

# THE

# HARVESTER

"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." [Luke 10:2]

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## THE SIMPLICITY THAT IS IN CHRIST

As human beings, we tend to complicate everything we get our hands on. Whether we are following a set of instructions or performing a particular task, we cannot let things remain pure and simple if it seems obviously so. We think anything that has any value in today's world has to be complex. The more bells and whistles there are, the better we believe it has to be good! But this is not true in the religious realm. In fact, quite the opposite is true.

In the spiritual kingdom, things that are "simple" are best! By "simple" we mean those items which are pure and unpolluted from

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man's influence. God's "simple" things are not mixed with the doctrines of men. They are not swayed by earthly matters but remain harmless in an otherwise evil world (Rom. 16:19). By considering where we are now and how far the complications of this current age has gotten us, it is my belief that we seriously need to get back to the simplicity which can be found only in Jesus Christ. *"Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls."* (Jer. 6:16)

One item we tend to make more difficult than anything else is our prayer. Sometimes we try to make a big display out of it. But remember in His Sermon on the Mount, how Jesus condemned the hypocrites for making their prayers a public sideshow and for using long, repetitive phrases in their efforts to please those watching or listening (Matt. 6:5-7). Then He gave us the Lord's prayer as a model to follow (Matt. 6:9-13). It was "simple", straight to the point, honest, and sincere. That is how our prayers should likewise be. It would be more apt to reach God's ears than the prayer of a hypocrite, wouldn't it?

Another area we should try not to complicate anymore than is necessary is our daily conduct. It was to Paul's credit that he behaved himself in *"simplicity and godly sincerity"* (2 Cor. 1:12). Too often we think we have to act like the world acts, in order to be accepted. Many disciples of Christ try to "fit in" or conform to this wicked nation and they go to extremes to accomplish this. But the scriptures strictly forbid such behavior (Rom. 12:21). Christians are *"peculiar"* people in the sense that they now belong to God (1 Pet. 2:9). We do not belong to the world anymore, so why complicate things by acting "out of character"?

Along those same lines, our dress must also be "simple", as per God's definition. Our beauty is not determined by what we look on the outside. Nobody's does! Yet, why do we spend so much time and money and effort in grooming this earthly tabernacle (body), and we neglect our precious soul? It does not really matter whether our clothes are the 'latest styles' or what kind of jewelry we flash around. It is the inner person that determines true beauty in the sight of God. *"Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price."* (1 Pet. 3:3-4) The "simple" adorning of a Christian is more precious than diamond rings!

When we give, it should be done *"with simplicity"* (Rom. 12:8). Again we go back to the Sermon on the Mount and notice the rebuke Jesus gave to the hypocrites. They would *"sound a trumpet"* for every act of charity, seeking more the praise of men than the praise of God (Matt. 6:1-4). In the case of a disciple of Christ, giving should be done in a very "simple" manner -- with purpose and lots of cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7)!

Finally, the simple preaching of the Gospel goes a lot further than most of today's "intellectual" sermons. Sometimes we try too hard to use impressive language in our speeches. Some like to use fifty-dollar words. Others look for new "angles" or "wild speculations" to grab the attention of their listeners. But that was not Jesus's style, was it? Nor was it Paul's. These two men were very successful speakers because they preached "simple" lessons which everyone could understand (1 Thes. 2:3-8). Our preaching

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should be equally pure and uncomplicated so that ALL can fully understand God's plan of salvation.

The devil wants us to stay away from the "simple" way of Eternal Life. He knows that the more complex an item is, the easier it is to hide something in it. Satan wants to hide the Truth from us. That is the only way he can defeat us -- by complicating things so much we can't "see the forest for the trees" and thereby we become easily deceived. That is what happened to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. If we are to ever find salvation, it must be through the *"simplicity that is in Christ"* (2 Cor. 11:3).

RAY McMANUS

## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. How many wives did Esau take of the daughters of Canaan?
2. After the resurrection, what did Jesus say to Mary Magdalene that caused her to recognize Him?
3. Who was Peter's brother?

4. Of what precious metal were the posts of Solomon's traveling coach made?

5. In which prophetic book does God say a people will be carried away with hooks?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH . . .

and remember last month's questions?

1. What king mentioned in the Old Testament was forced to become a vegetarian for seven periods of time? NEBUCHADNEZZAR (Dan. 4:32)

2. Did God actually speak to Jacob during his dream? YES (Gen. 28:13)

3. What is it called, if one does not do the good he knows he should do? SIN (Jas. 4:17)

4. What does Proverbs say gives health to the bones? GOOD TIDINGS (Prov. 15:30)

5. In addition to gold and silver, what did Achan steal? A BABYLONISH GARMENT (Josh. 7:21)

## I QUIT!

There are times when I get discouraged. There are times I feel like walking away from the responsibilities that accompany a minister of the Gospel. There are times when I've been tempted to say -- "I quit!" Surprised?

But I won't -- and I can't. Like Jeremiah of old who voiced his frustration to the Lord when the people mocked his message, ignored his warnings and discouraged him to the point that he was ready to quit preaching (Jer. 20:7-9), so it is with many a preacher today. However, I can also identify with the prophet's passion for perseverance and his love for the message of God when he revealed that every time

he thought about quitting, ". . . then in my heart it becomes like a burning fire shut up in my bones; and I am weary of holding it in, and I cannot endure it."

