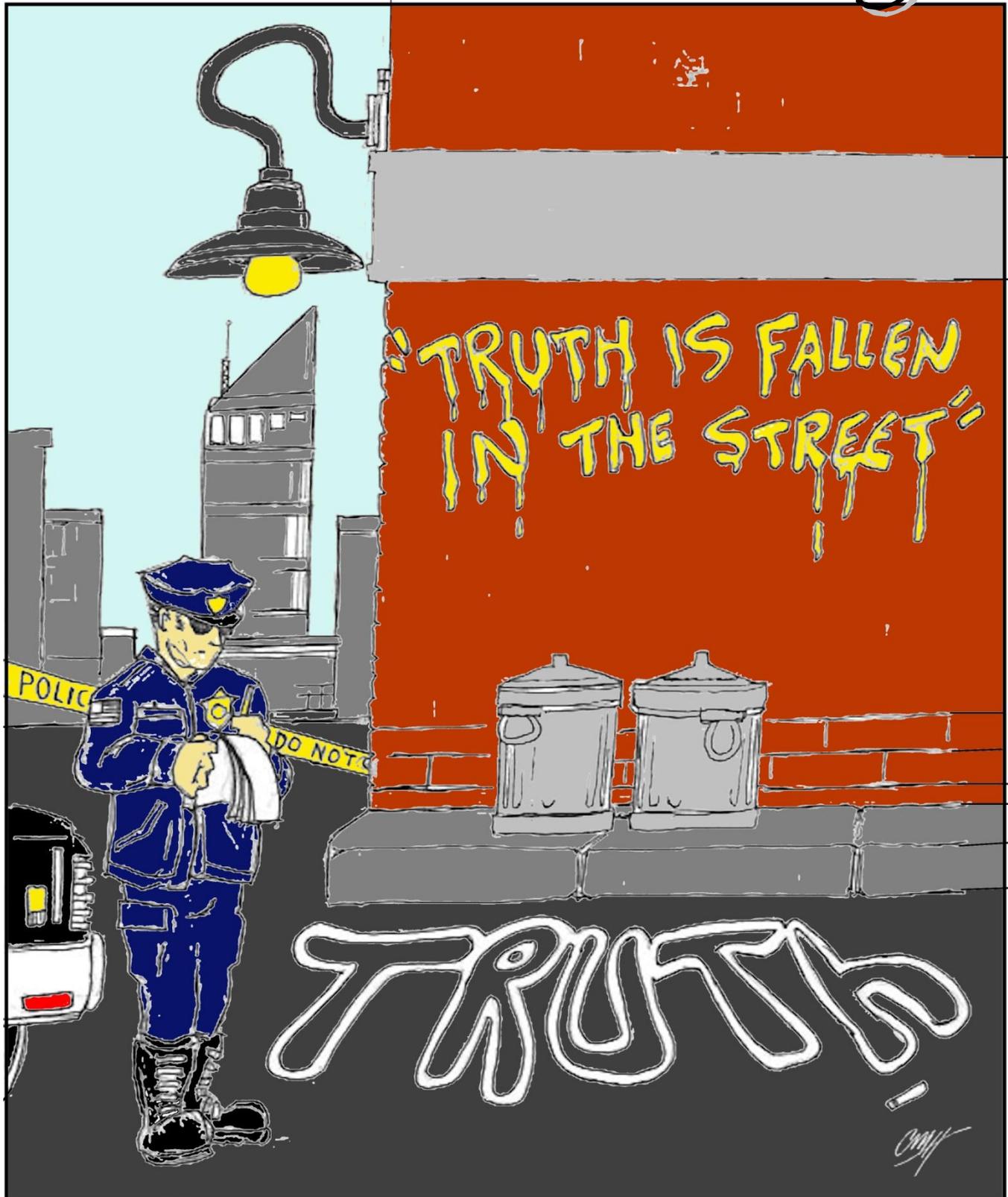


# The Bible Guys

of Yesterday and Today

February 2009

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**The People of Truth**  
*A Holy Nation*

## From the Editor

By David M. McNabb

We come to you once again in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. My heart is light and there is a spring in my step, for it is beautiful to walk in the steps of the Savior! Though the world is troubled with financial, social and political perplexities, mankind has the opportunity to find a solid footing on the Rock of Ages. Our God, who never changes, is faithful. As King David penned, "The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower" (Psalm 18:2). I love to proclaim, with the words of Ruth Jones' wonderful hymn, "In times like these I have a Saviour, In times like these, I have an anchor; I'm very sure, I'm very sure, My anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!"

