

And I raised up of your sons
for prophets, and of your
young men for Nazarites. Is it not
even thus, O ye children of Israel?
saith the LORD.

But ye gave the Nazarites wine to
drink; and commanded the
prophets, saying, Prophecy not.

Amos 2:11-12

The lion hath roared, who will not
fear? the Lord GOD hath spoken,
who can but prophesy?

Amos 3:8

Cries from the Wilderness

by Kim Josephson

**Kim Josephson Ministries
Vinita Oklahoma 74301**

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**I'll preach as though I'll never preach
again, as a dying man to dying men.**

C.T. Studd

We're in Revival

By Kim Josephson

Naked girls in the windows shaking from the speed
teenagers crouched in corners achin' from the need
the junkies and the alchies starin' helplessly
at the anger on the walls spued up from satan's seed

Chorus:

We're in revival let me tell you
it's never been like this before
We're in revival can't you see it
Who could ask for something more
We're in revival – Yeah revival – ah can't you tell?
we're in revival – Yes revival
While the world runs on to hell
They gave my baby condoms.
She's twelve years old today
“any kind of sex is cool” you know that's what they say
but she can't wear a T-shirt saying Jesus is the way
cuz she goes to a public school
where she's not allowed to pray

Chorus

I'm looking from my window into a public park
It's five guys with one needle and it ain't even dark
The dope, the AIDS, God knows what else
Ah see the brothers share
Do you think God is smilin' or do you even care?

Chorus

So have I made you feel good
Have I made you laugh and dance?
or does the truth cut like a knife
and make you pray for one more chance
To cry aloud and beg the world
To turn back to God's own Son
We'll never have revival until the job is done

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Soul Dope

In 1 Timothy 4:1 the Word says, “*Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils...*”

These are the last days and God's people are under attack as never before. Unleashed against the Body of Christ are the hosts of hell. The enemies of the Church abound. This generation of sinners is more wicked than any before and yet, what is our response? **Where are the men of God?**

Instead of a clarion call for righteousness and holiness the Church is frittering away her last hours in covetousness and

shame. Instead of pronouncing the absolutes of God, apologies are made for the narrowness of His holy demands. Instead of prophets and preachers proclaiming the truth, today they are pushing soul dope from the pulpits of America. Pretending to have vision, they are building their own empires on the backs of God's precious people. Rather than blasting satan and sin, they are pretending to believe that everything is OK while the whole Church is reeling around them. Settling for a form of godliness they are denying the power thereof. Week after week a placebo of words is administered to people starving for the power and presence of God. Paul, Peter, John and Jude all warned that a day would come when damnable heresies would creep into the Church. That day is here! That time is now! **Soul dope is damning America.**

This particular brand of soul dope is worse than any the world has ever seen. Why? Because there's just enough truth mixed with it to make it somewhat palatable and easy to swallow. A half-truth is a no good lie. It is more despicable than any other simply because it is so deceiving. Satan is a master-brewer of this blend and is serving it up in a frenzy. In fact, there's just enough truth in this mess to essentially vaccinate the masses from the power of the Gospel.

Hear me! Like all dope, soul dope is addictive. It gives a false sense of satisfaction and leaves you with a craving for more. Unfortunately, the poor addict loses track of reality and sacrifices his all for another dose, in this case, **even his own soul!**

What are some of the tenets of soul dope? One of the primary doses of delusion is humanism in the Church. Some of the “angels of light” are quick to point the finger at “secular humanism” in the schools and its disastrous effects on the welfare of our nation but from the same pulpit they preach a gospel that gives the primary position to man. They would make man the center instead of God. Week after week they propound that God is here to make you happy. God is here to help you – to fix you – to please you – to make you succeed – to do any thing you want Him to. One can see, the You continues to get bigger and bigger and God's desires are dwarfed by our own. God loves us and He wants to bless us but the truth is, God is God! He created us. He is not here to please you. You are here to please Him! **Christ suffered, died and rose again to make you Holy not happy!**

Consistently Christians complain about their circumstances and in this generation they even have the audacity to be angry with God and then dare to tell it – preach it

and even laugh about it! God have mercy! Who do we think we are? **God is not on trial!** His behavior is not in question. The question is – Are you making God happy? Are you pleasing Him?

