

Proclaiming the Gospel

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (*1 Cor. 1.18*).

Edifying the Body of Christ (*Eph. 4.10-16*)

August, 2011

The Wise Still Seek Him

Vol. III.08

Are You Reading the Word?

We often find those who are struggling in their walk with the Lord – as we go day to day endeavoring to encourage fellow members of the Body of Christ,. Serving Jesus is rewarding, thrilling, and sometimes glorious; **but** it is not easy. Our flesh, our ungodly nature, fights against the work of the Holy Spirit in and through us; and, of course, Satan joins in the battle against the Holy Spirit in us with temptations, discouragements, thoughts and feelings of hopelessness – anything he can implant in our minds with which to torment or hinder us.

You can be sure that Satan will magnify any weakness of the flesh in an effort to thwart the purpose and work of God in your life. But the walk with the Lord is worth it all – just to know and love the Savior who loves us so much that He submitted to suffering and death on the cross that we might be saved.

We ask many people three questions as we go and wherever we go day to day:

- 1) **Has there been a time in your life when you repented of your sins and asked Jesus Christ to be your Lord and Savior?** If their answer is "yes," we then ask another question.
- 2) **Are you living for Jesus?** If their answer is "yes," the third question is
- 3) **Are you reading the Word, the Holy Bible, every day?**

To be sure there is an understanding of this walk with the Lord Jesus Christ, let us start at the beginning, the first question. You must believe that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God – of the only God, creator of heaven and earth, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Then you must believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose from the dead, that He shed His blood for the forgiveness of your sins (Jn 3.16-17). You must repent and ask Him into your heart and life to be your Lord and Savior (Rom 10.8-9).

Bible yourself. If nothing else, before your feet touch the floor of a morning, open to the Psalms or the Gospels and read one or two verses over and over to take to work with you and let the Lord Jesus minister to you throughout the day with the Word you received that morning.

Do not seek the word through another person or book **if you are not reading the Word yourself.** The Word is to be taught and preached by those whom the Lord Jesus Christ has called and ordained. But you also need to be in the Word **daily** as you walk with the Lord Jesus **daily**.

When you are struggling, go to the Word of God in Christ Jesus. It will nourish you; be determined – even stubborn. Tell the devil that you choose to read the Bible! Then, go to the Lord with praise and worship, and let Him refresh you with peace and joy that comes from being in His Word (Jn 14.26).

Mrs. Bettie L. Lowery, M.R.E., Deaconess

The Rev. Mrs. Dr. C. S. Cole, Pastor, Ret.

Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

If you are in agreement with the above and know that you accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, you have answered “yes” to the first question.

Now the second question is, “Are you living for Him? When we pray and ask Jesus to come into our lives to be our Savior, we are saying we are willing for Him to dwell in us and be Lord of our lives. We ask our Lord daily, what is it You want of me today? I am willing to walk in obedience to Your will, Jesus, for Your glory. What do You want me to do today? What do You want me to say today? What do You want me to be today? (Jn 14.23-24)

If you know Jesus as Lord and Savior, it is not a choice whether to live for Him day by day, each moment of the day. When Jesus is Lord, there is no other way for the Christian; it is the way of the Lord Jesus Christ – or no way. Half-hearted service will not endure to the end, will not be accepted.

Know that the Lord is not smiling upon the sin that runs rampant upon this earth. Let me say that He is not “understanding” of a life of sin. Jesus did not die on the cross of Calvary so that we could accept Him as Savior, eventually escape hell, and get into heaven, but in the meantime go our own way, living a sinful life. Many hiding behind a pulpit while standing on a pulpitum (stage) and their followers are not preaching that God has called us to live a holy life. They are not teaching *The Way* of the Cross, the **Blood** of the Lamb, and a love for Jesus that will cause us to completely surrender to Him and live a life of holiness – no matter the cost.

Thank God for those few pastors remaining true, remaining faithful to the Word, those who are preaching the Truth and leading souls to salvation through Jesus Christ, those who live their lives in the righteousness of the Word. May God strengthen them; may they continue to boldly serve Him in the midst of a sinful world.

And thank God for those who are serving the Lord faithfully according to His Holy Word, the Holy Bible, who are serving the Lord in other areas of ministry, those who are clerks in stores, office workers, plumbers, technicians . . . , for example, who proclaim Jesus Christ Lord by their lives lived for Jesus in their work, at home, in school – wherever they are. May **they also** continue to boldly serve Him in the midst of a sinful world.

You are doing your best to serve the Lord daily, but, at times, you wonder if God is really with you. There is no joy, no feeling of closeness of His presence. You are going through a “dry spell” when the Word does not seem to speak to you; it is easy to slack in your Bible reading or prayer time. We are

tiered into feelings, but these are times to stand firmly on the Word of God. **It is essential** that we put aside time to spend with our Lord Jesus, the Living Word, and the written Word even when we do not *feel* like it (Eph 6.10-20, *see Walking in the Light insert*).

Know that His promise to us is that He will never leave us; He has given us the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, to abide with us and to dwell in us (Jn 14.13-18). The Holy Spirit is with us and in us even when we do not feel His presence. This is a time to keep walking on with Him and trusting Him. This is a time to keep on serving Him.

The Apostle Paul admonished the Galatians, “...walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh” (Gal 5.16). And to the Romans he wrote, “[*There is*] therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit” (Rom 8.1).

Face each day with the determination to walk that day with the Lord; control your thoughts and actions by the instructions in the Word of God. You can trust Jesus to lead you if you spend time with Him. When one tells us, “Yes, I am living for the Lord,” we ask our third question, “Are you reading His Word, the Holy Bible, every day?” Some answer, “Yes;” some answer, “No;” and some, “Yes, I read it, but not every day.”

When I first met the man I would marry, I liked him and enjoyed spending time with him. The more time I spent with him, the better I liked him; and one day I realized that I was in love with him. If you are a new Christian and do not know Jesus intimately – or if you seem to have drifted a distance from the presence of the Lord, it is time to read His Word over and over asking Him to let it take root within you. It gives strength even when we do not know it. It brings us to a love relationship and a closeness with Him that sustains us in the hard times.

Now, the question is, if you are not reading the Word of the Lord, the Holy Bible, daily, How do you know you are living for Jesus? If you do not have a road map to some place you have never been, how do you know the way? As for me? I cannot trust another’s directions. I want the road map, itself, the way to Jesus and His call to live a life of righteousness and holiness, the Holy Bible (Luke 11.28).

There are many hiding behind a pulpit while standing on a pulpitum (stage) today who know not Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. If they are telling you of goodly things to make you feel good, this is not the Word of the Lord. God’s way is hard. God’s way may cause persecution to come to you.

However, God’s Word, the Holy Bible, will bring joy and peace in the midst of adversity, and you will *feel* good when you know you are walking the way of the Lord Jesus according to His Holy Word. **Read the**