It is this message that we need today: not that believers in the Lord Jesus will avoid the troublous times, but that those who rest in the Lord, and trust and obey His word, will experience His deliverance.

To that end, we continue to work. Whether in meetings at our various houses of worship, in teleconference Bible studies, on the Internet, or in this printed publication, we desire to share the gospel of the Kingdom while there is still time to do so. As we have mentioned in the past couple issues, we continue to work to expand and enhance our online presence. God is blessing us in that medium, and we continue to have a global effect. Also, work progresses to get some of our literature into Spanish. Praise the name of the Lord!

About five or six months ago, we obtained a new Bizhub C353 color copier/printer, which also has the capability to fold and staple. This new machine made it easier to expand our printing and also enhanced the quality of *The Bible Guys'* look and feel. Since we purchased that machine, our distribution increased from 800 to 1700



**Our Konica Minolta Bizhub C353 has been in service for 5 months.**



**Brett Bryce (left) and Grant Riggs of Oklahoma Office Systems are shown as they install the Bizhub C6500.**

last month. As we prepared this edition, we felt the leading of the Lord to go even further. The Lord made it possible to get a larger, much faster Bizhub C6500 in addition to the other machine. With the added capacity and speed, we will increase our distribution to 6700 with this current issue, and anticipate more growth in the ensuing months. Time is short, and we must redeem the time (use it to accomplish the work of the Lord as much as is possible), for the days are evil.

*See Editor, Page 8*

# Ready or Not, Jesus is coming soon

By C. Elden McNabb

Most of us would rather read a well-written, fast-moving novel than to read a laborious technical writing. That technical stuff is too much like work. Many of us would also rather read a simplistic version of the Bible, where they have left out the more challenging things. For example, some passages which stress the importance of fasting have been left out of some versions of the Bible altogether (Matthew 17:21; Mark 9:29). One very popular version took out something like 65,000 words. It looks as if the Christian community has allowed those changes and deletions, because they would rather not read about the tough things the Bible calls upon us to do.

Conversely, Jesus told His disciples, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by *every word* that proceeds out of the mouth of God." In spite of this admonition, it is almost universally promoted that we should preach only "Jesus Saves." When we are eating out, we are far more apt to order a steak than we are to order "cereal and milk." Yet, when we go to church, we are far more apt to go where we will hear again a sermon on simple redemption, the milk of the word, than to hear about "the principles of the doctrine of Christ," the meat of the Word of God.

There are some very interesting prophecies in some of the books of the Old Testament which are read the most, and are in direct contradiction of that promotion. For instance, in Isaiah 33:1-7, we are told that in the day of the fall of "Mystery, Babylon the Great," "Wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation." And, in Daniel 12:1-4, we are told that just prior to the resurrection, "Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." That is, both secular and Bible knowledge.

From the beginning of the industrial revolution, when God "poured out His spirit upon all flesh" in fulfillment of Joel 2:28, the secular world has wonderfully manifested the fulfillment of this prophecy. Many men and women of the world have prophesied, and dreamed dreams, and have seen visions which have inspired the development of some modern benefit. One great example of this is the writings of Jules Verne, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. We have come from the harnessing of electricity to "surfing the web." We have come from the telephone to world-wide video conferencing. We have come from the miracle of heavier-than-air flight at the sand dunes at Kitty Hawk, N.C. to "The eagle has landed" on the moon, and beyond. And that is to name a few.

The wonderful fruit of all of this knowledge has come, primarily in the last 120 years. As these great leaps of secular knowledge have changed the way the world functions, God was busy in the spiritual world as well. In 1896, in fulfillment of Joel 2:29, God poured out His spirit "also upon the servants and upon the handmaids." That is to say He poured out His spirit on Christians. God prophesied, in Genesis 6:3, that He would perform all of this in the last 120 years before the resurrection.

