will only be recognized when it begin to grapple with the problems of the un-

[signed] M. L. King

AHDS. CSKC: Sermon file, folder 165.

15. Davis circled the word "only," drew an arrow to move it between the words "recognized" and "when," and circled the misspelling "grappel."

16. King folded this document lengthwise and signed his name on the verso of the last page.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers Project

Sermon Sketches

[30 November 1948–16 February 1949?]

[Chester, Pa.?]

King probably wrote these exercises for the course Preparation of the Sermon. 

Throughout his life, he would revisit many of these themes and utilize many of these titles, including "Facing Life's Inescapables" and "What Is Man?"

Sermon Sketches I

I Title—The Assurance of Immortality

Job 19:25

Theme—We are able to attain immortality through the men and women that we influence, and through the children who are touched by the flame of our spirits.

Purpose—To show that the desire for immortality will not be in vain.

In this sermon I purpose to show that the actual meaning of this text has often been misunderstood. Actually this was a developing concept of immortality. The word redeemer comes from the Hebrew word go'el mean-

1. The organization of these sketches reflects King's class notes for Preparation of the Sermon, which defined the components of a sermon as the title, theme, purpose, introduction, body, and conclusion. King recorded in his notes that a sermon's title "is not the theme or subject," but that it "is primarily for advertising purposes." His notes also indicated that the theme was "the thing you are saying to the people," while the purpose was what "you expect to accomplish in your particular sermon. I must attempt to get people to see, do, or be something." King characterized the sermon's conclusion as a recapitulation "bringing the audience to a place where there is emotional impact" (King, Class notes, Preparation of the Sermon, 30 November 1948–16 February 1949).


3. "For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth."