

## FISHERS OF MEN

"And he said unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." - Matthew 4:19

Volume 16 – Issue 5  
June 2007

*A Newsletter For and By Saints of Christ in Prison*

*Fishers of Men Ministries  
Jesus Loves You!*

### ***A HEAVY LOAD***

What a load to bear; just believe you are not carrying it alone. If you are carrying a heavy load such as hate, anger, resentment, jealousy, unforgiveness, sickness, stress, oppression and depression, I would like to introduce you to a man who can clean you up from all that mess! His name is Jesus and He said, "Cast all your burdens upon me and I will give you rest!"

Carrying a heavy load alone can weigh you down. For some walk around with a frown, others go through life holding their heads down. But let me introduce you to a man that says, "Lift your heads up high my child, even to the sky. For there was a cross that I carried because I was willing to die, so that you may have life."

There's nothing too hard for me you see! I came into this world so that you would believe! Heavy loads, what are they to me? You are my child and I will set you free!

*Your Sister, Betty*

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### ***GOD'S WILL FOR THE CHRISTIAN***



At some point in the growth of the Christian the question of "What does God want me to do?" or "What is God's will for my life?" arises. In Romans 12 Paul gives guidelines for living as a redeemed people. Throughout this section, we learn how to live our faith each day. Quickly, I would like to point out that the will of God for the Christian can be divided into two parts: (1) Christian Character: God's will in this area is the same for all Christians (Gal. 5:22-23). (2) Christian Service: God's will for a Christian service is different for everyone. It is tailored by the gifts God gives us as well as the circumstances that He arranges in our lives. Romans 12 teaches that we are to do those things which display right character and loving motivation.

In order to display right character and loving motivation we must do three things:

- (1) Read and understand the Bible, God's Word (Deut. 8:3; Ps. 119:11). Hiding God's Word in our heart is a deterrent to sin. This should inspire us to memorize the Word, but memorization is not enough.
- (2) Be obedient to what you learn. Being exposed to the Scripture is not enough. It is much more important to obey it, to do what it says (James 1:22). Satan knows the Scriptures (Matt. 4:1-11), but he failed to obey them.
- (3) Rest contently in our life situation. 1 Tim. 6:6 teaches a key principle to spiritual growth and personal fulfillment. Godliness with contentment is great gain. We should honor God and center our desires on Him (godliness Matt. 6:33), and we should be content with what God is doing in our lives (Phil. 4:11-13).

In conclusion, if we cultivate and nurture our walk with God, and patiently develop our spiritual gift by concentrating on reading/understanding the Bible; being obedient to what we learn; and resting contently in our life situation the right opportunities for service will come automatically for it is ultimately God who is at work in us to do His will (Phil. 2:13).

**PART 2**

The second part of this message answers the question: Does God care about the details of the service we are engaged in? If yes, why doesn't the Bible provide specific detailed advice for Christian service?



The answer to the first question is "yes" God cares about the details of the service we are engaged in. The fact that God has created our abilities and personalities so that we are able to do the job on earth which He has in mind for us proves His care. To answer the second question, I provide the following 3 reasons:

(1) Christians walk by faith not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7) - Christians must trust that God is the Sovereign Almighty One who controls the universe for the spiritual benefit of His people. We are to carefully and prayerfully weigh the things we know which affect our choice of service and rely upon the Lord to shape and guide our lives into the right path of service.

(2) Our attention and energy must be directed to cultivating and nurturing our walk with God (I Tim. 4:16). As we focus upon being faithful, patiently developing whatever skills God has given us, we will find that the right opportunities for service will come (Matt. 6:33). Faithfulness is the true measure of how successfully Christians are doing the will of God (I Cor. 4:2).

(3) It is God Himself who is at work in the believers to do His will (Phil.2:13). Only God knows exactly what His will is in every situation and only God has the ability to do His will as it should be done.

The message of Romans 12 is that it does not matter what a Christian does in his service, for if a person's heart is right, his service will be right.

*In Christ, Brother Eddie*

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**WAITING**

**“Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him;” Ps. 37:7 NKJV**

Scripture Reading: Psalm 37:7; 46:10; 62:5 - Lam. 3:26



In all of the above verses we are advised to wait on God; and to do so patiently or silently – restfully. Webster’s says wait means “1) remain, expecting something. 2) (with on) attend as a servant. 3) call (upon); visit. And, in Spanish the verb (esperar) means both to wait or to hope.

So in our relationship with God we are meant to be one with Him. That means His will is our will. We don’t try to run ahead of Him with our own plans or desires. We “wait” for His counsel – much of which, for us, is revealed in His Word (the Bible).

Waiting on God here it says, patiently. So it infers that in the waiting it is or can be difficult – occupying time – thus, waiting. Look at James 1:4, “let patience have its perfect work...” What does that mean? It means we endure our impatient behavior by waiting on God for all He has for us. Whether answers to prayers or, more importantly, He Himself (the Blessor is greater than the blessings). Our desires sometimes want what they want now. We must endure that trusting God will do what He says He’ll do.

