



# The Voice of Truth



June 7, 2009

## Living For Christ

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, “And he said unto all, If any man would come after, me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me” (**Luke 9:23**); “looking unto Jesus the author and perfecter of (our) faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising shame, and hath sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (**Hebrews 12:2**). 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**), He is the Son of God (**John 3:34**) and lives forever (**Revelation 1:18**). Salvation is found in Him (**Acts 4:12; 2 Timothy 2:10**). Truly He is King of kings, and Lord of lords (**Revelation 19:16**). These are some of the reason 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**). Putting our hands on the plow and not looking back (**Luke 9:62**). 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 (**1 Peter 4:4**). Jesus Christ changes people for good (**1 Peter 3:11**). Those once enslaved in sin (**Ephesians 5:8**), now walk in newness of life (**Ephesians 4:24**). The apos-

tle Peter gives a good insight into the power of pure Christianity changing people in (**1 Peter 4:1-5**). Being a Christian, our manner of life is different. We do not live the way we did before, “whereas ye were servants of sin, ye became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching whereunto ye were delivered; and being made free from sin, ye became servants of righteousness” (**Romans 6:17-18**). The Christian is distinctive, “because they are not of the world” (**John 17:14**)! The Christian 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? Elders and 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 the Great Commission is not binding on Christians now (**Matthew 28:18-20**)? What does your involvement in saving the lost declare?

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?

What is the difference between those who do not believe the Bible and the Christian who never reads or studies? What is the

difference between a man of the world, and person in the church who lives like a man in the world?

### **“The Way Of Cain”** By Jarrod Jacobs

In Jude’s epistle, he addresses some among the Christians who were turning the grace of God into lasciviousness, and denying God and Christ (**Jude 4**). As a result, Jude couldn’t write to them about the common salvation like he wanted, but had to write to encourage them to “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints” (**Jude 3**). In writing, Jude made it clear that there were some who had “gone in the way of Cain” (**Jude 11**). In going “the way of Cain,” their error was seen in what they were doing, or how they were living. Those who had “gone in the way of Cain” were compared to the people of Sodom and Gomorrah before God destroyed them (**Jude 7-8**). Put simply, going “in the way of Cain” meant that they were following the manner or practice of Cain.

Seeing that people several thousand years removed from Cain were acting like him, does it not stand as a warning that we as well can act like Cain if we are not careful? Of course, it does! What is the way of Cain? We would not know if it were not for what we learn when we read **Genesis 4**. Let us turn to **Genesis 4** and learn that the way of Cain is:

#### **The Way Of Selfishness**

In **Genesis 4:1-5**, we read about the birth of Cain and Abel, and the time where both offered sacrifices to God. In **Genesis 4:3** we read, “In the process of time...” they came and offered their sacrifices to God. It is uncertain as to the exact definition of that phrase in English, but enough time has passed to where they knew God and what He expected of them. In other words, **this wasn’t the first time they had offered sacrifices!!** This time however, Cain sacrificed something that displeased God. This is nothing more than selfishness. Cain’s sacrifice was not “by faith” (**Heb. 11:4; Rom. 10:17**). He was just going to “throw up” something, and God was

expected to receive it!

This attitude is prevalent today. Consider those who say, “Join the church of your choice.” This doctrine in contrary to New Testament Scriptures which reveal that there is only one church that pleases God — the church of Christ (**Matt. 16:18; Acts 20:28; Rom. 16:16**)!

Some wish to use mechanical instruments in their worship to God. Yet, the New Testament tells us God commands singing and singing alone (**Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Heb. 13:15**). Still others cater to the “Whole Man” Philosophy in religion. In contrast, God said that “the kingdom of God is NOT meat and drink” (**Rom. 14:17; Lk. 19:10; I Tim. 3:15**)!!

These errors (and others) are off-shoots of what Cain started so long ago. He expected God to accept what he offered, and God wouldn’t do it! It is not any different today (Jn. 4:24)! God will not accept just anything we try to offer Him if it is not what He wants in worship! Are we worshipping God “by faith”??

