

BEARING YOUR CROSS

The Lord makes it clear that cross bearing is a condition of discipleship. One who refuses to “take up his cross” **cannot** go to Heaven! The rewards of Christianity are not “unconditionally” bestowed upon man. The Scriptures say, *“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever would save his life shall lose it: and whosoever shall lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what shall a man be profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and forfeit his life? or what shall a man give in exchange for his life?”* (Matt. 16:24-26)?

Coffman comments as follows:

Cross-bearing is widely misunderstood. It is not old age, poverty, taxes, illness, or bad weather, or any other discomfiture of life that comes unavoidably into the lives of men. It is the acceptance, for the sake of the will of God, of some burden or burdens, otherwise avoidable, but which are undertaken out of a pure desire to fulfill the Master’s purpose.

There are many today who want to put their lives in neutral while setting sail and letting the wind blow them in whatever direction. Their goal is to make friends, offend no one, and love everyone. These people may wear silver crosses around their necks, but they dare not take up the cross Jesus referenced and follow Him. The philosophy of some brethren is that they dare not speak against “city hall” or upset the “status quo.” Jesus says that *“whosoever would save his life shall lose it: and whosoever shall lose his life for my sake shall find it”* (Matt. 16:25). The meaning is clear. If one fails to follow

Jesus to save his hide (life) in this world, he will lose his soul in eternity. On the other hand, a faithful follower of Christ who is willing to give his very life for the Lord and His church will rejoice one day in Heaven.

Many people who master economics and excel in investing in stocks and bonds never seriously consider Jesus’ question regarding worldly treasures. Jesus asked, *“For what shall a man be profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and forfeit his life? or what shall a man give in exchange for his life?”* (Matt. 16:26)? In view of eternity, one cannot afford to pursue physical matters while ignoring spiritual matters.

What does it profit a brother to have many friends and lose his soul? A host of brethren put more emphasis on social standing than on loyalty to Christ and His church. A Christian must always stand for what is right and oppose what is wrong. It does not matter what your friends (?) choose to do – what does the Bible say that you are to do? One is never to *“follow a multitude to do evil”* (Exo. 23:2).

There are brethren who give lip-service to worshipping correctly while attending congregations that have long departed from the faith. These brethren when cornered ever so mildly protest their opposition to certain innovations in the worship services of their congregation. When asked why they continue to support such apostasy from the truth they say, “Oh, we have attended this congregation for forty years and this is where all of our friends are.” Brethren, listen carefully! What does it profit you if you get to keep all your friends and lose your own soul?

Jesus said, *“Ye are my friends, if ye do the things which I command you”* (John 15:14). Will you choose to

be friends with Christ or friends with the world? Will you choose the friendship of erring brethren while rejecting the friendship of the Savior? How can you support (your contribution) a congregation that no longer respects the Word of God? A follower of Christ **cannot** aid, assist, support, encourage, or have fellowship with enemies of the cross! But it will **cost** me my friends! Yes, there is a price to pay for following the Lord. Sacrifices must be made to remain faithful, and one may find himself standing alone more often than not in today’s modernistic and liberal world. Jesus could have chosen to be “politically correct” and tolerated and ignored the errors of the scribes and Pharisees. He refused, however, to allow His house to be corrupted. Jesus was willing to bear His cross so He said, *“It is written, My house shall be called a house of prayer: but ye make it a den of robbers”* (Matt. 21:13).

The Jerusalem scribes and Pharisees accused Jesus’ disciples of transgressing tradition and not washing their hands before eating (Matt. 15:2). Jesus replies that they make void God’s Word because of their tradition (v. 7). Then He said, *“Ye hypocrites, well did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying, This people honoreth me with their lips; But their heart is far from me. But in vain do they worship me, Teaching as their doctrines the precepts of men”* (vss. 7-9). Christ bore His cross as He stood firm for truth and it led Him to Calvary. Will you take up your cross and follow the Master? More often than not, you will find that the way of the cross is not the direction your friends have chosen to travel. To go to Heaven, you must take up your cross!

Marvin L. Weir from Bonham St. Beacon

ANNIVERSARY

Trent and Leah Thrasher, 10-11.

BIRTHDAY

Kathleen Camp, 10-13.

ILL

Sunday: Millie Robertson.

Wednesday: Millie Robertson; Clara Scott.

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. Barbara James' Aunt, Evelyn Marquardt is at Sharon Lane in Shawnee. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Chris Edwards was in Chicago, IL on business last week. The Anderson's are in the St. Louis area visiting relatives this week. The Thomas' are in Branson, MO this week. Ted Thrasher is in Texas this week for a Gospel meeting at Rendon and lectureship at Lubbock. Julia Thrasher is in Oklahoma this week visiting her relatives.

GUEST SPEAKERS

We are pleased to have brother Lance Grimsley as our guest speaker for our AM worship and brother Dudley Morton as our guest speaker for our PM worship. Please welcome these good brethren to Olathe!

AREA MEETINGS

There are several Gospel Meetings taking place in the Kansas City area in October and early November. Please check the flyers in the foyer for full details.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 49; Sunday PM, 37; Wednesday PM, 27.

Those To Serve

October 11, 2009

BUILDING AND COMMUNION.....Thrasher (1)

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Stanley Anderson
SONG LEADER..... George Thomas
OPENING PRAYER Jared Nelson
PRESIDE Jeff Nemechek
ASSIST John Cody Carter
ASSIST Steven Schleif
CLOSING PRAYER..... Trent Thrasher

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER John Dodson
CLOSING PRAYER..... Chris Edwards
LORD'S SUPPER..... Jeff Nemechek

WEDNESDAY 14th

SONG LEADER..... George Thomas
INVITATION Jeff Nemechek

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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