



SO, YOU ARE JUST AN AVERAGE CHRISTIAN.

October 2016

One of the very real problems of our day is many professions of faith in Christ are not genuine. I am not saying these people are insincere, but the plain truth is quite obvious; many who claim to be saved show no interest in the things of God and one looks in vain for any evidence of a changed life. Dear Reader, I urge you to **“Examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith.”** as God admonishes you. You may have made a “decision” but are you truly saved? Do you have a serious interest in the things of God? Are you a new creature in Christ Jesus or have you just signed on the dotted line, so to speak, so that you won’t wind up in hell? Another problem is many who are *“average Christians,”* they are saved but have only a casual interest in Bible reading, prayer and soul winning, etc. It is a sick Christian who can receive the grace of God and then live for this present evil world. The world is going to hell at a rapid rate and you are asleep. God warns you that He **“chastens every son whom he receiveth.”**

Spiritual growth and fruit bearing are no accident. They do not automatically follow just because one has received the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour. Here are a few basics and they should be engaged in just as soon as one is saved. If you have been saved for sometime but are floundering in your Christian experience, then go back and begin again. We see these things on the very day the Church was founded: **“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”** ~Acts 2:41,42. Those who received the Word were saved. The first thing they did was to be **BAPTIZED!** They were immersed; a statement that they believed in the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Baptism is important; it is the first step of obedience. Then, they **JOINED THE CHURCH.** They were *added* unto the people of God. They **CONTINUED** in the fellowship of believers. They didn’t quit and run to a church across town the first time they heard something they didn’t agree with. They did not **“forsake the assembling of themselves together”** with God’s people! Then, they continued stedfastly in the **APOSTLES DOCTRINE.** They studied the Bible! You need to study it and you need to memorize it! They continued in **FELLOWSHIP** with God’s people. They continued in **BREAKING OF BREAD** - they remembered Christ at the Lord’s table. They also **PRAYED;** they continued in *prayers!* Prayer is probably the most neglected Christian privilege and duty. You cannot be used of God without frequent and earnest prayer. It is God’s appointed way of accomplishing His work. Then, these new converts **WITNESSED.** **“They were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they (all) spake the word of God with boldness.”** If you are saved, how can you keep the “Good News” from needy, hell-bound souls? I find it hard to believe that one can be saved and not care that his loved ones, friends, everyone he meets is lost in sin and headed for hell. I’d say they were serious Christians! There is one more thing - those early Christians **GAVE** of their substance. They gave out of their poverty and gave liberally, II Corinthians 8:1-5. Regardless of what you may say, God expects at least a tithe. You’ll never go anywhere with God until you learn to give. Want God to use you? Get right with God today; obey His Word! How does your Christian experience line up with these early Christians?

CORNERSTONE NEWS

MISSIONS CONFERENCE

OCT. 30 - NOV. 4-6, 2016



- *SEVERAL MISSIONARIES
- *FLAGS MANY NATIONS
- *COLOR SLIDES
- *SPECIAL MUSIC
- *NURSERY OPEN

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

FRIDAY... 7:00

SAT...3:30 - 4:30 (Buffet Supper) - 6:00

SUNDAY...9:30 - 10:45 - 5:30 - 6:30

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THANKSGIVING SERVICE

This is always one of the most inspiring services we have all year. *Join us and make it a real Thanksgiving to God.* After all, that's what it was in the beginning! Just how grateful are we to God for His salvation and multiplied blessings? **"Be ye thankful."** The truth is few Americans are grateful to God for all His blessings. How sad to see even Christians who think more of a ballgame than they do of God! Let us **"Give thanks unto the Lord for He is good."**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH - 8 P.M.

Gospel Song Service, a time for Testimonies and a Special Message. Having guests for dinner? Invite them to come along. Let's really put the Lord first!