#### **The Way Of Anger**

**Genesis 4:5-7** reveals Cain’s anger toward God. When God refused Cain’s sacrifice, “Cain was very wroth” The word “wroth” means, “it burned Cain sore” (Keil & Delitzsch, Vol. 1, p. 70). Cain was angry at what happened. Unfortunately, he was angry at the wrong person! God explains that Cain could be accepted when he decided he would do what is right. Otherwise, sin was waiting for him (**Gen. 4:6-7**). Cain had to learn that it was no one’s fault but his own that he wasn’t accepted of God! On the positive side, he could change things!!

In like manner, anger is what will keep a lot of people out of Heaven! It is not because they got angry, but how they (mis)handled their anger (**Eph. 4:26; Mk. 3:1-6**). If I don’t have control, anger can be my downfall as it was Cain’s (**Col. 3:5-8; Eph. 4:29**). Let us make sure we do not follow Cain down the way of anger!

#### **The Way Of Misplaced Blame**

After his rebuke, Cain went into the field and killed his brother (**Gen. 4:7-8**). Why did

Cain commit such an unjust and terrible act? Did Abel cause Cain to offer a sacrifice that God did not accept? No! Did Abel suggest Cain go and try something “new” or “different” in worship? No! Then why was Abel killed? It was because Cain placed blame on Abel for something that was his own fault.

If the Bible teaches nothing else, it teaches that the sins you and I commit are our own fault, not someone else’s (**Jas. 1:13-15; Col. 3:25; Ezek. 18:20**). We cannot blame anyone but ourselves for the sins we commit!! (I understand that someone may have a certain amount of influence on us, but the **ultimate choice** of obedience or disobedience to God is ours!!) Even if someone could prove that Abel was somehow responsible for “leading Cain astray,” this is still no excuse for the murder that took place!

When we stand before God in judgment, we’ll have no one to blame but ourselves if we are not right in His sight (**II Cor. 5:10; Ecc. 12:13-14**). Let us not point a finger and blame others for our sins now!!

### The Way Of Deceit And Jealousy

*“And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother’s keeper?”* (**Gen. 4:9**). Cain’s jealousy moved him to kill his own flesh and blood, and his deceit moved him to lie to God about it!! (Of course, this is done **anytime** someone lies, **Acts 5:3-4**). Notice that instead of being pricked in his heart, and feeling remorse for his terrible deed, he looked to deceive God and anyone else who might have asked about Abel. Consider your own life. Are you guilty of deceiving others? Perhaps it is not because of a murder, but maybe there are other sins in your life and you are hiding them, denying that you are responsible. Is this you?

Deceit is apparent today when our home life is one way, and our public life another. Deceit is apparent when the same mouth that speaks vulgarities at work is the one offering praise and prayers to God on Sunday (**Eph. 5:4; Jas. 3:6, 8, 10**). No, the preacher will not be the judge (our peers will not be, etc.), but God in Heaven who sees

and knows all that has happened and will happen is the judge (**Ecc. 11:9-10**). Let us make sure we do not let jealousy (and/or deceit) keep us from Heaven!!

### The Way Of Pride

In Genesis **4:10-15**, God confronted Cain with the Truth. Notice Cain’s reaction: He was NOT sorry for sinning; he was not upset, nor praying for forgiveness from God! Instead, Cain’s reaction was *“My punishment is too great”!!!* In light of this, is there any wonder why God hates pride??? (See **Prov. 6:16-17; I Pet. 5:5-6; Jas. 4:10**).

Solomon said, *“Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall”* (**Prov. 16:18**). This is definitely seen with Cain, isn’t it? His pride brought about his fall. Let us pay heed to this warning. It can happen to us (**Rom. 15:4; I Cor. 10:11**)!

Pride is something we must fight against. Let us be humble as children in God’s sight (**Matt. 18:1-4; Isa. 29:15-16, 45:8-9; Jer. 18:5-6**). Let us fight against pride in our own lives, because if we are not humble, then we will not see Heaven! It is just that simple!!

