in life around.*  
Conclusion:

1. Without the word of God, man is  
as other living things.

2. With the word of God life  
is available to man -- a soul life  
with God.

3. The word of God is the staff  
of life, truly the support of the  
highest that can be called life.