The beginning of that "season" was clearly set when Charles E. Duryea began to sell his automobiles in Massachusetts, the USA, in 1893 (1 Thess. 5:1-9). The prophecy in Nahum 2:1-3 marks more clearly about when the "time" of the preparation for the coming of the Messiah would begin. He said that the man who would make that preparation would do so in a time when automobiles were fully developed, and highways were wide and straight. At about the end of that 120-year season, Jesus shall begin to judge the nations.

After World War II, a pursuit of "leisure time," soon hastened the beginning of the fulfillment of Matthew 25:1-13. The disciples of Jesus asked Him, "What shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world" (Matt. 24:1-3). He answered those two questions in chapter 24:29

through chapter 25. Jesus said "Immediately after the tribulation of those days ... then shall appear the sign of the Son of Man in Heaven" (Matt. 24:29-31). He started chapter 25 by telling us that just before Jesus comes, all of Christianity would go to sleep, and that just before the Marriage of the Lamb, someone would make a cry that would wake them all up. And did not Paul say, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another: and *so much the more, as you see the day approaching*" (Heb. 10:25).

In the light of these Scriptures, how can our ministers, in good conscience, keep telling us that we cannot have any idea about when Jesus' shall come again.

For many years now, Christianity has been asleep (Matt. 25:1-13). How true the words, "Slothfulness casts into a deep sleep, and an idle soul shall suffer hunger" (Prov. 9:15). Unfortunately, very few modern ministers are students, much less scholars, of the Word of God.

We "servants of the Lord" have simply been "too busy" to read the Bible. Not even the ministers really read and study the Bible enough to learn its true meaning. Where are those ministers of which God said, "*I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding*" (Jer. 3:15). "Much study is a weariness of the flesh," but that is no excuse.

We are in very perilous times. The economy of the world is sinking, and this is not "just another event," nor will it be "just another trial." The final details of a *world government* are, even now, being worked out. That government is the infamous "Beast," with the mark, the name, and the number of his name which we must not take. The dragon, the beast, and the false prophet are working swiftly to bring us under this much-touted one-world-government (Rev. 16:13).

"An end is come, the end is come: it watches for thee; behold, it is come. The morning is come unto thee, o thou that dwellest in the land (that is, anyone who is a Christian): the time

is come, the day of trouble is near” (Ezek. 7:6-7). We have but a few months to “search the scriptures,” to find out the will of God, and His plan for our escape.

I know that many of you have been taught that you will escape the wrath of God. I think you would be wise to emulate “the Ten Virgins,” and stir yourselves to really search the scriptures. The parable of “the Ten Virgins” is about this generation of Christians. It is written concerning all of the Christians who “while the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him” (Matt. 25:1-13). It is time for all Christianity to awaken, and search the scriptures. It may be that we shall be hidden in the day of the Lord’s wrath (Zeph. 2:1-3).

Isaiah well said, “Wisdom and knowledge, shall be the stability of thy times and strength of salvation: the fear of the Lord is His treasure” (Isaiah 33:6-7). In the parable, all of the virgins woke up, but some were not wise enough to enter before the door was shut. The wise at least had some oil with which to acquire enough light to find the way in on time. We must not allow the Enemy to blind us and deceive us any further.

The Church of God of the New Testament had a Table of Showbread, as did the Old Testament Tabernacle and Temple. In the Temple it was a table with 12 cakes of bread. In the Church, it was the Twelve Apostles, the Altar of Stones (Deut. 27:5-6; 1 Kings 18:29-32). As long as the Twelve Apostles were functional in the Church, the saints were privileged to “Continue steadfastly in the Apostles doctrine and fellowship and in breaking of bread, and in prayers” (Acts 2:42).

After the martyrdom of The Twelve, the light of redemption from sins by Jesus’ death on the cross continued to shine, although it was greatly corrupted by the new source of doctrine. However the light of the “glorious Church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing,” had gone out (Jude 1:1-19). But it had not

gone out without prophetic promise that it would be restored.

Jude told us about that influx of another kind of ministers, late in the first century A.D., or early in the second, who had a different “table” of doctrine, and who “turned the grace of God into lasciviousness” (Jude 1:3-19). For the next 1,400 to 1,500 years, various doctrinal errors began to be preached, and became highly esteemed and widely promoted. In the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, the “Reformation” began, and doctrines changed some, and new doctrines were adopted, some of which, were not Biblically sound.