**Thought for Today: If we will wait He will come.**

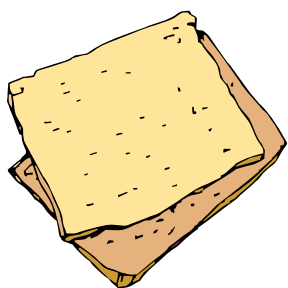
*Christ Above All, Walter*

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*Praise and Prayer*

<i>Praise</i>	<i>Prayer</i>
<i>Praise God for a "Son's" Transfer Closer to Home</i>	<i>Praying for Clemency for Several "Children"</i>
<i>Praise God for Clyde's Acceptance in Feline Program</i>	<i>Praying for Healing for Loved Ones Afflicted</i>
<i>Praise God for Chaplains Spreading His Word</i>	<i>Praying for Discernment for Administrators</i>
<i>Praise God for Reuniting in Friendship and Love</i>	<i>Praying for Patience as He Prepares a Mission Field</i>
<i>Praise God for New Venues to Share His Word</i>	<i>Praying for Salvation for a Child Proclaiming Atheism</i>

## *Are You Taking Life in Haste A Conjecture of Unleavened Bread*



Like many individuals, I have spent most of my life in haste, thinking little about my actions or their consequence. I didn't take time; I just barreled through what I called life.

In reading the Bible, one day I came across a passage of scripture (Gen. 19:1-29) and a portion of it astonished me. It led to my going over the scripture additional times so it would sink in. The reason was that I was learning a truth about myself that admittedly I didn't want to accept. The passage was simple enough. It spoke of unleavened bread (v. 3) and it brought to mind another portion of scripture from the book of Exodus (12:15-20) which also speaks of unleavened bread.

I would interject a point here before going on. Many preachers and teachers speak of the unleavened bread representing our cleaner or purer nature while the leaven bread speaks of our sinful nature in relation to God. I present another theory using an analogy not used by others who have shared this scripture.

There is no certain perception as to what took place in Lot's home in the moments before they were harassed by the men of the city (v. 4); though this could have been the time Lot was informed. One can only speculate as to what actually took place. The Bible's account is specific... it shows us what our Lord wants from those who believe in Him...Obedience.

A thought occurred that God did give Lot some insight into what would take place and he tried to physically stay the wrath by appeasing the angels with food, because many of us see the physical and not the spiritual needs one may have. We, therefore, perceive this as the correct thing to do. The sins of Sodom and Gomorrah were so great that God could no longer allow them to live and sought to destroy them, finally doing so (vs. 24-25). He allowed Lot and his family to depart because He remembered His promise to Abraham (v. 29).

As we read the book of Exodus, we see God sending forth the last plague (Ex. 12:29-30, which led to the Hebrew children and those that would go with them to leave Egypt (v. 38a) and follow after God. We think of God as an exacting Master, but through the action now described, we see that He is merciful in His anger/wrath and that we should seek out that mercy in our lives.



On two occasions, God spared the lives of people and still exacted the justice He required. The first being Lot and his family and the second being the Hebrew children and those that went with them (Ex. 12:37-38). When both incidents took place, I was profoundly surprised by one simple correlation. That was that the unleavened bread was prepared in haste which would show a hurried action of the individual. In many situations today, we will act with haste...a hurriedness of mind...to get something for ourselves or to have it done at a certain time. In doing so, we often think little of others. When we do, it is usually with some kind of malice even when we don't recognize it, but seldom does it slow us down.

Pharaoh was this kind of individual. He felt the Hebrew slaves were no more than instruments of his purpose and pleasure. He was self-centered only caring for himself. Because of his stubborn heart (look at Ex. 14:5-8), his kingdom was destroyed. Lot's wife was also a stubborn person. Neither of these individuals would listen to God and it cost lives.

What is your life? Is it the loss of your job or business, maybe it is a family member (wife, husband, child or maybe your own). Do you really want to take such a chance? If not, all you have to do is seek Jesus Christ...The choice is yours.

Lot, his daughters, the Hebrew children and those that went with them listened to God and were saved. Their lives were not made easy, though they tried to obey God as they lived. It is something that we need to take to heart in our lives.

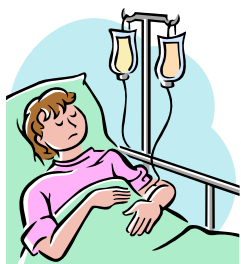
When you make such a major change in your life, spiritually or physically, you'll have to face the old nature of your life. There is no dramatic outward change, only that which is within you. Even then, you will find yourself battling the same problems. The blessing is that you will find yourself with a new nature that enables you to deal with matters because of the peace within your heart.

Is there cause for a hurried action in people today? How about you? Only if they (or you) haven't sought salvation in their (your) life. Seek out the **unleavened bread** in your life. In doing so, you will find the need of repentance and salvation in the center and it is up to you.

