

## WHO WILL FOLLOW JESUS?

“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps” (1 Peter 2:21). This is one of the reasons that He came into this world. It was often that Jesus would not only invite, but would command that men follow Him (Matthew 4:19; 8:22; 9:9; Mark 10:21; John 1:43; 21:22; 12:26). Clearly He is to be our example and we must be willing to follow Him.

It is amazing and inspiring to study His life, to watch as He handled the temptations and problems with life. He was always the victor. We should gladly and fully follow His steps.

In following Jesus where do His steps lead us? When we follow Him, the steps lead us through the waters of baptism. Many today claim to follow Jesus but they mock and ridicule the idea of baptism. This is inconsistent, for Jesus saw the necessity of it. Though He had no sins, He would not “fulfill all righteousness” without baptism (Matthew 3:13-15). And neither can we. If we follow Jesus and His steps they will lead us to baptism. He not only practiced it, He commanded it (Mark 16:16). Will you follow Jesus or man? Our place in eternity depends upon our answer.

As we continue our study of following Jesus, His steps lead us to Gethsemane. There will be trials and tribulations for those who will follow Him. The way to heaven has its Gethsemane’s and we will be wounded along the way, but He who was wounded for us has a wonderful blessing for our every hurt.

If Jesus’ steps had ended at the cross, think of the hopelessness that would have engulfed mankind. Thank God such is not true! We can rejoice as we read of His

triumph over death and the grave, and we watch as His steps lead into the portals of glory (Acts 1:9-10). This is one of the greatest motivating powers for our following Him down the stony path of life. We can see the end of the road. Christ gave Martha the assuring promise concerning the resurrection, “Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live” (John 11:25).

Jesus said, “...I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life” (John 8:12). WE MUST FOLLOW JESUS no matter what the cost might be.

When we follow Jesus His steps lead us to worship. Even as a lad He went into the synagogue. Later He went to the place of worship and stood up to read the law (Luke 4:16). No person can follow His steps and at the same time absent themselves from the public worship services. If the Son of God felt a need for regular communion with the Father, how much more should we in our weakness and frailty yearn for the same strength and sustenance. Surely the Father understood this need and for this reason commanded “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching” (Heb. 10:25).

Christ is the only way to heaven. If we follow Satan, we will be led into sin, defeat, and finally into torment (Rev. 20:10). If we follow men we will be lifted no higher than humans can reach. Following Jesus is the only sure way (1 Cor. 11:1). We cannot follow Jesus and forsake the worship assembly.

**TonEy L. Smith** from *The Encourager*

## HOW TO LIVE IN THE NEW YEAR

Life is a journey; **I will live it trustingly:** “*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow ... I will fear no evil: for thou art with me.*” (Psalm 23:4)

Life is a task; **I will live it obediently:** “*we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.*” (1 John 3:22)

Life is a mission; **I will live it helpfully:** “*Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another.*” (Ephesians 4:32)

Life is a contest; **I will live it earnestly:** “*Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.*” (1 Corinthians 16:13)

Life is a battle; **I will live it courageously:** “*Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid; for the Lord thy God is with thee.*” (Joshua 1:9)

**Adapted from *The Encourager***

## TO BUILD UP THE CHURCH

Let all the lukewarm members get fired up!

Let all bitter critics sweeten up!

Let all absentees show up!

Let all sleepers wake up!

Let all the peeved ones make up!

Let all the down and out get up!

Let all the spiritual babes grow up!

Let all the sinners and backsliders confess up!

Let all who know and love the truth speak up!

Let all who have prospered lay up!

Let all the discouraged look up!

Let all of us cheer up!

**Author Unknown**

## ILL

**Sunday:** Millie Robertson (PM); Debbie Schleif (AM).

**Wednesday:** Millie Robertson.

Millie Robertson had outpatient tests and is to be scheduled for surgery for a thyroid problem. Tom Tucker is being treated for an eye disorder.

**Those battling cancer:** Ledgia Campbell, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers.

## HOME BOUND

Kathleen Camp is in Room 101 at the Royal Terrace Nursing Home in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Barbara James' aunt, Evelyn Marquardt is at the Sweet Life of Rosehill in Shawnee. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

## OUT OF TOWN

Robin Brown was away on business. Chris Edwards was away last weekend. It was good to have Steven Schleif with us Wednesday night. He returned to Nashville for his work later on Wednesday night. The Hanson's are in Florida for the winter.

## MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held this Sunday, January 11 following our AM worship. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

## SATURDAY BIBLE SEMINAR

"*Great Bible Words*" is the theme of the Saturday Bible Seminars at 39th Street in Independence. The lessons for **January 17, 2009** are: *Adoption* – Bill Goring, 9:30 AM; *Hell* – Johnnie Scaggs, 10:30 AM; and *Heaven* – Don Boyd, 11:30 AM.

## ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 50; Sunday PM, 39; Wednesday PM, 36.

*"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:"* **Ecclesiastes 3:1**

## Those To Serve

January 11, 2009

**BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Nelson**

### MORNING WORSHIP

**ANNOUNCEMENTS..... George Thomas**  
**SONG LEADER..... Trent Thrasher**  
**OPENING PRAYER ..... John Dodson**  
**PRESIDE..... Chris Edwards**  
**ASSIST..... Steve Brown**  
**ASSIST..... Dave Parish**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... Jared Nelson**

### EVENING WORSHIP

**OPENING PRAYER ..... Jeff Nemecek**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... John Cody Carter**  
**LORD'S SUPPER..... Chris Edwards**

### WEDNESDAY 14th

**SONG LEADER..... Jeff Nemecek**  
**INVITATION ..... Joel Nelson**

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Sunday

Bible Study ..... 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship ..... 10:30 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

### Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study ..... 10:00 AM  
Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

**Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher**

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