

December 14, 2011

## Something Is Dead In Christendom Today!

We hardly encounter anyone today who is intentionally making disciples through a motive of loving and grateful obedience to their Lord. God is shaking everything that can be shaken, but most self-proclaimed Christians are more concerned with their own well-being than with the salvation of those they know. Contemporary discipleship seems to have borne little lasting fruit. That's because the methods currently employed in discipleship have nothing to do with our Lord's intent or methodology:

***“All authority in heaven and on earth was given to Me. GOING therefore, disciple ALL THE NATIONS, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE all things that I COMMANDED you; and behold, I am WITH you all the days until the completion of the age”*** (Matthew 28:18-20, literal translation).

In the mid-1980s during a clergy breakfast at our retreat center in Connecticut, one of the men dejectedly complained, "I don't think God is in the business of salvations any longer!" He hadn't seen one new convert in his congregation for years. His entire flock was satisfied with just attending services and enjoying social activities. What saddened my heart so much was that no one else sitting there that morning refuted his statement. Nor did anyone ask what changes they could make so that people *would* encounter Jesus as Savior and Lord in their congregations.

It's weighed heavy on our spirit that on our journey of 34 years of following Jesus we've met so few whose hearts are burdened to disciple others as our Lord calls for. Even now, most of the people who contact us want help to improve their own situation or deal with their problems. Only a few are interested in coming alongside others to help them live a life that pleases our Lord. Something is dead in Christendom today, and it must be breaking our Father's heart. So many who consider themselves "Christians" have become so satiated with complacency and worldly compromise that they've created their own '**god of greasy grace**' — a deity devoid of righteous standards who doesn't require anything of them. Their self-designed god only wants them to be happy and to try to be "good", since after all, "everyone's going to heaven" (except "bad" people). Tragically, they'll meet this 'god' someday, somewhere outside heaven where they'll be apart from Jesus FOREVER!

Paul took note of the violent and wicked lives of those around him and summed up the root cause: *“There is **no fear of God** before their eyes”*(Romans 3:18; also, Ecclesiastes 8:13). How rare it's become for anyone these days to walk in the holy and reverent *fear of God* that the Bible so often proclaims. Even if for this reason alone should we fear God as Jesus points out: *“But I will show you Whom you should fear: **Fear Him** Who, after the killing of the body, **has power to throw you into hell**. Yes, I tell you, **fear Him**”* (Luke 12:5). The fear that God will cast into hell forever the wicked

and unrepentant should burden us with a deep concern for those who have not yet become our Father's children through union in Christ. Does it burden you???

Paul grieved time and again for his people, the Jews, who so stubbornly resisted intimacy with God: *"But their minds are made dull, for to this day the same veil remains..."* (2 Corinthians 3:14). This same veil of dull stupor covers the hearts and minds of a large part of Christendom in this nation. Today, the **resistance to repentance** is widespread among so many who consider themselves "Christian." When we first became followers of Jesus in the late 1970s, most of the Christians we met were wholehearted in their relationship with Jesus, and ready to repent if they became aware of something in them that violated God's Word. Today, people's hearts resist any input or change regarding God's role in their life; they're dull to evil because they enjoy it so much (see John 3:19,20).

You'll see in this Teaching E-mail that making disciples flows from the burden of love in our Father's heart—the **salvation of all mankind**. It is because of His grace and mercy that He made it possible for sinful mankind to be reconciled to Him in Christ. Jesus bore His Father's burden during His entire earthly stay, and it was that burden for souls He passed on to the disciples He made. They in turn passed on the Father's burden to their disciples. But somewhere along the centuries the Father's burden was lost as institutional religion substituted rituals and rules for intimacy with Father and His will. Multitudes are now traveling the broad road to hell because people who think they belong to Him care *not one bit* for Father's heart's desire. Can someone belong to Him —be indwelt by His Spirit — and *not* have His burden? Are you one of these?

As we were completing this e-mail we spied a proclamation in the November-December 2011 *Mission Frontiers* magazine: "Our job is to make disciples **who can make disciples**, not just to get people saved but to bring every person into a **life transforming relationship with Jesus** that is able to bring transformation to all.... We must proclaim a gospel where **every aspect of life is submitted to the Lordship of Jesus.**" (emphasis added)

Our hearts are heavy that some on our mailing list may hear that terrible rebuke from Jesus: *"Don't call Me, 'Lord, Lord.' You will not enter the kingdom of heaven, because you did not do the will of My Father. Your religious acts will count for nothing"* (paraphrase of Matthew 7:21-23). Please take a close look at your life and ask yourself:

- **"What is there in me that would evidence that I bear the Father's burden for the salvation of others?"**
- **"Do my conversations with others in the faith concern reaching the lost around me?"**

If your answers point to self-absorption and disregard for the eternal state of others around you, ask Father to convict you by His Spirit so that your heart will break for the things that break His heart.

**Mike & Sue**

2 Corinthians 5:9-11

**P.S.** We want to let you know about a new page on our website: [Bible Mis-translations](#).

Translators of the Bible have often been constrained by various rules imposed on them by those who ordered the translation to be done. And, translations have on occasion been influenced by denominational bias which also leads to distortion of various words or passages of Scripture. We go back to the original text and explain some of the errors we consider to be detrimental to your understanding of what God intended.

In light of the present darkness this nation is experiencing, we thought you might be blessed in reading two of David Wilkerson's teachings from 1994 and 1995:

***God's Hidden Last-days Army!*** <[http://www.worldchallenge.org/en/pulpit\\_series\\_newsletters?filter0=&filter1=6&filter2=1994](http://www.worldchallenge.org/en/pulpit_series_newsletters?filter0=&filter1=6&filter2=1994)>

***The Church Isn't Ready for Revival!*** <[http://www.worldchallenge.org/en/pulpit\\_series\\_newsletters?filter0=&filter1=2&filter2=1995](http://www.worldchallenge.org/en/pulpit_series_newsletters?filter0=&filter1=2&filter2=1995)>