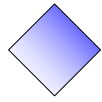


# The Voice of Truth



June 29, 2014

## 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 a 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 fol-

lowed. “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 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” (Psalm 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

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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**). ♦

## "And Such Were Some Of You"

### By Jarrod Jacobs

The title above comes from the first phrase in **I Corinthians 6:11**. In context, **I Corinthians 6:9-11** stands as a warning against Christians engaging in various sins, and the reminder that many folks who have become Christians came from very sinful backgrounds, and have been forgiven much. This section also shines brightly because it stands as a reminder to the Corinthians (and to us) that it is Christ who has made forgiveness of sins possible. Let us read **I Corinthians 6:9-11** and make some applications.

*"Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God" (I Cor. 6:9-11).* Our study will focus upon the statement in verse 11, "And such were some of you". To me, this statement speaks volumes. Let us study this phrase and see what we can learn from these inspired words.

#### "Such"

In context, this word means "of like manner." After reading the list of sins from verses 9 and 10, some might be inclined to look down on others and say, "I would never want to be around people like that!" The apostle Paul's statement reminds the Corinthians that this church was made up of folks who **had** committed such sins, but were now forgiven (v. 11).

In history, Corinth was known as a very immoral city. They were so wicked that those in the first century who lived a life of drunkenness and immorality were said to "live like a Corinthian." It is in this immoral climate that the apostle Paul entered Corinth and preached the gospel, converting many people to Christ (**Acts 18:8; I Cor. 1:14-16**). In fact, God told Paul, "I have many people in this city" (**Acts 18:10**)! For this reason, Paul stayed there a year and a half preaching the word to the people and converting many.

There is no question that the Corinthian Christians had been guilty of various sins (**I Cor. 6:9-10**)! Perhaps they were taught to be like that by their parents. We know it was encouraged in their society; but these people learned better through the preaching of the gospel (**Acts 18**).

#### "Were"

Though the people had been guilty of sin (**Rom. 3:23**), the apostle Paul is declaring that they were forgiven people in Christ. They had repented (**Lk. 13:3; Acts 17:30**) and had been baptized into Christ (**Acts 18:8, 2:38**). Therefore, though they "were" in sin (including sins listed in **I Cor. 6:9-10**), they had since followed the Lord's plan for salvation and had been forgiven by Christ when baptized (**Acts 18:8**).

No one can escape his past! Even the apostle Paul, though forgiven and looking forward to a "crown of righteousness" (**II Tim. 4:6-8**), said he was the "chief" of sinners when he reflected upon his past life (**I Tim. 1:15**). The Corinthians were reminded that they "were" in sin, but they had received the forgiveness of Christ!

In this context, "were" is an amazing and powerful word. Can it be said that you "were" guilty of sin and now are not? Or is it that you are still living in your sin? Why not come out of that and be baptized and forgiven of your sins (**Mk. 16:16**)?

#### "Some"

This word lets us know in no uncertain terms that the sins listed in **I Corinthians 6:9-10** entangled the members of the Corinthian church. This is significant for three reasons:

1) It says something about the apostle Paul who went to Corinth! He was willing and ready to preach the gospel to whomever would listen! (Just like he did at Rome - **Rom. 1:16**.) He understood Christ's words to preach the gospel to "every creature" (**Mk. 16:15**), and this includes preach-

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ing to folks who have committed some of the most heinous sins! They needed forgiveness just as Paul did and as we all do. Yet, they could not be forgiven until they were told what to do to be saved (**Mk. 16:16**). When this happened, it is then that we know that folks accepted and were "washed", "sanctified", and "justified".

2) It also tells us that people engaged in sins can come out of those sins and do what is right! Look again to **I Corinthians 6:9-10** and see the list of sins of which Paul said those folks had been guilty. Do we see any that folks today either claim as not sinful, or merely some sort of "disease"? Yet, what does God call them?

The list of sins in **I Corinthians 6:9-10**, as well as similar lists in other verses are there to remind us that God has set a standard for all of us. He expects us to come out of those sins and live a righteous life. Sometimes, we are told by men that folks' sins are a "disease," or that they are somehow inbred into their genetic code. This is wrong. This passage makes it clear that regardless of the sin under consideration, one can be forgiven when he willingly listens to and obeys the gospel of Christ (**Acts 18:8; Heb. 5:8-9**).