Along the same line, because of the false sense of man's position, faith formulae have been twisted in the mouths of the proud to try to coerce God into some kind of behavior all in the Name of Jesus! Again, God have mercy on us for such presumption and pride!

Another tenet of soul dope is rationalism. Rationalism is the theory that man's reason provides the only valid basis for action or belief and that reason is the prime source of knowledge and spiritual truth. This too exalts man's centrality and is so prevalent it must be examined on its own.

It is the oldest of satan's tricks. It was first seen in the garden of Eden. There, satan approached Eve and dared to question the Word of God. "Hath God said?" In our generation preachers preach this sermon for satan themselves! First a man claims to be a defender of the faith. He claims to believe every word of the Bible from cover to cover and then week after week instead of agreeing with the Word, he assails it and its validity for today. Instead of being faithful to Jesus, he defends the doctrines given to him in some seminary all at the expense of Christ. He toys

with the words of Jesus always redefining them – diluting Christ's holy demands. Being born-again becomes a state of mind rather than a radical experience with Almighty God. Men are taught that they are saved by their church preference rather than their relationship to Christ Jesus. They are taught that they can go to heaven by accepting Jesus as their saviour yet never making Jesus Christ their Lord. It's soul dope! Even Jesus' promises are “dispensationalized” away from today. “The early Church needed signs and wonders to convince the heathen but we don't.” So goes the argument for why Jesus Christ is **not** the same yesterday, today and forever! (Heb 13:8) It's blasphemous! How dare they sit in judgement on Jesus' words! If Jesus' words offend your doctrine, change your doctrine not the Bible! Across this nation, denominations are picking and choosing what they want to believe and that which they don't want, they simply de-emphasize into oblivion. This includes even the nondenominational denomination called the Word movement.

A case in point is the doctrine of Hell. As I cross this nation with the Gospel, in church after church I find the children of God, some in their 40's who have never heard one sermon on the reality of Hell. Jesus told us more about it than anyone else.

Why now is it ignored? Jesus thought it was important enough to speak on numerous times, but then He wasn't afraid of being accused of trying to “scare people out of hell” and He also wasn't worried about the offering. Instead it broke His heart that men because of their foolishness and pride were dancing on the edge of Hell itself. **As He loved them so He warned them!** Would to God that preachers would follow His example!

Nowadays if a man preaches against sin and begs men to repent, he is slandered for being too hard and branded a “sheep beater”. Is a man your enemy because he tells you the truth? (Gal. 4:16) Read Matthew 23. Jesus would be censored in our day for such an assault!

Professing ourselves to be wise we have become fools. How dare we challenge the Word of God! Leave that to the infidels. Leave it to the God-hating atheists. Don't be seduced by the spirit of rationalism. Let God be true and every man a liar (Rom. 3:4).

Time and space in this article will not permit analysis of many of the other tenets of soul dope. Let it suffice to say that every word, every deed, every thought and motive should be subjected to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Soul dope is dangerous. It is seductive.

It is a killer and it is damning millions! Soul dope has cut the very heart out of the message of Jesus Christ. It is “another gospel”. It is powerless to change men's lives. Rather than experiencing the new birth, men now “turn over a new leaf”. Instead of regeneration we have reformation. How can we be content with such compromise? Are we unaware that our God is a consuming fire (Heb. 12:29)? **What will we say at the Judgement Seat of Christ?**

Soul dope, just like narcotics, leaves the users unproductive. Week after week the Church awaits her fix content to sing and dance in a sanctuary somewhere while the rest of the world goes up in flames. **The Church has been drugged!** How else can you explain her barrenness? The great commission unfulfilled? The lost still untold? How can we explain this to Jesus?

In Jesus' name shake yourself – embrace the truth and do what Jesus has commanded. Don't wait another day. Forsake this soul dope. Repent if you've preached it. Repent if you've taught it. Repent if you've gotten “high” on it and have missed God. There is mercy with the Lord. Truth is the antidote for soul dope. Truth sets us free. Be free and allow the Spirit of the Lord to use you to end the captivity for others.

