

## 1. BRISTOL (SULLINS COLLEGE) 1971

*An introductory note:* This was my first visit to the Conference and has a few deep memories. The spring had been traumatic in that the institution where I had been teaching decided my services were no longer needed and I had accepted a new position with a school just being organized. For the rut-oriented Taylors this was a major thing. I had been ministering at the Lake Erie Bible Conference and when this ended on Saturday morning I jumped into my Beetle and drove furiously for West Virginia. Due to camps and other complications my family was not with me and I arrived in Bristol, Virginia about 11:30 PM. I located the college, found a place to park my car some distance down the hill from the school, and proceeded to take my case and walk to the main entrance. Seated in front of the main entrance on steps leading to the door were four men none of whom looked familiar to me and I later learned it was the watchmen on patrol. Jim Redling was the captain of this group and as I approached he asked me somewhat tentatively what I wanted. I was wearing traveling clothes and a Stetson hat and swinging my brief case as I ambled along and they thought I was a drunk about to cause trouble. I gave them my name and after a few moments of reflection they came forwards and we all shook hands and they allowed me to enter the building while volunteering to go and get my other things from the car. We laughed about it for years.

### **The Ministry: Tests for the Christian Life:**

1. The test of Truth
2. The test of Love
3. The test of Commitment
4. The test of Usefulness
5. The test of Life

**The Idea:** Unless we have some way of measuring ideals, situations, etc., we have no way of knowing whether we are in the right direction or dimension of anything. The measuring instrument may be called the "test" and when properly employed will allow us to know whether we are following truth, loving sincerely, having a right attitude towards the Lord, being a blessing rather than a bane to God's people, and, in fact, whether we are really alive or not.

### **MESSAGE # 1: THE TEST OF TRUTH**

Biblical passages: Isaiah 8:18-22, 2 Timothy 2:15, 3:14-17, 1 Peter 4:1

#### **I. Introducing the Subject:**

People tend to follow what they wish to follow and will attempt to