

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*)

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The Wise Still Seek Him

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How Long Since You Confessed Him . . .

There is a hymn that was once sung with great power by the followers of Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Israel): "I'll Tell the World that I'm A Christian."

It was sung with great zeal and fervor pouring forth from each person's soul – wanting the world to know that they were Christians as is taught in the Holy Bible, as they were first called in Antioch (Acts 11.26).

Today, we have to delineate that we are not using the word *Christian* as is used many times: western ideology. We are not using the word *Christian* to mean whoever has a jesus in their religion.

Satan is so deceitful. How many of you have been listening for years to those who use Biblical terms deceitfully, using them with a hidden meaning, believing that no one will discern their deceitfulness? Believing that no one will discern they are speaking of a different jesus than the only Begotten Son of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?

How cunning when people use the same terminology as do the followers of Jesus Christ but with a different meaning (Eph 4.14; II Ti 3.13). Pray, people, pray! If you are born again and know the Jesus of Nazareth Who was born in Bethlehem of Judaea (Mi 5.2; Mt 2.1-6), the Jesus Who is the only Begotten Son of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, pray that you will have discernment in these days as never before (II Cor 11.13-15; II P 2).

The hymn mentioned above is not sung today; rarely will you hear it. In fact, we do not hear about "The Old Rugged Cross." We do not hear about "When The Trumpet of the Lord Shall Sound – and time shall be no more . . ." We do not hear about heaven in the Biblical understanding. There are those who believe in universal reconciliation and distort the meaning of words in the Holy Bible in order to teach that everyone is going to heaven because *God (god ?) is so forgiving and . . .* They distort much of the Holy Bible that they might preach another gospel "Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ" (Gal 1.6-7).

There is no choice in whether you confess the Lord Jesus Christ. Hear the Word of the Lord: "But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven (Mt 10.33)." Let us not be found wanting (Dan. 5.27).

Jesus, help each of us in these days that lie before us to confess You before men, to speak forth Your Holy Word. Forgive us when we have been ashamed or have not walked in obedience to You because of "another voice" that told us we cannot speak Your Holy Name "before men."

May we also pray, when we are weak, as did the Apostles when they were threatened:

And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness [we] may speak thy word (Acts 4.29).

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Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

How many do we hear say, "Oh, I'm not a-sha" (as they lower their voice before finishing the sentence); "I'm not ashamed to say Je. . ." (as they whisper it)?

How many have we heard say, "Uh, I'm at work and cannot talk religion here"? Then, immediately turn to another to discuss their worldly pleasures or whatever else they choose.

Let me say that we do not talk religion, either. Jesus is a person, my Lord and my God – not a religion. The *Via Dolorosa* is a walk with the Lord God in Christ Jesus – not a religion. He is my life, my all.

Paul wrote, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth . . ." (Rom 1.16). How challenging it is at times to speak forth the Truth of the Lord God, to walk in obedience, to share one's love for Jesus Christ today.

Those who have come to evangelize are not ashamed to speak the name of their god(s), and many people are easy prey. Read what the Lord God Almighty in Christ Jesus by His Holy Spirit said in Jeremiah 13.8-11.

Paul speaks of these gods (I Cor 10.19-21); Psalms 115.4-8 and 135.15-18 speak of these gods and those that make them.

Their idols [*are*] silver and gold, the work of men's hands.

They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not:

They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not:

They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat.

They that make them are like unto them; /so is/ every one that trusteth in them (Ps 115.4-8).

Read the scripture above several times; ask the Lord God to reveal to you the depravity of walking on this path – if you have not understood the vain life of following carved gods, whether actual or in the mind.

If we could grasp the magnanimity of the life of Jesus Christ, what He did on the Cross of Calvary, shedding His precious blood for our sins, dying a cruel death – all because – all because He loves with a perfect love that no one can understand or fully experience – I believe we would not only sing, "I'll Tell the World That I'm A Christian," but we would live the life to which we are called – the life to *Come up Higher*.

If we could grasp Who God in Christ Jesus is, Creator, Redeemer, Healer, Lover of our souls, Provider, Sustainer, Almighty . . ., our lives would be changed; and the enemy would flee from any location wherein he may be living and lying, deceiving people into believing there is a better way, the way of power and greed, following the ways of Satan.

If we could grasp Who the Lord God is, One Who performs miracles for His glory, we would no longer want a god that we can call upon as a genie, wanting special favors for our selfish benefit. We would want to know **Him** in His fullness that we might lay our lives before Him and worship Him – as so many did in the

Bible and have all through the ages. We would, with them, bow before Him and adore Him and serve Him in obedience with joy and gladness of heart.

When we do this, and our lives are lived moment by moment for Him, for His glory according to His commandments, the community where we live will change; the enemy will flee. Imagine this taking place where you are, in your community, and the enemy fleeing from every location.

The Lord God made it clear that the downfall of Israel was the opening of their doors for other gods to be brought into their nation (Jos 23.6-16; 24.14-16; Dt 4.25-26; 7.25; 11.16; 16.22; Ps 81.9-11). Opening doors to tolerate other gods is in direct disobedience to God's Word, the Holy Bible (Jos 23.5-9). Tolerating other gods leads to acceptance; acceptance leads to deception – and becoming one with them: denying Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of God (Ex 20.3; 34.14; Lev 26.1; Dt 11.16; Jdg 2.12).

Paul was able to speak forth the Truth and was willing to pay with his life for obeying the Lord God Almighty (II Cor 11.24-28). He loved the Lord that much! It is said of John Knox that he feared God so much that he feared no man. That is love! Our prayer is, "Strengthen us, Lord, in these days; and fill us with Your love and wisdom and discernment. Help us always to be ready to confess You, Lord."

We need to return to our first love with our whole being (Rev 2.4), to serve Him, to worship Him, to give Him glory – in our hearts, our lives, at home, away from home, at work – crying out, "I'll Tell the World That I'm A Christian. I'm not ashamed His name to bear . . ." Read the Word of God (Mat 10.32, 33):

Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

When a person loves the Lord Jesus Christ, they will show forth their love by the godly life they live according to the Bible as well as with the words that go forth from them. John 13.35 is a powerful scripture: "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." The world has turned things upside down calling "evil good, and good evil" (Isa 5.20), and has redefined love meaning that the Lord God in Christ Jesus understands our living in sin, understands when we do not live for Him. No! "The Love of God" is a pure love that speaks forth the Truth of the Lord God Almighty in Christ Jesus in all things and confesses the Lord Jesus Christ before all.

The following passage states well the teaching of the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you (Jn 15.13, 14).

John 15.8 makes this clear: "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples." We are to live for Him, confessing Him with our lives and words. We are to speak the Word of the Lord, whether they will hear or not (Eze 1-3). Our confessing Jesus Christ is not contingent upon how people react.