YOUTH CORNER

THE FAITH WAY IS GOD'S WAY. It is God's way to have your sins forgiven – have faith in Christ and His death on the cross for your sins. It is the way to live the Christian life. God says, **"Without faith is impossible to please Him."** ~Hebrews 11:6. A school teacher gave three bright students a difficult problem. He said, "You will find it very hard, but I promise you there is a way to solve the problem." After several attempts without success, one of them gave up saying, "There is no way!" A little later, the second pupil also gave up. He said, "I think it can be done but I do not know how." The third student worked on for some time and though he was somewhat worn out, labored on saying, "I know there is a way because the Master has said it." We believe and act upon the Word of God because it is the work of the Master. If the Master, the Lord Jesus has said it, it must be so! One of the simplest definitions of faith I know is "taking God at His Word." It has been said: "God said it, I believe it; that settles it!" I think a better statement is, "God said it; that settles it!" The Bible says concerning the Christian: **"For we walk by faith and not by sight."** ~II Corinthians 5:7. I John 5:4 says: **"...and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."** C. T. Studd said: "Yes, let us ever see the impossible, Yes, the utterly impossible, and then go to God and ask Him to do it. This glorifies Him, magnifies Him, or gives Him a chance to magnify Himself – which is best of all."

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT!

True Faith is not a victory for you but a victory in or through you.

The Christian must be willing to forfeit human companionship in order to have God's fellowship.

If you want to know who your human friends are, just make a mistake or disagree with them.

One fool can ask more questions than ten wise men can answer. M.R.D.

We must be saved from dependence upon people and walk alone with Jesus. J. Hudson Taylor

If you don't believe in the devil's existence, try resisting him a while. –Charles Finney.

Our God is a Great God, but we make Him small by our unbelief.

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the Word of God dwell in you richly in all wisdom..." ~Colossians 3:15,16.

NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

HATRED OF JEWS AT “HIGHEST LEVEL OF OUR LIFETIMES”

- The following is excerpted from “Hatred of Jews at ‘Highest Level,’” *The Algemeiner*, Sept. 7, 2016: “Hatred of Jews and demonization of Israel are at ‘the highest level of our lifetimes,’ Israel’s UN envoy warned on Monday during a high-level forum on antisemitism held by the world body at its headquarters in New York. ‘Over 1/3 of European Jews are afraid to wear a yarmulke or Star of David in public,’ Danny Danon said in an address to the forum. ‘More than half of French Jews have considered emigrating because they don’t feel safe living as Jews in France. Today we hear things about Jews and the Jewish people that we thought belonged to the pages of history. ... Antisemitism is returning to everyday life without shame.’ ... There has been a noted rise in antisemitism in Europe in recent years. ... Danon said, ‘In our internet era, [hatred of Jews] has gone global. ... The enemies of the Jewish people are using the tools of modern technology to target and harass Jews around the world.’ ... Danon went on to call out the UN for the antisemitism exhibited by a number of its member states. ‘There is a place where some are not ashamed to spread lies and slander about Israel and the Jewish people and you are sitting in it right now, here at the UN,’ Danon said.” - FBIS (9/16/16)

PASTORS SUE ILLINOIS FOR MAKING CHRISTIAN COUNSELING OF HOMOSEXUALITY ILLEGAL.

A group ministers is suing the State of Illinois over a law that makes Christian counseling for minor with same-sex attraction a crime. Pastors Protecting Youth has filed a lawsuit against the state’s Youth Mental Health Protection Act which makes it illegal to help teens overcome unwanted homosexual inclinations. The law states that “being lesbian, gay or bi-sexual is not a disease, disorder, illness, deficiency, or shortcoming.” It bans conversion therapy as a mental disease, disorder or illness...The lawsuit goes on to state that the First Amendment not only protects perceived speech to make pastors’ speech and the exercise of their beliefs but the right of the people they counsel “to make personal decisions, and to exercise their beliefs.” The pastors’ complaint characterizes the Illinois law as a broad attempt to criminalize any dissenting views on homosexuality.” -*Sword of the Lord* (9/28/16). Ed. It is absolutely amazing what is taking place today!