Jeremiah put it this way, “O Lord, my strength, and my fortress, and my refuge in the day of affliction, the Gentiles shall come unto thee from the ends of the earth, and shall say Surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and things wherein there no profit.” Our spiritual ancestors came westward in a time of religious and doctrinal evolution. Very few of them had the time or resources or opportunity to fully research it all. Consequently, we entered the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and now the 21<sup>st</sup> century, still preaching things which could not then, nor can they now, be proven.

Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, admonished us to “Prove all things.” The last half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century has produced optimal conditions for us to be able to achieve that. In 1971, “The People of Truth” began an intensive program of the study of the prominent doctrines which are taught among Christians today. One thing which we found to be really conclusive is the need for Christians to “Wake out of sleep,” and begin to study the Scriptures as we never have before. God is working now toward the reestablishment of the Church, and of The Twelve to “feed us with knowledge and understanding,” but we need to be spiritual if we are to understand the spiritual things of God. We must begin to prepare ourselves for His appearing.

“Behold the Bridegroom cometh, Go ye out to meet Him.” Trimming our lamps simply means “Studying the Bible.” There are things you need

to know if you are to go in to the marriage. “And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed” (Romans 13:11). 

## Truth is fallen in the street

*By David M. McNabb*

The law of supply and demand is simple: if the demand is greater than the supply, the price goes up; if the supply exceeds the demand, the price goes down. This affects all commodities, and has been highlighted by the recent worldwide economic crisis. Everything from gold and oil to currency, bread, and corn have seen their prices rise and fall according to the law of supply and demand. This principle does not affect the inherent value of the particular commodity – only the price on the open market.

Even ideas are susceptible to these market forces, and Truth has become one of the victims.

The Scriptures show that truth is a commodity, “Buy the truth, and sell it not” (Prov. 23:23). He also adds wisdom, and instruction, and understanding to the recommended portfolio. Sometimes the truth is not in very high demand, and, in the open market, it brings a very meager price. If good business sense requires one to “buy low and sell high,” then the truth seems to be a poor investment, because it certainly appears that it comes with a steep cost, but is difficult event to give away.

News agencies – deeply concerned with their ratings – are often more occupied with predicting future events and ultimate outcomes, than with reporting the actual events that have occurred. Hype sells, while the truth is boring. Much of the reported news reflects an agenda or world view held by the agency, regardless of their political position, and therefore a skewed representation of the facts.

A witness in court swears “to tell the truth, the whole truth, and noth-

ing but the truth,” but when queried about the facts, is curtailed by the lawyer and forced to confine the answers specifically to the question. Lawyers often know that “the whole truth” would be devastating to a case, and have fashioned an entire industry around manipulating how the truth is presented to achieve their goals.

Today, if you visit a Christian bookstore, you will find a relatively small section devoted to Bibles while the majority of the square footage is dedicated to books written by Christian authors. In fact, “Christian” fiction books are some of the hottest items on the shelves.

The Left Behind® series sold millions and millions of copies, and raked in huge amounts of money from Christian (and non-Christian) pockets. While they purport to flesh out a modern interpretation of the end times, they remain fictitious literary works, with no more real truth than any other novel.

Jesus said, “If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32). How can one put a price on freedom? In America, freedom is seen to have been purchased by the blood of thousands of men and women, willing to commit their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. However, with this simple statement, Jesus showed that, as valuable as freedom, life, fortunes and honor are, truth is more so.

Like all commodities, Truth has an inherent, intrinsic value. Before refrigeration, salt was once used as a preservative, and was extremely valuable (because the demand was so high). Salt was given as payment for labor, and is the why we call our wages a “salary.” Today, salt is considered a common item, found even in the poorest of households, and sometimes just thrown away without a second thought. While salt’s market value has greatly decreased due to market forces, salt’s *intrinsic* value has not changed. It may be cheaper and more common, but it still has the same preserving qualities it always had. It is still able to redeem many a

poorly prepared meal by adding much needed flavor. It has not lost its inherent value one iota.

