

What Kind of DOER Am I? By Jonathan L. Perz

There are all kinds of people who call themselves Christians. Some are good, some are not so good. Some are faithful, some are not so faithful. Some are honorable, some are not so honorable. Some are doers and some could be described as hyphenated-doers.

James instructs us to be *“doers of the word and not hearers only”* (James 1:22). One who is not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, will be blessed in what he does (James 1:25). Unfortunately, not all are DOERS of the work.

You have those who are NOT-DOERS. They just don't do the work. They expect blessings without any effort. They want a reward without any labor. Such a one has deceived himself (Jas. 1:22).

Don't forget the DO-IT-WHEN-I-GET-AROUND-TO-IT-DOER. These are the ones constantly putting off that which should be done today. There is no zeal, fervor or diligence in their DO, only the never ending promise to do it tomorrow. If something is worth doing—and the Lord's work is always worth doing—then do it with all your might while you can (Eccl. 9:10; Jas. 4:13-17).

There are also those SOMEBODY-ELSE-WILL-DO-IT-DOERS. These are those who are content to leave the work undone until someone else does it. They like to see things get done, but they never volunteer because then they would have to do it. This brings to mind the story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important task to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but in the end, Nobody did it.

There are many kinds of hyphenated-DOERS who are not really doing much for the cause of Christ. Suffice it to say—being a Christian means being a DOER of the word! No hyphens. No excuses. No exceptions. Paul reminds us that we are, *“His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works”* (Eph. 2:10). Take a moment and ask yourself, *“What kind of DOER am I?”* Credit: www.moodychurchofchrist.com ♦

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

About the Hillcrest church of Christ

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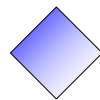


Schedule of Assembly

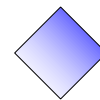
Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm*

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

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The Voice of Truth



July 18, 2010

“Thou Art Dead”

By Jimmy Pettigrew

Jesus charged the apostle John to write to the church in Sardis, *“These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars: I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and thou art dead”* (Revelation 3:1).

I read this passage, and I wonder how many churches there are today like Sardis. Can you picture a congregation of the Lord's people thinking it was very much alive, but only to hear the Lord pronounces that church dead? Christ says, *“I know”*, and this is repeated by the Lord in all these letters to the churches. He knew them, because Christ looks at the spiritual strength, and outward actions do not always reflect spiritual conditions. I sit here writing this article and thinking to myself: What causes a congregation of the Lord's people to be dead?

1. What would cause my Lord to say, *“thou art dead?”* Teaching and following error. The Lord never promised to bless those who follow error, no matter how sincere they may be. Paul exhorted Timothy to charge some men not to teach a different doctrine (1 Timothy 1:3-7). Accepting false doctrine would produce unfaithfulness (1 Timothy 4:1-3). It will cause the Lord to remove His candlestick and fellowship from this place (Revelation 2:5; 2 John 9). *“We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he who is not of God heareth us not. By this we know the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error”* (1 John 4:6). God wants us to hate every false way (Psalm 119:104).

2. What would cause my Lord to say, *“thou art dead?”* Conforming to the world. Jesus told the apostles, *“If ye were of the world, the world would love its own: but because ye are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you”* (John 15:19). Worldliness is one of the greatest dangers facing the church of the Lord. Satan, as the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4), puts all kinds of pressure on the church to conform to the world. *“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world,*

the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the vain glory of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever” (1 John 2:15-17). *“No man can serve two masters”* (Matthew 6:24). We cannot make friends with the world (standards) without becoming the enemy of God (James 4:4). When Christians, and the church exhibit desire for and make compromises with the world, they are guilty of spiritual adultery, and the church will die!

3. What would cause my Lord to say *“thou art dead?”* Neglect of members. What do we need to do to cause the Lord to say, *“thou art dead?”* NOTHING! *“And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but do them not; for with their mouth they show much love, but their heart goeth after their gain”* (Ezekiel 33:31). *“And every one that heareth these words of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand”* (Matthew 7:26). This is the height of stubbornness. But, then it is nothing new and is one of the problems in the church today. The children of Israel made a conscious choice not to do the will of God, just as many people do today. Individual members who engage in sinful activities and do not repent or change their ways, thus bringing reproach on the body of Christ. We neglect to do those things that make the church vital and alive.

4. What would cause my Lord to say, *“thou art dead?”* Not being united! After all, the church is to be *“fitly joined together”* (Ephesians 4:16). *“Now I beseech you, brethren, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing and (that) there be no divisions among you; but (that) ye be perfected together in the same mind and in the same judgment”* (1 Corinthians 1:10). *“Shall two walk together, except they have agreed?”* Brethren, this implies cooperation by brethren; unity, harmony, being *“fitly joined together”* is a mark of Christianity. Nobody even likes that person who always

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has to have his own way, or will not cooperate with others. Who always thinks their way is the only way. When I was a child, playing at recess in school, there was always someone that insists everything must be as he calls it. Do you know what happened? Soon the others would leave him, and there he is all alone. The same thing is true on the adult level. God is not pleased with the uncooperative person who is unwilling to sacrifice himself for the benefit and good of others. God is not pleased with such a person. A lack of this attitude hinders the progress of the cause of Christ. God wants us to love one another, "For ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another" (1 Thesalonians 4:9). And what does love do? "Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not

seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things" (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