Last Days Blues

by Kim Josephson

Priest and the harlot all dressed in red
Blood of the babies on somebody's head
Like lambs to the slaughter these innocent beasts,
They got in the way now there's blood on the sheets.
These are the last days blues.

Prophets on pillows cushions of ease
They don't say nothin' that ain't aimed to please
They fill their pockets they feed the disease
They ain't got no time for no time on their knees.
These are the last days blues.

Chorus

Famines and earthquakes and rumors of war.
Plague in the daily news
What it all means
the preachers ain't got a clue. Do you?
These are the last days blues.

They got time to spare in their luxury
They got places to go, they got people to see
And the temples they build
They build them Holy Ghost proof
They don't want nothin' from the Spirit of Truth.
These are the last days blues.

Don't ask no questions if you don't want no lies
There ain't no reasons just cheap alibis
And cover your ears if you can't stand the cries
If you can't take sorrow better just close your eyes.
These are the last days blues.

Chorus

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What Will We Say?

Ps. 142:4 *...no one would know me,
refuge failed me, no man cared for my soul.*

This is undoubtedly the most wicked generation in the history of the world. In spite of all the boasting to the contrary, there is less regard for God and His Word, human life and its sanctity, authority and any kind of decency than ever before. We are a sin-sick generation in a sin-sick world. But that's nothing new. It's always been like that and we must not allow that to cause us to despair.

When the first Christians took on the task of evangelizing the world, they were not desperate but determined. They were deter-

mined to be gamblers for God. They took chances. They dared to be different. They risked their lives for the souls of men. They understood and believed that there was no other way, but Jesus' way. So in response to their generation's lust and greed and indifference, **they spoke for the souls of men.** With tears and prayers they wished themselves accursed so others could know Jesus (Rom. 9). They sacrificed and gave and gave and sacrificed without thinking of personal loss but instead accounting it all as kingdom gain or laying up treasures in heaven. They traveled miles on foot, spoke in the streets, slept outdoors. They went without food, without comfort, without rest. They were persecuted for their faith, imprisoned, tortured, even fed to lions but though the world hated them, it had to take note that they had been with Jesus.

Through the centuries men with like faith and character have stepped out of the shadows and into the battle. They have always been hated and maligned, but somehow that vision of the holiness of God and the desperateness of men has kept them going through the fire. Men like Luther and Knox, Whitefield and Wesley, C.T. Studd and David Livingstone, Finney and Moody and a host of others have met their generation's need with the soul saving simplicity of Jesus

Christ. Undaunted by adversity they took their message to the uttermost. Gen. William Booth instructed his soldiers to “Go for the sinners and go for the worst”, and go they did – to every continent, to every land, men of God with a burden for lost souls dedicated their lives to Christ's cause – seeking to save those who are lost.

Unfortunately, though the need is the same and though the answer is the same, our generation has **not** responded in like manner. Honestly, we have lost the vision of the holiness of God and consequently we have lost the reality of the desperateness of lost men. Our generation's meditation is primarily on the goodness of God. This is constantly preached upon in terms of temporal blessing (prosperity, self-esteem, health, positive mental attitudes, etc.). Consequently the real need of man is trivialized. **What man really needs is a savior.** He needs to be saved from sin. He needs to be saved from its power – its hold. He needs to be delivered from its punishment – the fruit of all kinds of wickedness in this life and eternal hell in the next. And he needs to be saved from its presence – to walk in divine life and blessing.

This generation of Christians is turned inward. Do we really believe that men without Jesus are going to go to hell for **eternity**? Do we believe that they will fall

into that bottomless pit and burn forever and ever and ever? If we do, our actions don't show it. We have ceaseless energy when it comes to making money, playing with our friends, going to church and everything else but no energy for soul winning. We can pray in tongues, holler at the devil and everything else but there aren't too many tears over lost souls, and even less real witnessing. I know that if you pray over your food, have a Bible at work and a bumper sticker on your car, you're a spiritual giant at your office but let's get real. Even in prayer we spend more time crying over our own woes and worries than we do over the lostness of even those most dear to us – much less the heathen. Can you imagine, we work, we go to church, we watch TV, read our Bible and pray a little – all for ourselves – **What will we say at the judgement seat of Christ?** Others hazarded their lives to take men salvation – we give in the missionary offering. What will we say? Will we tell God that we didn't know our friends were dying without Christ? Will we tell Him we didn't know that there were millions of untold lost people in our own generation? Will we say that we weren't called? That we were too busy? That we really wanted to but...?