Likewise, oil has an intrinsic value that is not reflected by price. In 2008, the market price of oil skyrocketed, sending the price of gasoline to over \$4.00 per gallon. A gallon of gasoline, now under \$2.00, has an inherent value. You get the same miles per gallon at \$4.00 that you get at \$2.00: the gasoline goes just as far as it always did, it is just that your money no longer does.

So it is with truth. When the truth is popular, all kinds of people will be willing to embrace and promote it. The truth will always set you free: that will never change, for Jesus’ words can never fail. But, if the truth falls out of public favor, the opportunists will abandon it for that which the fickle public desires, and truth’s market value will plummet.

The Pharisees were not seeking truth for its intrinsic value when they came to John the Baptist, but because the truth which John was preaching was “all the rage” in those days, they, too, desired to get in on what seemed to be the hot investment. A few years later, like the “dot-com” bubble of 1990s, John’s preaching was over and John was beheaded. The fad had passed, many lives were changed, but most went back to business as usual.

Isaiah’s prophecy describes a condition when truth is rejected. “And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. Yea, truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey: and the LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no judgment” (Isa. 59:14-15).

Truth is like a young, beautiful actress coveted by every writer, director and producer early in her career. However, as the years slipped by and the youthful allure faded, she was forgotten and left to fend for herself, forsaken by the very ones for whom she had made fortunes. Today, truth is abandoned for convenience. It is ridiculed and reviled. It is forsaken, mocked and abused.

Modern Christianity resembles those Pharisees in the days of Jesus and John, chasing religious fads, but not really falling in love with the truth. Love, true love, is not based on popular acceptance and conventional wisdom. Think about that family heirloom, whose value is not based in the market price of precious metals, or even in its antiquity and historic significance, but is based on the fact that your grandma’s grandma once owned it. The same item may not even sell for a quarter to a stranger at a yard sale, but is priceless in the hands of one who realizes and esteems its true value.

Jesus said, “I am the truth” and that one could only approach unto the Father through Him (John 14:6). The word of God commands that we “buy the truth” and hold onto it for the remainder of our lives. Oh, we must share it, as there is enough for all, but we are never to panic when the market value of the truth we have “purchased” plummets, and sell off what we have obtained and “cut our losses.” The only loser is the one who walks away from the truth of God’s word.

Paul warns us of the fate of those who fail to fall in love with the truth in 2 Thessalonians 2:10. “Then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; **because they received not the love of the truth**, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

Many will fall prey to the lies and deception, but the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father is looking for such to worship him. It is truth that will make us free from Satan’s lies in these last days, as the events in the

world continue to point to Jesus' soon return.

But let us seek the truth, fall in love with the truth, and walk in the truth all of our days, that we might be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. "The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth. He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them. The LORD preserveth all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy. My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD: and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever" (Psalm 145:18-21). 

## My discipleship with the Lord

By Joel McNabb

I have loved the Lord for most of my life, being raised a PK, (preacher's kid, for those who may not know the term). Church was a big part of my life, and my father pastored in various places across the United States. When he was asked to move to another place, we moved, and made the best of every situation, never knowing what was in store for us. My brothers and I would make new friends and go to new schools. It all seemed to be just a normal way of life. As a child, when we were not in church, besides playing and doing what other children would do, we would play church; but we meant it: singing, preaching, healing and all the things we would do in church. We even used crutches, one would play sick and the others would lay hands him and pray and he would throw the crutches down and shout to the Lord, "THANK YOU JESUS!!!!" When my brother and I started school, my youngest brother, being too young to go, stayed with mother and followed her around preaching to her, using anything he could find as a pulpit. It all seemed to us just a normal way of life.

I didn't know much else growing up. We were poor, but never hungry. Mother made sure we had clothes, food and everything we needed to live in this world. All we knew was that the Lord would take care of all of our needs. My mother and father were serving the Lord, and we were along for the ride. Their devotion to God and His will in their lives is what will be in my memory forever as a child. From time to time my father would work a secular job, mostly when he was pastoring at a small church, but his work for the Lord always came first. Many times when the church wanted him to go, he would leave us for a weekend or maybe more, for conferences or revivals; whatever he was called on to do, he would do. He believed the Lord would make a way for him and the family, and the Lord always did. Like I have said, it all seemed to me to be a normal life. But it wasn't normal at all: this was a life of discipleship. I was not aware of it at the time, but this was my first encounter with discipleship: not just as a Christian or a believer, but as someone who had given his entire life to God and Jesus. No matter what: friend, family, church, or job, nothing came between him trying to do the Lord's will.