3) We see that God considered this church as "His" even though it was made up of such former sinners (**I Cor. 1:2, 14:37**). Truly, God is forgiving, loving, and "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (**II Pet. 3:9**). When these folks repented of sins, and

were baptized into Christ (**Acts 2:38, 18:8**), God accepted them and added them to His church (**Acts 2:47**)!

### "Of You"

This phrase speaks not only to the Corinthians, but also to the other readers of this letter. May all Christians beware of arrogance and pride! You may have been guilty of the very sins mentioned here! No one can say that he has never sinned (**I Jn. 1:10**). Therefore, let no one look down upon one who repents of sin and is baptized, or is restored as an erring Christian (**Acts 2:38, 8:22; I Jn. 1:9**). We, like the Corinthians, need to be "washed ... sanctified" and "justified"; and we will be when we do only what the Lord says!

### Conclusion

Let us learn well the lessons the apostle Paul was teaching. In many ways, we are like these Corinthians, and we need to be reminded about where we came from, as well as what we are in Christ. Had it not been for Him, we would have no hope (**Eph. 2:11-22**)! At the same time, perhaps it is that we need to be reminded not to look down upon others in their sin, but give them a hand-up to get out of the mess they have made by teaching them the gospel that we learned (**II Tim. 2:2**). Let us care enough for people to teach them the truth that they might also be "washed", "sanctified", and "justified"!

*Credit: The Old Paths - 6/8/14 ♦*

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## THE SIN OF DOING NOTHING

He made no mistakes and took no wrong roads;  
 He never fumbled the ball;  
 He never went down beneath the load.  
 He lost no hard fights in defense of the right;  
 He never bled with his back to the wall.  
 He never fell faint in his climb to the light;  
 He simply did nothing at all.  
 So death came nigh, for life slipped away,  
 And he feared for the Judgment Hall.  
 When they asked him why, he said with sigh:  
 "I simply did nothing at all."  
 So, God will pardon your blunders, my friend,  
 And regard with pity your fall.  
 But the one big sin that surely means Hell,  
 Is simply to do nothing at all. ♦

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**Either the Bible will keep you from sin . . .  
 Or sin will keep you from the Bible. ♦**

## By What Authority? By Jonathan L. Perz

“By what authority are you doing these things?” While this question was originally asked of Jesus by the chief priests and scribes, the question, as well as the answer, has as much relevance today as it did then.

Whoever said you cannot answer a question with a question is sadly mistaken, for this is exactly what Jesus did. In reply to their question, Jesus asked the question, “*The baptism of John—was it from heaven or men?*” (Luke 20:1-8). By answering the Lord’s question, the chief priests and scribes would have the answer to their question. They were caught in their own snare.

They knew the correct answer to the Lord’s question, but their reasoning made them realize that if they answered accurately by saying “of God,” they would be exposing their error. If they answered “of men,” they would face the wrath of the people who were persuaded that John the Baptist was a prophet. Finding neither choice acceptable, they chose not to answer. Hence Jesus did not directly answer their question.

Did Jesus ever reject their question as an unimportant

one? It was indeed important and he answered it on several other occasions (John 7:17; John 12:49; John 14:10), even those among them knew the answer (John 3:1-2; John 9:33). Nevertheless, many today reject it as an unimportant question.

Take any “religious” practice today, whether engaged in by a church or an individual professing Christianity, and test it with the question, “By what authority?” You will have folks in the same dilemma in which Jesus put the chief priests and scribes. To answer accurately and truthfully, they may have to either openly expose their rejection of God’s teaching in light of their practice or they will have to incur the wrath of the people. Therefore, unless one has God’s authority for what he says and does (Colossians 3:17), it is easier for him not to answer or to belittle those who challenge his practices.

By what authority do you do what you do for Christ? If it is not authorized in God’s word, you are not acting by the faith that saves (Romans 10:17). Therefore, take care how you answer, for it will most definitely have eternal implications. Credit: [www.moodychurchofchrist.com](http://www.moodychurchofchrist.com) ♦

### 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). ♦

### 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

**Evangelist: Jimmy Pettigrew**

How to Contact Us	Our Address	Schedule of Assembly
<p><b>Telephone:</b> (920)499-5677 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:hillcrestcofc@live.com">hillcrestcofc@live.com</a></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>	<p style="text-align: center;">1621 Hillcrest Drive Green Bay, WI 54313</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Bible Study:</b> Sunday, 9:00am <b>Worship Service:</b> Sunday, 10:00am <b>Bible Study:</b> Wednesday, 7:00pm*</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month</p>

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