But what? The truth might be appropriate. We could admit that we cared more

about money or pleasure or family or friends. We could admit that we were embarrassed or ashamed and didn't want to bear the reproach of being a Christian, or even worse – a fanatic. We might say that we just didn't know how to lead someone to Christ and never found it important enough to learn how. We might blame our leaders and say that because they were never involved in any personal soul work we couldn't be bothered with it either. We might continue to blame the Holy Spirit and say that He just never gave us an opportunity – we never felt led. But standing there next to Paul or Moody or Finney or Wesley that might get a good laugh or even worse a tearful, tearful lament – **more like a groan that the blood of Christ meant so little - that a generation danced and played while hell enlarged her mouth to consume its prey (Is. 5:14).** Maybe every angel will hang its head and weep and all heaven will ache like a mother who has lost her child over the thousands of souls that were sacrificed to the Beast because **we just didn't care - we just couldn't be bothered.**

We have our programs, our ritual and our religion – it's as slick as it comes. What is supposed to be a relationship on fire with love reaching out to touch every life around it has been reduced to a self serving cozy

glow that basks in its own self righteousness. I'm not trying to hurt your feelings, but **this herd-like do-nothingism is not what Christ died for.** It is not as He planned. In fact it is a wicked deceiving replacement agenda against all that He planned and demonstrated.

It is **not** His will for us to dote upon ourselves. It is **not** His will for us to seek more and more and more for ourselves and to hand out a few leftovers to the others. It is **not** His will for us to leave the job to preachers who are often as guilty as anybody in their neglect of personal soul work. God forbid that we should stay the same any longer. In Jesus name shake off this sloth and **COME ALIVE!** Hell is no joke. The judgement seat of Christ is no joke. The hurting cries of this generation are no joke. The loneliness, the emptiness, the desperation, the lostness – What will we say? **What will we say?**

The Reason

by Kim Josephson

Everywhere I go I see a certain kind of sadness
So many lonely people and so many lonely eyes
Eking out a living in their quiet desperation
So many lonely people who just live a life of lies.

Chorus

It's the kind of thing that puts you on your knees
Thanking the Savior by the grace of God
you've seen the light and held on to the Truth,

The city man created is a sea of desolation
People wander aimlessly not knowing what to do
It's a system man created where man becomes the loser
People grasp at anything
they think they can hold on to.

Chorus

So what is it then that blinds us
To the quiet plight of others?
What is it then that makes us hoard
this gift of God alone?
As we stagnate in our silence
To the dying world around us
And we hold the Truth unrighteously
as if we'd never known.

It's the kind of thing that puts you on your knees
begging the Savior to forgive you for your sinfulness
and forgive you for your pride
It's the kind of thing that puts you on your knees
begging the Savior
And reminds you of your own sin
The reason
That He died.

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The Great White Throne Judgement

And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:11-15

What If?

What if it's true? What if there really is a hell?¹ What if there really is a place of eternal torment?² What if the fires of that place are not figurative but are literal flames³ that actually burn and torture everyone in them?⁴ What if there really is a lake of fire and brimstone?² What if it's a place of eternal darkness⁵ where you fall forever and ever in a bottomless pit?⁶ What if as you are totally cut off from God⁷ you are totally cut off from every other human form? What if you are lost forever, burning in physical torment but also burning in lusts that will never be satisfied?³

What if the day comes when the Son of God takes His place on a great white

throne and sits in judgement on every individual that has ever lived?^{8,9} What if He separates the sheep from the goats? – His friends on the right and the hypocrites on the left?¹⁰ What if He actually condemns all those on His left to the hell fire prepared for the devil and the fallen angels who dared to defy God?¹¹ What if this place is a place where the only sound you hear is weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth?¹² What if there is nothing that can stop the eternal roar of the screams? What if it really is **everlasting** fire?¹³ What if that fact alone is the greatest torment of all?

