



# The Voice Of Truth

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## **Saving Self and Others**

By Jimmy Pettigrew

“Take heed to thyself, and to thy teaching. Continue in these things; for in doing this thou shalt save both thyself and them that hear thee” (1 **Timothy 4:16**).

We are to be careful in our life by our conduct, and be faithful in life (1 **Corinthians 4:2; Revelation 2:10**). We are to live a life in such a way that Christ can be magnified in our bodies (**Philippians 1:20**). If you ask someone, “what do you do to a thing when you magnify it?” The unthinking answer is, “you make it larger.” But magnifying glass doesn’t make the print larger! It just improves your vision so that you see it more clearly and distinctly. The print still remains the same size but it appears to be larger. Now, in this same respect, Christ should be magnified in our bodies and life, “for I bear branded on my body the marks of Jesus” (**Galatians 6:17**). The world would see Christ more clearly and distinctly. We as Christians would be Christ’s magnifying glass for the whole world. “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I that live, but Christ living in me: and that (life) which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, (the faith) which is in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself up for me” (**Galatians 2:20**).

We are to live in such a way that we draw people to Christ by being example of believers. Followers of the Lord are imitators, “Be ye imitators of me, even as I also am of Christ” (1 **Corinthians 11:1**). Be imitators of God (**Ephesians 5:1**). Followers of the Lord are imitators, not mere talkers! The Lord left His people and example “that ye should follow in his steps” (1 **Peter 2:21**). We are to be careful in our conduct.

The word example comes from the Greek word, which literally means an underwriting. The word was used to describe the practice of writing at the top of a page so children learning to write could write under the copy so as to imitate that which was written. Thus, figuratively, it means a copy or pattern for imitation. Christ’s life, then, is a pattern for us to imitate. The life Christ lived is not just to be admired, talked about, or sung about, but is to be followed. “He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked” (1 **John 2:6**). We are to live in such a way we draw people to Christ by being example of believers. “Faithful is the saying, and concerning these things I desire that thou affirm confidently, to the end that they who have believed God may be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men” (**Titus 3:8**). “But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord the Spirit” (2 **Corinthians 3:18**). We are to become more and more like Christ, and the world would see Christ living and walking in our lives. The world is to see Christ revealed in His followers.

The light of Christ is to be reflected by Christians into all the world, that all may see the good works accomplished, and be led to glorify God (**Matthew 5: 16**). This is what is meant to magnify Christ. “Ye are our epistle, written in our hearts, known and read of

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all men; being made manifest that ye are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in tables (that are) hearts of flesh" (**2 Corinthians 3:2-3**). Christians are the epistles which the world reads before being introduced to those within the Bible. The world will listen to a godly life.

Brethren, if we are not faithful how are we going to save ourselves, let alone others? We must be faithful! "Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me: He that walketh in a perfect way, he shall minister unto me" (**Psalms 101:6**). This is the only way we can be saved by being faithful to God's word. In doing this we will save others, who hear us or by the life we live: people seeing Christ is us. The Christian teaches with his life. There is no greater need in this entire world than for those who are members of the Lord's spiritual body to really live the genuine Christian life. In a world that is steeped in ignorance and darkness and sin, oh, what we need is a glow of light from a Christian who is living their life right before God. "Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ" (**Philippians 1:27**). Certainly these passages should cause each one of us to think of his/her individual life; what kind of example am I living before those whom I see every day.

I appeal to you to really live a genuine Christian life, be a good example for all to follow, "for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee" (**1 Timothy 4:16**).

## Humble Obedience

By David J. Riggs

Jesus said to Peter, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." Peter answered, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." (Luke 5:4-5).

Peter demonstrated respect for the word of Jesus. He was an experienced fisherman and knew that fishing was better at night. He knew that if they hadn't caught anything after fishing all night, they wouldn't during the day. However, he didn't let human wisdom or reasoning stand in his way. He simply took Jesus at His word and did what He said.

We, too, need to simply take Jesus at His word and do what He says. We need to take Him at His word and do what He says with regard to being saved from past sins (Mark 16:16). We need to take Him at His word and do what He says regarding attendance (Heb. 10:25), giving (1 Cor. 16:2), visiting (Matt. 25:36), studying (2 Tim. 2:15), etc.

Peter and his friends were greatly rewarded for their humble obedience of letting down their nets. They caught such an abundance of fish that they filled two ships so full they began to sink (Luke 5:6-7). As on that occasion, humble obedience to the Lord today brings its manifold blessings, blessing far superior to all the physical ones afforded in the lifetime of Jesus.