SCIENTISTS SAY HEALTH BENEFITS FROM ALCOHOL MAY BE GREATLY EXAGGERATED

- The following is from “Scientists Say,” *Fox News*, Sept. 26, 2016: “Despite claims in recent years that a glass of red wine could reduce chances of getting heart disease, new research is discovering that the information may be faulty. Scientists are now saying that many of the studies touting alcohol’s benefits were actually subsidized by alcohol companies, reports *Wired*. The real science behind these so-called benefits may have been grossly exaggerated and may have led to the systemic burying of a serious risk of imbibing too much alcohol--cancer. Research conducted in 2014 by Boston University professor Curt Ellison led to the declaration that the consumption of moderate amounts of red wine could help in the fight against heart disease. The study was widely cited and heralded by wine industry insiders. But Ellison’s research was supported by ‘unrestricted educational donations’ from the liquor industry, according to *Addiction* magazine. ... The science behind much of the research is also allegedly flawed. ... A study released earlier this year in the *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs* reviewed findings from 87 previously published reports on drinking and death, from all causes. The report found that all but 13 of those reviewed had critical flaws. ... The 13 studies that did account for abstainer bias found no health benefits associated with drinking. The re-evaluation of alcohol consumption is already causing governments to make policy changes. In January new guidelines put forth by the U.K.’s Chief Medical Officers warned that any level of drinking alcohol increases the chance of getting several different types of cancers. ... In January, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services removed language in its guidelines on alcohol consumption that said light drinking could lower the risk of heart disease for some people.” Three thousand years ago the last word about alcoholic consumption was given in God’s Word: “Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise” (Proverbs 20:1). *FBIS* {10/1/16}

Ed. The Bible also says, “**Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink and putteth thy bottle to him...** Hab.2:15. It is not uncommon these days to hear of so called Bible believers endorsing alcoholic beverages. I heard one man justify it by saying “all things in moderation,” as though that phrase cannot be found in God’s Word. Phil.4:5 does say, “**Let your moderation be known unto all men.**” It means Let your reasonableness be known... “The Bible does warn: “**Woe unto them that call evil good and a good evil...**”

HOW TO SUCCEED WITH GOD

Someone asked George Mueller the secret of his great power. He said simply, "One day George Mueller died." The same experience happened to D. L. Moody. As he walked down a street in New York one day, he relinquished all rights to himself, to his own life; he died. He died to the old D. L. Moody. Charles Finney went to the woods (he sneaked there, too proud to have anyone see him there praying); and all the while there he was terrified lest he be seen. But while there, he died not only to his pride but to Charles Finney. The great evangelist Christmas Evans died to himself in writing. He wrote out a lengthy covenant with God beginning with the words: "I give my soul and body to Jesus Christ..." He died to all the rights to Christmas Evans. In one way or another, this has been true of all who were truly used of God. Death to self is the key to successful, fruitful living. It is outlined in **Romans 6:6-8**: "**Knowing that our old man is crucified with him...Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him.**" It is only when one truly sees himself crucified with Christ that he can let the Spirit of God live in him. Moody said when he came to that place, all ambition for himself was gone, his temper was gone. Want God's power? You must come to that place described in **Galatians 2:20**: "**I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live; yet not I, but...Christ liveth in me.**"

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TIPPING AND TITHING!

Now it came to pass on a certain day at noon, this editor was guest of a certain rich man. The lunch was enjoyed at a popular restaurant and the food was good. Now, when the end of the meal was at hand, the waiter brought unto the host the check. The host examined it and left a certain amount under the edge of the plate. The waiter who stood nearby, smiled happily when he saw what was left for him. Thus I thought the tip was satisfactory. Now with such customs we are all familiar. But as I meditated on the money that was left for tips throughout the country, I began to think about the matter of tips and tithes. For the proverbial tip should be at least a tithe (fifteen percent today) lest the waiter or waitress think ill of you. And as I continued to think on these things, it dawned upon me that few people who go to church treat their God as well as they treat their waiter. For they give unto the waiter a tithe, but unto God they give whatever they think will get them by. Verily, doth man fear the waiter more than he feareth God? Doth he love God less than he loveth the waiter? Truly a man and his money are beyond understanding! - Copied. I think I have heard all the excuses for Christians not tithing, but that is all they are - excuses. I don't see how God could be happy if the Bible believing Christian will not acknowledge God's Lordship by tithing. God asks: "**Will a man rob God?**" Certainly not a wise man nor a man who loves God. The Lord says, if you will not freely give it, I will get it some other way; but I will get it!