What if it's true that your memory will be keener than at any time on this earth?³ What if for time and eternity you remember every time the Holy Spirit begged you to repent¹⁴ and you loathe yourself for rejecting Him?

What if in this place you realize that you were ashamed to say yes to God because you were afraid of what your friends would think?¹⁵ What do you think you will think of those friends then? While you grieved away the Spirit of God¹⁶ to appease your pride, how will you stop the hellish ringing in your ears that cries “You fool – you fool – you fool.” You won't be remembering the good times you had in sin. No sir, part of your hell will be remembering how you couldn't be

bothered with Jesus, how you had no time for God on earth¹⁷ – but now you have time. You have eternity and now when God won't hear¹⁸ – all you do is pray – “Oh God – Oh God – Oh God have mercy.” But He doesn't hear and He won't have mercy?¹⁹ Your every thought will be on how you rejected the mercy of God.²⁰ Your every remembrance will be of those who wept over your soul – that mother who prayed for you – that friend, that son, that daughter who begged you to repent and surrender to Christ but you would not! You'll remember every detour that God put up on your road to hell and how you kept on running through the roadblocks to your own destruction. You'll remember laughing with your friends at the things of God²¹ and then you'll curse yourself and them because of what has happened to you.

You'll remember how you drank what you pleased – when you pleased but now you'll beg for just one drop of water to quench your burning tongue³ but you'll never know a moments reprieve. Every blasphemous utterance that ever came out of your mouth will haunt you now – those jokes about seeing all your friends in hell and having a big party will make you loathe yourself and your friends for the sheer stupidity of it.²¹ **There will be no music – no rock and roll – no friends – no party – only**

weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth.

What if it's true? What if now you are in a place that God has ordained for the refuse of His universe?⁴ What if you're there and you thought you'd be in heaven?²² What if you allowed some preacher to soft pedal God's truths²³ and somehow you didn't take care of your own salvation?²⁴ What if some denomination taught you that if you just went to church and took communion you'd be OK?²⁵ What if you bought into the humanistic lie that said "I'm OK and you're OK" when really neither one of us was OK²⁶ and what we both desperately needed was a Savior?²⁷ What if you simply didn't believe what Jesus said²² and you actually thought that you could get to heaven by being "good" or just some other way than what He said? Do you think it will make the flames cooler?

What if it's true? What if Jesus really meant it when He said "Not everyone who sayeth unto me Lord Lord shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father"?²² What if it's not a matter of a prayer that accepts "Jesus Christ as your personal savior" but it actually requires a bowing of your knee to Jesus Christ as your Lord? What if you really have to take up your cross and follow Him?²⁸ What if you have to repent of your sins²⁹ and follow Jesus³⁰ with your whole heart, mind, soul and strength?³¹

What if you must be born again by the Spirit of God?³² What if you actually have to abdicate the throne of your heart and give the kingship of your life to Jesus?³³ What if you couldn't be ashamed of Jesus and make heaven your eternal home?³⁴

Well, the fact is that's the way it is. Many are deceived because in our generation preachers have twisted the scriptures to accommodate their denominational doctrines. Today preachers preach what people want to hear.³⁵ But that's not what Jesus did. He is the one who told us about an eternal fiery hell and He also told us how to avoid it. It seems to me that nothing would be more important than missing such a place and taking as many as we can out of it too! In fact, such truth should rally the Church into action as never before. We should herald the truth unceasingly and pray for a mighty move of the Spirit to turn men's hearts from sin to the Savior. But instead, I'm afraid these truths have been so long neglected and so watered down that many have been deceived and will be eternally damned because they believed not what Jesus actually said but what somebody said He said.³⁶

Is Jesus Christ your Lord? Have you surrendered your life to Him? Do you consistently say no to your will when it conflicts with the Word of God? Are you saying yes to

God and no to your lusts, not only with your mouth but with your actions? Have you turned from sin? Are you following Jesus? If not then in Jesus' name don't pretend to think you're saved.³⁷ If you are your own Lord – your own King – your own Boss, then Jesus is not your Lord nor your Savior and you will be damned.³³ Let no man deceive you. If you do not repent and surrender to Jesus you will split hell wide open. In Jesus' name repent and surrender now. Stop reading and beg for the mercy of God this instant.