You see, the hurriedness of unleavened bread represents the cares of this world, pushing at you so you don't take the time to rejoice in what the Lord is doing, which will cause you not to see His power in your life. The choice is yours, not His. He has set His mind into action already. Before you end up like those who have already perished by their in-action toward God, you must do the same as Lot and the Hebrew children. You must find what stand you are willing to take. Seek Him out and obey Him. You've been shown throughout the Bible by example. Now it is up to you to take the action. What will it be?

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you. (Matt. 6:33)  
*Your brother in Christ, Clyde*

## *Last Rites*



“Cold, very cold,” was all that Michael could muster out of his mouth as he looked out the window of the parsonage. Michael was a young pastor of 35, married and had two children. He pastored a small church in a relatively small, but growing town in Illinois. Michael’s past is no secret to many, but it’s that past that is the driving force to his dedication and seriousness in the Lord’s work.

It was Thursday and Michael was dressing warmly in preparation for the cold temperatures outside. He is doing research for an upcoming sermon dealing with Heaven. Part of his research took him to funerals. He felt rather guilty about going to a funeral of one he didn’t know, but he ordinarily would just go to the cemetery and stand a ways back out of eyesight, but within hearing distance. His capital purpose was to hear the last rites as spoken by the representative preacher for the funeral. One might wonder why Michael was concerned. You see, he had been doing a lot of thinking about how many people seemed to misunderstand Heaven, how they prolong decisions about taking the steps to get to Heaven and how young people may misperceive the significance of Heaven and getting there. So why did Michael see funerals as a vital part of this research? Easy, he was finding that in almost 95 percent of all deaths the deceased was assumed to be going to Heaven. How wonderful Michael thought, so that mean 95 percent of all people were saved Christians. Michael realized he was not God and that even though it would be great for the number of saved to be that high, he was reasonably sure that it was not realistic, though only God knows for sure. How could those men who are leaders, teaching and preaching the Word of God, commit nearly every soul to Heaven? It’s almost saying that by merely dying you gain passage to Heaven, nothing else. Perhaps Michael thought these preachers doing last rites are just satisfying family wishes by going through the normal funeral procedures and rituals. This may be fine for some, but as a Pastor it angered Michael. He had never been called upon to give last rites at a funeral, but Michael knew he could never just passively commit every soul to Heaven. If he had doubts about the deceased, it would be sending the wrong message and conceivably could be construed as lying depending on the pastor’s exact wording during the last rites. Michael felt it would be admissible and there would be no family objections if it would just be said, “We pray that the soul of this man/woman will be with God in Heaven eternally,” rather than just committing a soul to Heaven. After all, what power do we as humans have that gives us the authority to commit souls to Heaven? Do we also present omniscient knowledge that we know for sure which souls are truly saved and which are not? The fact remains, though it may be insensitive, some will go to Heaven and some will go to Hell. Therefore, this rather direct statement stresses the immediate importance of salvation while living. There is nothing in the Bible that implies salvation after death. Michael knew this and with the final funeral he felt his research was complete. His sermon stressing salvation and the importance of witnessing could be done.

Michael returned to the warm confines of the parsonage where his loving, beautiful wife, Marilyn, had hot water ready for a nice cup of hot chocolate. As she poured, Michael wrote. He wanted to get the words down while they were fresh in his mind and would make an impact. This method had always worked for his sermons. Michael could have gotten his sermons from those pre-written sermon books, but he felt that the Bible held too many subjects to ignore it for sermon books and sermons had to come from his heart which meant they were inspired by God. He further found that researching firsthand made for a good sermon. If you want to preach about the strength of a disabled person, then go to a disabled person. To Michael pastoring was a serious seven-day-a-week job. He loved doing it and he praised God for allowing him to do so.

Michael looked at his completed sermon for Sunday and he prayed. He prayed that hearts would be inspired; inspired to go out and witness and to bring souls and hearts to Christ. We never know when we could die, so as the Bible tells us, “Now is the day of Salvation.” (2 Cor 6:2). Michael knew his congregation knew, but in his sermon, he put the easy steps of salvation as outlined in Romans 10:9, “That if you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” Michael was on to stress the further importance of the obedience in and remembrance of the death and resurrection of Christ through baptism. He knew his congregation, though he didn’t want an answer. He asked them to ask themselves, “As Christians how many souls have you brought to the Lord or witnessed to in the last month?”

To Michael, being a part of his congregation didn’t merely just mean coming to church on Sunday. It meant that you were a part of the body, you should have a working part. Michael wanted his congregation to win souls.

As the reader of this article I challenge you. If you are not saved, I challenge you to take a mere minute or two to look at John 3:16, Romans 10:9 and John 3:3. If you are saved, I challenge you to witness to just one person who is unsaved. I pray that one person comes to know the Lord through your witness.

*Your brother in Christ, Mark*