



# The Voice Of Truth

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## Hillcrest church of Christ

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### "CHRISTIAN LIVING"

By Jimmy Pettigrew

These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth (**Revelation 14:4**). Jesus is the One we should follow, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps (**1 Peter 2:21**). He is the way, and the truth, and the life (**John 14:6**). Jesus is the great pattern for everyone to follow (**Luke 9:23**). We need to walk as Christ walked (**1 John 2:6**). Why is Jesus the One we should fashion or pattern our life after? He was tempted like us, (**Matthew 4:1-11**; **Hebrews 4:15**) and did no sin (**1 Peter 2:22**). He is the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world (**John 1:29**), the Son of God (**John 3:34**) and lives forever (**Revelation 1:18**). Salvation is found in Him (**Acts 4:12**). Truly He is King of kings, and Lord of lords (**Revelation 19:16**). These are some of the reasons why man should fashion, pattern, and follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth (**Revelation 14:4**).

The perfect pattern of Jesus describes the Christian life as a life of service to God (**Luke 22:42**). It is the Christian's responsibility to serve God, not mammon (**Matthew 6:24**). Serving God means serving Christ, which in turn, means following and living for Christ (**John 12:26**). It is mockery to claim to be a servant of Christ while living in disobedience to Him (**Luke 6:46**). Living for Christ demands us to live differently. Jesus Christ changes people for good. Those once

enslaved to sin (**Ephesians 5:8**), now walk in newness of life (**Ephesians 4:24**). The apostle Peter gives a good insight into the power of pure Christianity changing people (**1 Peter 4:1-5**). To be a Christian, our manner of life is different. We do not live the way we did before. The Christian is distinctive! He dares to be different by the way of life. The conduct of a Christian is a powerful preacher. Let me ask some important questions:

1. Would you verbally proclaim that worship to God is insignificant, Bible study is unimportant, giving time, talent and financial resources are incidental to Christian living? What do you preach by your manner of life? Preachers should not have to **BEG** Christians to study, give generously, and attend every time the doors are opened. **TRUE SERVANTS DO NOT HAVE TO BE BEGGED!**

2. Would you declare the impossibility of apostasy (**1 Corinthians 10:12**; **Hebrews 3:12-13**)? What does your conduct preach?

3. Would you preach that erring brethren are not to be restored (**Galatians 6:1**; **James 5:19-20**)?

4. Would you preach that a Christian can dress in immodest clothing (**1 Timothy 2:9-10**)?

5. Would you preach that a Christian does not have to watch his\her speech (**James 3**)?

The conduct of the Christian will either adorn the doctrine or it will reveal a lack of dedication to Christ (**Titus 2:10**). Following our Master is the way we adorn the doctrine of Christ! Which are you doing?

No matter what others are doing, my friend,  
or what they are leaving undone,  
God's counting on you to keep on with the job  
'til the very last battle is won.  
He's counting on you to be faithful;  
He counting on you to be true.  
Yes, others may work, or others may shirk,  
but remember - God is counting on you.

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## **Baptism Saves Us!**

by Jimmy Pettigrew

That aforetime were disobedient, when the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water" (**1 Peter 3:20**). Having affirmed that salvation in the days of Noah was through the water of the flood, Peter now draws a comparison with the water of baptism: "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (**1 Peter 3:21**). Salvation offered through water in the days of Noah is exactly parallel to salvation offered through water baptism. Baptism is the antitype of the waters of the great flood.

The water itself had no saving power in the flood, nor does it have any saving power today. The saving power for Noah was his obedience to God's Word. Today people obey the Gospel plan of salvation culminating in water baptism, and God likewise saves them through water.

Baptism is between the sinner and salvation! God has placed baptism squarely between the sinner and every spiritual blessing. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in

heavenly places in Christ" (**Ephesians 1:3**). The word "all" means "of every kind." Not one spiritual blessing is to be had outside of Christ. Salvation is "in Christ" (**2 Timothy 2:10**); grace is "in Christ Jesus" (**2 Timothy 2:1**); if one is in Christ "he is a new creature" (**2 Corinthians 5:17**); and this "newness of life" follows baptism (**Romans 6:4**). Baptism into Christ saves us (**1 Peter 3:21; Mark 16:16**). Baptism into Christ washes away one's sins (**Acts 22:16**). Baptism into Christ is for the remission of sins (**Acts 2:38**). Baptism into Christ makes it possible for one to go to heaven (**John 3:3-5**).

Since **ALL** spiritual blessings are **IN** Christ, it is evident that we do not have access to them while **OUT** of Christ! The only way to get into Christ is to be baptized into Him (**Galatians 3:27**)! If one has not been Scripturally baptized, then he is not in Christ, and he cannot receive even one spiritual blessing.

Man did not place baptism between the sinner and salvation: this is the work of God! Man cannot change it!

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## **THINK ABOUT IT!**

When a farmer stops plowing his land, stops planting seed, and stops harvesting his crops, he has stopped doing those things that identify him as being a farmer. When a Christian stops attending worship services regularly, stops studying, stops giving as he has been prospered, and has stopped working for the Lord: he has stopped being a Christian because he has stopped doing those things that identify him as a Christian. "By their fruits ye shall know them," (**Matthew 7:20**).