Now, you say you've made Jesus your Master – then act like it.³⁸ You know that everything I've written in this article is the truth, so stop messing around and begin to do the job Christ gave us to do. Reach the unreached. Tell the untold. Don't send money to get the job done. Do your job!!! **Warn the wicked of the wrath to come.**³⁹ Jesus said go and tell every creature.⁴⁰ So you go and you tell! Simple isn't it! – no excuses – Just do it!

Biblical Light on Hell and Judgement

All scripture is printed in the King James Version

1 Matthew 10:28

And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

2 Revelation 14:10, 11

10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

3 Luke 16:24,25

24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

4 Matthew 13:41,42

41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

5 Matthew 25:30

And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

6 Revelation 9:2

And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.

7 Matthew 7:23

And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

8 Revelation 20:11

And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

9 Ecclesiastes 12:14

For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

10 Matthew 25:32, 33

32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

11 Matthew 25:41

Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

12 Matthew 13:50

And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

13 Mark 9:45

And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

14 Revelation 3:19, 20

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

15 Matthew 10:33

But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

16 Genesis 6:3

And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

17 Proverbs 1:24

Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;

18 Proverbs 1:28

Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:

19 Proverbs 1:26

I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;

20 Romans 2:4

4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

5 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest

up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;
6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

21 Proverbs 14:9

Fools make a mock at sin: but among the righteous there is favour.

22 Matthew 7:21

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

23 Jeremiah 6:14

They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.

24 Philippians 2:12

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling

25 Luke 13:25-28

25 When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are:

26 Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets.

27 But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity.

28 There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.

- 26 **Psalms 14:3**
They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.
- 27 **Romans 3:23**
For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
- 28 **Luke 14:27**
And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.
- 29 **Luke 13:3**
I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.
- 30 **Mark 8:34**
And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.
- 31 **Mark 12:30**
And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.
- 32 **John 3:7**
Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.
- 33 **Luke 6:46**
And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?
- 34 **Mark 8:38**
Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

- 35 **2 Timothy 4:3**
For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;
- 36 **Jeremiah 23:22**
But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings.
- 37 **1 Corinthians 6:9,10**
9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,
10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.
- 38 **1 John 2:6**
He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.
- 39 **Matthew 3:7**
But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?
- 40 **Mark 16:15**
And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Open My Eyes

by Kim Josephson

There are times I love to sing
love songs to my coming King but
There are times that I begin to cry when
I hold back and don't give everything

There are those who need to hear
these are those who've never heard
There are those alone who've never known
the joy of Jesus and His Word

Chorus

Open my eyes and let me see
the world as you see it Lord
Open my heart and let me start to care
Oh Lord I've taken so much
really given nothing
Now let me learn to share

There are prayers I need to pray
to keep me closer in your way
There's your Word to read
Your voice to heed
Your Spirit's whisper everyday

There's a life I need to live
There's a love I need to give
It's a life where I must learn to die
so Jesus Christ in me can live

Open my eyes and let me see
The world as you see it Lord
Open my heart and let me start to care
Oh Lord I've taken so much
really given nothing
Now let me learn to share

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Denunciation of Lying Prophets

Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Hearken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the LORD.

They say still unto them that despise me, The LORD hath said, Ye shall have peace; and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you.

I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran: I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied.

But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings.

Jeremiah 23:16-17,21-22

I Call it Heresy!

Revelation 3:

14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

These scriptures were spoken by the resurrected Lord to the New Testament Church. They are not isolated. In fact, there are seven letters to seven different congregations in the second and third chapter of Revelations. In five of the seven letters **Jesus rebukes and corrects His Church!** What church is this? It is the Church. It is the body of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is His bride. They are the blood bought believers – the born again Sons of God. They heal the sick, cast out devils, speak in tongues, preach the gospel and go everywhere full of the Holy Ghost.