If Peter had refused to launch out and let down his nets, he would not have witnessed nor experienced this great miracle of the Lord. If he had been persistent in his own will in this and other matters, he would only have been numbered with the disobedient of his day. All those who will not humbly submit to the will of Christ are classified as the disobedient, and someday the wrath of God will be poured out upon them (Eph. 5:6;

Col. 3:6). A mere profession of knowing God is not enough (Titus 1:6); we must obey.

There is great wisdom in obeying the Lord. Jesus said, "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock." (Matt. 7:24). Part of the work of John the Baptist was to "turn the disobedient to the wisdom of the just." (Luke 1:17). He was to teach them the wisdom of the righteous who obey God. The whole duty of man is to fear God and keep His commandments (Eccl. 12:13).

Please notice that Jesus said, "Whoever hears these saying of MINE, and does THEM, I will liken him to a wise man..." (Matt. 7:24; emp. mine). Furthermore, He said, "He that has MY commandments, and keeps THEM, it is he who loves Me." (John 14:21; emp. mine). Only by keeping the commandments of Jesus, not the commandments of men, do we prove our love. It takes deep, abiding respect and love for the Lord to do only as He commanded. When we follow the traditions and commandments of men, our worship becomes vain (Matt. 15:9). Indeed, we must render humble obedience to the Lord and to Him only.

## **25 Questions To Ask Myself As A Christian**

By Murray Wade

1. Can I honestly read passages such as Matthew 6:33; Mark 10:17-31; Luke 5:11; 10:57-62; John 21:15-19; Hebrews 10:24-39; James 4:17; or 2 Peter 3:9-14 and come to the conclusion that work or work related activities are acceptable reasons to miss the assembly? The same question would apply to school or school related activities or family or family related activities, etc.
2. Do I show my co-workers, neighbors, or class mates a Christian who is seeking first the Kingdom of God, when I miss the assembly myself for things not as important as the Lord?
3. Will I be effective in converting my friends and neighbors to the Lord if they do not see me putting Him first in my life?
4. Does my influence with my bible class students increase or decrease when I miss teaching their class to go to work or to miss the class for some other worldly activity?
5. What am I teaching young people and weak Christians when I forsake the assembly for work-related, hobby-related, school-related, me-related, etc. activities?
6. Can I give a chapter and verse to explain to my brethren or my bible class students why it is pleasing to God for me to miss the assembly for a job related activity?
7. Is my example to brethren, young people, neighbors, co-workers, or classmates, what it ought to be when I miss the privilege to worship because I choose rather to do worldly activities? (1 Timothy 4:12-16).
8. Do I have the faith I ought to have in Jesus, when I choose a job that requires me to miss the privilege of assembling with Him, the Father, and the Holy Spirit?
9. Do I have the love I ought to have for Jesus, when I choose a job that requires me to miss assembling with Him, the Father, and the Holy Spirit?
10. Does it deeply grieve me to miss assembling with the saints and the Lord?
11. Do I encourage, stir up love and good works, or edify my brethren when I miss a privilege to assemble as the Lord has commanded?
12. Can I ever gain back the spiritual growth I have lost from choosing to miss assembling even one time? (2 Peter 3:18)
13. Do I have a lack of faith in Jesus if I do not think I can find a job that will allow me to

not miss assembling with the saints (Proverbs 3:5-6).

14. Do I lack faith in Jesus if I do not stand up for Him and my belief in Him when my employer requires me to miss the assembly with the saints? (Acts 5:29)

15. Do I choose to miss assembling for certain things, because at those times they are more important to me than the Lord?

16. If my attitude is that it does not really matter if I miss the assembly once in a while, will I be diligent to teach my friends about Jesus?

17. Does my forsaking the assembly, even one time, show something about my love for Christ and His dying for my sins?

18. If I have an attitude that I will never to choose to forsake the assembly, will I be more stirred up to love and good works toward my brethren and my fellow man?

19. Am I an encouragement or a discouragement to my brethren if I choose to miss the assembly?

20. If I choose to miss the assembly once in a while, am I as dependable as I ought to be?

21. Do I have the proper attitude toward suffering for my Savior when I do not want to suffer by taking a stand for Him or suffer by not choosing a job or activity that will require me to miss assembling in His name even one time? (2 Corinthians 4:17; Romans 8:18; Acts 5:41)

22. If I do not take a stand for the Lord with a job or worldly activity, will I ever be able to offer my life freely for Him? (Acts 21:13; 1 John 3:16)

23. Will I be acceptable to my Father in Heaven, if I forsake the assembly?

24. Am I acting like Jesus or Paul would, if I choose to take a job or be involved with activities that require me to forsake the assembly?

25. Each time I choose to miss the assembly of the saints, who has won: Jesus or Satan?

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### What Must I Do To Be Saved?

**Hear and Learn** - Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; 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; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21

**Be Baptized** - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27

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

Thank you for reading...