If a man can't identify with Jeremiah's "burning fire" to preach, a passion to communicate God's message, then he should quit. (I suppose that sounds rather blunt but it's the way I feel!) However, the passion to preach does not shield God's servant from common discouragement that results when people neglect the message. Jeremiah certainly was no stranger to discouragement. Neither am I.

For example, I get discouraged when:

1. *I've preached to people for years who ought to obey the gospel but don't.* Sometimes I question my ability only to remember that the power is in the message, not the messenger (1 Cor. 3:5-7).

2. *I see parents who are guilty of "spiritual" child abuse.* I know of parents who are lax in their attendance and who won't bring their kids to church services. Such behavior is inexcusable and violates every passage about parental responsibility in the spiritual nurturing of children. And then I remember the many parents who do care and the burden is somewhat lifted (Prov. 22:6).

3. *People argue with what the Book says!* Mark 16:16 is not my interpretation (which is what one said to me after merely reading the verse!). Yet, people have always tried to argue with God about everything. And in the end, have always lost.

4. *Churches promote immorality by ignoring God's instruction on marriage, divorce and remarriage.* It's easy to do. Given the times

we are in, when few take seriously their vows before God, the simple course is to soft-peddle clear biblical instruction on the subject. And many churches do.

5. *I see our nation cater to homosexuals and behavior that the Bible condemns in the strongest of terms (Lev. 20:13).* There is no question that ours is a society well on the road to moral decay. Such would be disheartening except for the fact that many do care and are fighting for a return to moral responsibility and the principles upon which this country was founded. Count me in!

Sure, I get discouraged. Sure, I'm tempted to quit and walk away. But I won't. And for the reason Jeremiah didn't. There are just some things worth fighting for, and standing above them all are the souls of men.

Me? Quit? Not on your life!

WILSON ADAMS

selected from "Guardian of Truth"  
submitted by Buster Boyd

A Christian worker should be  
like a good watch:

Open face,  
Busy hands,  
Pure gold,  
Well regulated,  
Full of good works.

Matthew 5:16

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# BIBLE PRINCIPLES OF SALVATION

## I. ALL PEOPLE HAVE SINNED

1 Ki 8:46 Rom 3:10 Rom 3:23 Rom 5:12 1 Jn 1:8 1 Jn 5:19

## II. A SINNER WILL FACE ETERNAL DEATH

Ezek 33:8-9 Rom 6:23 2 Thes 1:7-9 Jas 1:15 Jas 5:20 Rev 21:8

Unless he:

1. Hears the Word of God  
Matt 13:23 Lk 10:39 Jn 10:16 Rom 10:17 Eph 1:13 1 Thes 2:13
2. Realizes Jesus Christ is the Only Way to Eternal Salvation  
Jn 6:68 Jn 14:6 Acts 4:12 Eph 2:18 1 Thes 5:9 Heb 5:9
3. Believes Jesus is the Son of God  
Mk 16:16 Jn 3:16 Jn 8:24 Jn 20:31 Acts 10:43 Acts 16:31 Heb 11:6
4. Is Convicted in his Heart of his Own Disobedience  
Acts 2:37 Acts 16:29 Acts 24:25 2 Cor 7:8-11
5. Repents of his Sins  
Lk 13:3 Acts 2:38 Acts 3:19 Acts 17:30 Acts 26:20
6. Confesses his Faith in the Lord Jesus  
Matt 10:32 Acts 8:37 Acts 19:18 Rom 10:9-10 Phil 2:11 1 Jn 4:15
7. Is Baptized by Immersion for the Remission of Sins in the  
Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost  
Matt 28:19 Mk 16:16 Jn 3:5 Acts 2:38 Acts 8:36-39 Acts 10:47-48  
Acts 16:33 Acts 22:16 Rom 6:3-6 Gal 3:27 Col 2:12 1 Pet 3:21
8. Lives a Faithful Life, Guided Only by the Authority of the NT  
Matt 25:21 Rom 1:16 Tit 2:11-12 Heb 4:12 Jas 1:21 1 Jn 5:4 Rev 2:10
9. Worships in Spirit & Truth, not Forsaking the Assembling, and  
Observing the Lord's Supper every first day of the week  
Matt 4:10 Jn 4:23-24 Acts 2:42 Acts 20:7 1 Cor 11:20-30 Heb 10:25
10. Prays for Forgiveness, if he should Fall into Sin again  
Acts 8:22 1 Cor 10:12-13 Eph 6:18 1 Thes 5:17 Jas 5:15-16 1 Jn 1:5-10

## III. ONLY THOSE WHO DO THE WILL OF GOD SHALL BE SAVED

Matt 7:21 Matt 12:50 Lk 6:47-48 Rom 2:13 Jas 1:22 1 Jn 2:17 Rev 22:14

SOME PEOPLE ARE LIKE BLISTERS --  
THEY DON'T SHOW UP UNTIL  
THE WORK IS DONE.