### The Way Of A Bad Example

Continuing in **Genesis 4**, we read about Lamech, who was 5 generations from Cain (**Gen. 4:19-24**). Lamech promises revenge upon the one who tried to kill him. He promised vengeance seventy times greater than the vengeance God promised if someone tried to kill Cain (**Gen. 4:15**). **Verse 23** is known as “Lamech’s song.” Once again, his pride was great. He wasn’t upset, but boastful at what he had done: *“Hear my voice; ye wives of Lamech, hearken unto my speech: for I have slain a man to my wounding, and a young man to my hurt. If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy and sevenfold”* (**Gen. 4:23-24**).

Looking back to **Jude 11** we see the example of Cain was alive and well; for Jude said that certain people were still following him!! Friends, do not think for a minute that we cannot do the same thing today!! This is why we must walk in the footsteps of Jesus (**I Pet. 2:21-22**), and why we should be showing ourselves to be good examples to those

around us (**I Tim. 4:12, 16**)!!

Like it or not, people are watching us and are being influenced by us (just like some were influenced by Cain). Whether or not they will be won to Christ depends upon whether or not we are willing to let our light shine before men (**Matt. 5:14-16**).

### Conclusion

John said the way of Cain is the way of evil (**I Jn. 3:12**). The question we must ask ourselves is who are we going to follow? Will we follow Cain or follow God? Will our example lead people to God or lead people to Satan? *Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com*

### I'm Satisfied By David J. Riggs

Zealous Bible students are eager to persuade people to study the Bible with them, but more often than not, they are met with the reply, "I'm satisfied with my religion." These people seem to think that since they are pleased with their present religion there is not need for Bible study. However, just because one is satisfied with his religion does not necessarily mean that God is satisfied.

There are satisfied people in all churches, but all churches cannot be right because they contradict one another. When several churches are teaching conflicting doctrines, some of them are in error. Truth is absolute and always consistent with itself. If one church teaches we can baptize infants and another says we can't, if one claims baptism is for remission of sins and another teaches it is not, or if one declares we are saved before baptism and another at the point of baptism, they all can't be right.

The Bible says, "Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God." (**2 John 9**). It is a Bible

fact that Jesus Christ has only one church (**Eph. 4:3-6; 1:22-23**). Jesus said, "Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted." (**Matt. 15:13**).

People often make the reply "I'm satisfied" as though that's all that matters. They think that since they are happy and content with the church they are in, all is well with their soul. However, one's primary concern should be, "**Is God satisfied?**" The Pharisees were very much satisfied with their religion, but Jesus said, "And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men." (**Matt. 15:9**). Jeroboam was well satisfied with his new religion and so were the thousands in Israel who embraced it (**1 Kings 12:25-33**). However, there are no harder words of condemnation found anywhere in the Bible than those spoken against Jeroboam and his followers (**1 Kings 13:1-2; 14:10-11**). Jesus showed that at the judgment there will be many condemned in spite of the fact they were pleased with what they were doing in religion (**Matt. 7:22-23**).

The "I'm satisfied" attitude is not a good attitude to have. Instead, the child of God has an open mind realizing there is always room for correction and improvement. Furthermore, he realizes that those who differ with him will point out his error, but those who embrace that same error will not. To overcome the danger of embracing falsehood, he is always willing to study both sides of the question with a good and honest heart. With this humble attitude the Christian will study and examine what others present; without it, he will be closed minded and will cut off all possible avenues of truth. The Bible says, "Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure..." (**2 Pet. 1:10**). "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves." (**2 Cor. 13:5**).

*Credit: <http://oakridgechurch.com/riggs>*

### About the Hillcrest church of Christ

Evangelist: Jimmy Pettigrew

#### How to Contact Us

Telephone: (920)499-5677  
E-mail: [hillcrestcofc@live.com](mailto:hillcrestcofc@live.com)



#### Our Address

1621 Hillcrest Drive  
Green Bay, WI 54313



#### Schedule of Assembly

Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am  
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am  
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm\*

\*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month

[www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com](http://www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com)