A ruler came to Jesus and asked, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said, "Thou knowest the commandments" and he gave five of them. The ruler said he had kept them since he was a young boy. Jesus said that there was still something he was missing. He told the ruler, "Sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me." This was a problem for the ruler, because he had a lot of wealth and did not want to give it up.

When Jesus saw this, he made a comment that seemed a little hard to understand: "For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God." His followers that were standing there knew this would be very difficult and asked, "Who then can be saved?" Good question, if he were talking about salvation, but he

was not. The way of holiness and salvation is not so hard that a camel, loaded with a full load of merchandise, could not pass through the needle gate of the city. "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the way-faring men, though fools, shall not err therein" (Isa. 35:8). Salvation is for "Whosoever will." The ruler had kept the commandments of God all his life, but the things he possessed were too hard to give up to follow Jesus. You may ask yourself, "Do I have to sell all to be a follower of Christ?" **Only if you want to be a disciple.** If you want to keep the commandments and just be a Christian, this requirement may not be for you. The ruler did all that, yet he was not willing to go all the way for Jesus. The answer Jesus gave was not to all; it was to the ruler. Jesus knew his heart, and knew the ruler would have difficulty in giving all of his "life" to follow Him.

I am stressing being a follower for a reason. Most Christians feel they are followers now, not really seeing a difference. But there is a great difference here. Going to church once a week or more does not make you a follower. It is a matter of being willing to do or to go; whatever He says. If the ruler had been willing and had said "Yes", Jesus may not have asked him to sell all to follow. Peter hearing all this said to Jesus, "We have left all, and followed thee." In Matt.8:14, Peter still had a house and family, (because Jesus healed Peter's mother in-law), but in his heart he was willing to give it all to follow Jesus.

This passage in Luke 18, from which I have taken my text, has been an inspiration to me. Things may look impossible with man, but Jesus showed that all things are possible with God. He told his disciples in verse 29, "Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting." I would like you to take note here, in

this present world, and in the world to come. It is our free will to give everything to God letting Him rule our life, no matter what. He will never leave us or forsake us, if we are willing to let Him take care of us. As Jesus said, "Not my will but thine be done."

"And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them. If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassador, and desireth conditions of peace. So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:25-33).

It is about counting the cost. What will it cost you? To follow Jesus and be his disciple means to be willing to give up all, that this life doesn't mean more to you than what He wants. The price is high, but the reward is far above all cost or price that could be paid. Jesus asked his disciples, "Whom do ye say that I am?" Peter famously remarked, "Thou art the Christ of God". Jesus told them, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away? For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed,

when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels" (Luke 9:23-26).

He was telling them to count the cost, and what it would cost to follow Him. We are supposed to be strangers and pilgrims here in this world, for the things of this world will pass away. Matt. 6:20-21 says, "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Nothing on this earth will be worth anything when it is all said and done. "And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away" (1 Cor. 7:31). We have to use this world and what is in it to further the will of the heavenly Father on this earth. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but His word shall never pass away. We must buy the truth and sell it not, counting what it will cost us – the price for the high calling of God.

This subject has weighed heavily on me the past few years, as I have heard the call of God on my life. The price has been great, but I have counted the cost. Even as a child, I always knew that one day I would be used of God in some way. For the past thirty years I have been a minister of the gospel of Christ. I have had my battles with this life just as every man or woman who lives in this earthly vessel. I have been on my knees numerous times asking God to forgive me for falling into the snares of the devil, and I believe He has heard my cry for repentance, as He heard King David. I know without a doubt that I am forgiven of my sins by the mercies of God and that Jesus is still sitting on the mercy seat at the right hand of the Father.

