



The Voice Of Truth

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What Would You Ask Him?

By Jimmy Pettigrew

If you could have the complete fulfillment of one desire, hope, or longing, what would it be? Would you ask for happiness? Would you ask for a better job? Would you ask for material substance? Would you ask for physical health? Such a question opens so wide a field for thought that the imagination is staggered.

Has any person of history grappled with this question? Yes! David, the “man after God’s own heart,” not only grappled with it but also dared to make reply. He said: “One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple,” (Psalms 27:4). David’s desiring “one thing” of the Lord shows he was not a man with divided aims or allegiance. David longed to ascribe praise and honor and glory unto God. He loved to go to the place of public worship and praise his God. He loved to worship God. How needed this attribute is today!

Every child of God on earth today should make David’s goal the end and aim of his/her life. But, sadly they don’t! Too many professed Christians are spiritually dead. They are too religious to commit themselves to the world and too worldly to commit themselves to the Lord. They are seeking to serve two masters, but Jesus said: “No man can serve two masters . . .,” (Matthew 6:24). If a person loves the world, he becomes an enemy of God (James 4:4). So many lukewarm Christians are “halt”, as did those of old, “between two opinions.” (1 Kings 18:21).

The true servant of the master is characterized by absolute commitment. “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth,” (John 17:17). “And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly . . .,” (1 Thessalonians 5:23). To sanctify is to set something apart for sacred or holy uses. The very meaning of the term “sanctification” is used to describe the follower of Christ. It is an absolute commitment, dedication, consecration to reverence the Lord in our heart. Since Christians have been set apart for God’s purpose, they are to continue to live consecrated, holy, and pure lives before God and the world.

Do we live as God’s sanctified people? Are we truly demonstrating actions that we are “set apart” for God’s service?

Have you “given yourself to the Lord”?

“After Me, You Come First”

By Larry Ray Hafley

Is our title the attitude you would like your mate to have toward you? Does it represent the way you treat your children? Is it how you expect your parents and your best friend to behave toward you?

The, “after me, you come first,” disposition is how inconsiderate drivers act at a stop sign. It is the law of a hungry lion. It is the unspoken motto of selfish individuals. Haman, Absalom, and Judas possessed its spirit. Joseph, Jesus and Paul did not. No team, whether in sports, civil, or social settings, and no business or institution can be successful wherein its members act in accord with the philosophy, “after me, you come first.” Defeat, misery, and ruin await all men and organizations in which it reigns. Victory, happiness, and success belong to those who deny it. Does it, though, represent how we treat God? Do we operate toward God according to the mind-set of “after me, you come first”? How we use our time and talents, our money and material substance determines the answer (Matt. 25:14-30; Mk. 10:17-22; Lk. 12:15-21).

When our own personal pleasures and pursuits are in competition with our duties toward God, do we operate by the rule of “after me, you come first”? None of us would dare say, “Lord, after me, you come first,” but we act that way sometimes, do we not? When we fail to assemble with the saints so we may consume the time upon our own lusts and desires, have we not said, in effect, “Lord, after me, you come first”?

Jesus put us first when he went to the cross – “Christ pleased not himself” (Matt. 26:39, 42; Rom. 15:3). If he had the mind of many, he would have avoided the cross. Surely, since he expressed such unselfish love, it is not too much to ask that we do the same (1 Jno. 4:9-11).

Next time you are tempted to ignore and neglect your responsibilities in the body of Christ, next time you purposely miss assembling with the saints, try not to think about what you are saying to your Savior, “Lord, after me, you come first.” I dare you.

“Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the law and the Prophets” (Matt. 7:12).

**Language is the dress of thought;
Every time we talk,
Our mind is on parade!**

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear and Learn - Rom. 10:17; John 6:45; 17:3

Believe - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24

Repent - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30

Confess the Lord - Matt. 10:32-33; Rom. 10:9-10

Be Baptized - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27; 1 Pet. 3:21

Continue in the Apostles' Teaching - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17