To have spiritual life with Christ, and to dwell with Him eternally, we must not teach or follow error, but His word. As the church, the called out, we must not conform to the world. The church must separate from the world and be transformed into the image of Christ (Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 3:18). As the church, to make our calling and election sure (2 Peter 1:10), we must not neglect our duties, but be doers of the word (James 1:22). We must as the church, be united! The church that does follow and teach error, conforms to the world, neglects its duties and is not united in Christ, will surely hear the Lord say one day, "Thou art dead!" ♦

"In League With The Canaanites"
By Jarrod Jacobs

Before the Israelites entered the land of Canaan, Moses commanded the people, saying, "When the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou; And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them: Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly" (Deut. 7:1-4).

with them in the land. The result was that, "An angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said, I made you to go up out of Egypt, and have brought you unto the land which I sware unto your fathers; and I said, I will never break my covenant with you. And ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have not obeyed my voice: why have ye done this? Wherefore I also said, I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be as thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you. And it came to pass, when the angel of the LORD spake these words unto all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voice, and wept" (Judg. 2:1-4).

Just as God had promised, the Canaanites and other heathen nations continued to be "thorns" in the "sides" of the people for years and years. In fact, after their Babylonian captivity and then return of the remnant, we read, "Now when these things were done, the princes came to me, saying, The people of Israel, and the priests, and the Levites, have not separated themselves from the people of the lands, doing according to their abominations, even of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites. For they have taken of their daughters for themselves, and for their sons: so that the holy seed have mingled themselves with the people of those lands: yea, the hand of the princes and rulers hath been chief in this trespass" (Ezra 9:1-2). In other words, the people who should have been "utterly destroyed" all those years ago

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continued to be a problem and a "snare" to God's people due to their apathy and disobedience.

What can we learn from this account of a people so long gone? For one thing, the records of their actions are given for our learning (Rom. 15:4). Let us learn from the mistakes they made when they made leagues with sinful people. Let us beware of having fellowship with sinful people in this world who have no interest in obedience to God or in going to Heaven (1 Cor. 15:33; Eph. 5:11). Just as they served as "snares" and "thorns" for God's people in the past, so will they be for Christians today!

At the same time, let us consider something even "closer to home." How many Christians are still dealing with and fighting the same sins and temptations in their lives that they have had since they first became Christians? Perhaps it is that when we were taught to repent of our sins (Acts 2:38), and to "put to death the old man" (see: Rom. 6:6), we decided we would leave the "old man" on "life support"!?! (Are we truly converted?) The apostle Paul said if he did not discipline his body (keep it under control) then he would be disqualified, or a cast away from God (1 Cor. 9:27). After all these years, have we got "control" yet? This same one told the Philippians that regardless of past accomplishments and accolades that men might think important, he was determined to forget "those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before" (Phil. 3:13). Too many calling themselves children of God are still dealing with the same old sins that they have always dealt with because they never really put them to death! Does this sound familiar? In a real sense, men today can become like the Israelites of old; dealing with the same old problems and the same old sins, and never really seeming to get anywhere because we have allied ourselves with matters that we really ought to turn loose!

Being in league with the Canaanites hampered and hindered the work of the Israelites. This is made clear as we read the Old Testament. How much more then can our

sins hinder our growth and work in the Lord when we hold on to them? How does this happen? Remember the words in Romans 13:14: "But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof." When we are making provisions, i.e., providing a way for our lusts to be fulfilled, look at the problems this causes! Are we making "provisions" for the flesh? In other words, rather than a determined resolve to repent and forsake that past life of sin and live a pure and pleasing life, are we making a way by which we can still "enjoy" actions that should have been put away years ago? When we are acting like this, is there any wonder why we have folks in the Lord's church who may have been baptized 10-20-30 or more years ago, and are still spiritual "babies"! We should be teaching, but instead have a need for others to teach us (Heb. 5:12-14)!

When He walked this earth, Jesus spoke in parables. One of these was the parable of the sower (Matt. 13:23). In this parable, He said that the sower sowed the seed, and it fell upon the "thorny" ground, and the word was finally choked out! Could this be us? Are we allowing our "leagues" and "alliances" with sin to finally choke out the word that has been implanted (Jas. 1:21) in our hearts? As the Lord told His people, so say I now again, "Consider your ways"!

When one confesses his faith in Christ (Acts 8:37; Rom. 10:10; Matt. 13:32; Titus 1:16; etc.), it is no small occasion. We are not merely saying "words," but are declaring a change in allegiance! We no longer wish to be allied with Satan and with his kingdom of darkness and the inherent curses that come from him. Rather, we are wanting to be allied with God and His kingdom of light and all the inherent blessings that come from Him. Is that not what we all want? Then, why are we holding on to past sins and giving in to the same old temptations? Let us let go of those things. Do not make provision for the flesh, but be truly, wholly, and completely allied with God. This can and must be done; otherwise, we will be like the Israelites who had the Canaanites as continual "thorns" and "snares."

Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com ♦

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