I was sent by God to Oklahoma in 2006 to work with the people that our group had there. When I was asked to go, there was no hesitation in my thoughts; I just said, "Yes, I will go." There was no thought of the cost; I knew that God would work all the details out as He had always done. My wife of twenty five years was taken aback at my quick response. I

knew that there was something that God wanted me to do and that I was going to do it. It was my plan to stay in New England until I could work out the details with the family, and move when the Lord was ready for me to go. The company that I was working for needed me to finish some of the jobs I was doing, and my wife was scheduled to undergo surgery on her feet. My youngest daughter's graduation from high school also needed my attention. I made sure that all that was cared for before I went. It took me over six months to finally get moved to Oklahoma, but I went.

I had hoped that my wife would sell the house by the following year, and our daughter would head to college. Then my wife would be free to come to Oklahoma to be with me and help me in my ministry. This did not happen, even though the Lord blessed me with work and in my ministry; my wife could not believe that I was sent by God. It has been the greatest burden that I have had to bare in my whole life. I had hoped that she would be with me and that we would carry the gospel of the kingdom of God together. The time passed and so did her faith in me and the work that was set before me. The hope that she would come here kept getting dimmer and dimmer. Soon there was no doubt she would not be with me here. Now she has decided to file for divorce, against my wishes, for I know how God hates divorce. I did not want this, and I am cut to the bone, but it is not in my hands now.

It has been a burden for me and her. I know in her heart of hearts that she loves me; there has never been a question of that. I also know that perfect love casteth out fear and that I love her and want her to be with me still. We all have the free will that God has given us, and we have to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. She has to be willing to serve the Lord on her own; I can not make her serve the Lord or do what I want. It is her choice, and I will respect her choice.

Now I will say to Jesus, as Peter did in Matthew, "Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what

shall we have therefore?” And I will trust in Jesus’ promise, “And everyone that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name’s sake, shall receive an hundred-fold, and shall inherit everlasting life.”

Whatever God has in store for me, I will try to do it. I want to be in a condition that I can be used of Him. The Lord is my life. and it is my desire to do whatever it take to draw closer to Him. My wife and I used to sing a song together and I think that is one of the things I’ll miss the most; her angelic voice. This is now my theme song and my desire to be the clay in the potter’s hand, pliable to be a vessel of honor in the house of God. As you read this song look into your heart of hearts and ask yourself this question, “Am I a disciple of Christ, will I do whatever it takes?”

*There's a voice calling me from an old rugged tree  
And it whispers draw closer to me  
Leave this world far behind,  
There are new heights to climb,  
And a new place in me you will find.*

*Take my houses and lands,  
Change my dreams and all my plans,  
For I'm placing my whole life in your hands;  
Let the disappointments come,  
Lonely days without the sun,  
If through sorrow more like you I become.*

*Take the dearest things from me  
If that's how it must be  
To draw me closer to thee.*



**Saints from the People of Truth in Paden, Okla. participate in the Paden Gospel and Bluegrass singing on February 6<sup>th</sup>. Paden hosts the singing every other week at the auditorium.**

*And if you call me today to a land far away,  
Lord, I'll go in Your will obey*

*For whatever it takes to draw closer to you  
Lord,*

*That's what I'll be willing to do;  
For whatever it takes to be more like you,  
That's what I'll be willing to do.*

We are coming to the day of the Lord and the valley of great decision in Joel 3:14. What will be your choice? Not everyone is called to be a disciple; it is a way of life that you chose after you are called. When Jesus called his disciples, they walked away from everything and followed him. Will you be willing to do the same?

May the Lord give us grace to make all the right choices in our walk with the Master. May the Lord bless you and keep you is my prayer. I also

desire your prayers in my walk with the Lord as I follow Him. 

## Editor

*(Continued from Page 2)*

Locally, we continue to visit churches, and were recently invited to sing at Paden’s biweekly Gospel singing. Our congregation was happy to participate, and sing praises to our great God, professing our faith before all.

Whether globally, nationally, regionally or locally, we have a responsibility to share the truth of God, and proclaim it unto all. Many may reject it, others may mock, but we must declare to all that Jesus Christ is coming soon! The way must be prepared, and God’s people must wake up, and prepare to meet the Bridegroom! AMEN!

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THE BACK PEW - Jeff Larson



The 5 foolish bridesmaids forgot to pay their electric bill, their alarm clock did not go off, and the wedding was missed.

**Mat 25**