I list all those wonderful attributes of the Church so that we will come to the realization that their church was not so very different from our own (unless you say theirs was more alive). And yet Jesus thought they needed correction. **Jesus scolded them for lukewarmness.** He challenged their self-satisfaction and threw the hammer of His Word at the heart of their conceit. Jesus was obviously not aware that sin was no longer a problem in the Church. He was evidently not aware that His blood had so eradicated the

sin problem that it no longer needed to be mentioned in the Church. He didn't realize that it would only produce a sin consciousness that would be detrimental to ones advancement in the faith. **I guess He forgot that when He looks at the Church He's only supposed to see the blood!** Poor Jesus had not been taught that people needed only to be shown their position in Christ and their rights as believers. Poor Jesus came from that Old Testament School and had never been taught that negative teaching like this only disheartened the people and would probably only make the offerings and attendance lower. Poor Jesus didn't realize that beating the sheep like this, that is, pointing out the sin of a congregation and commanding repentance would only encourage more rebellion and hostility to the gospel. Poor Jesus didn't know that these poor suffering young Christians knew what their problems were. They didn't need to hear that they were falling short of their calling and were disappointing God. They didn't need this condemnation junk. After all, what about their self image? Doesn't gospel mean good news? All they needed was a word of encouragement from Him. All they needed was a compassionate touch from the wounded healer himself. Poor Jesus just doesn't seem to understand. He just doesn't have a pastor's heart. Poor Jesus. Poor, poor, Jesus.

I CALL IT HERESY, yet this is the drivel that is going forth today. I know I am writing with a sharp tongue, but I cannot do otherwise. I cry

for the glory of God. I cry for honesty in the pulpits and pray for the truth to break forth and heal the land but instead it's getting worse and worse.

Where are the men of God who cry against sin in this generation? Where are the men of God who care more about the honor of God than honor from men? Where are the men of God who will cry aloud and spare not and show my people their sin? (Is. 58:1)

Jesus said "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent." Yet in our day there is no correction, no repentance and no place for it in the Church. The crying shame of it all is now, the young ministers are taught just exactly the opposite. **They are given the wine of success and acceptance to drink and commanded to prophesy not.** (Amos 2:12)

The Word of God says in Jeremiah 23:22 "But if they (the prophets) had stood in my counsel and caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings." Jesus was faithful to this instruction before, **and** after his resurrection, likewise Peter, James, John, Paul and all the other apostles. The great soul winners of days gone by like Whitefield, Wesley, Finney and Sunday followed suit, but not so today.

God forbid that a prophecy or a message in tongues with interpretation or even a sermon should be so negative as to be against sin. In our day, it is called beating the sheep. Young minis-

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ters are told “Don't warn the wicked of the wrath to come. Don't talk about hell fire and damnation. Don't talk about the righteous demands of a Holy God.” These subjects are on the “Ten Least Wanted List” of the Church and God help the preacher who dares to touch them!

Again, **I CALL IT HERESY!** Heresy comes from a Greek word that means to choose. When one chooses only a part of the truth and holds only to that part, he is in danger of being a heretic. Truth pushed to the extreme is error and error that becomes foundation for other doctrine is heresy.

One great piece of truth that is often misused and pushed to the extreme is “God is Love” (I Jn. 4:8) In our generation men think that God is so loving that He would never send anyone to hell. Yet in Matt 25 when Jesus speaks of the judgement, vs. 41 says “Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels” It goes on to say that these people protest but it does not change the outcome. Vs. 46 concludes “And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal” Is God Love? Of course He is. That is His essence, but He is also righteous. He makes holy demands that must be met. “For our God is a consuming fire.” (Heb. 12:29) “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” (Heb. 10:31)

The simple rule of interpreting scripture is

this: All scripture must be interpreted in the light of all other scripture. Unfortunately, in an effort to remain positive, anything negative or unpopular is being dismissed wholesale. The balance of the Word is being abandoned to accommodate the current trends. Preachers are actually standing in their pulpits and saying "Don't preach on hell fire and damnation. Nobody needs to hear that stuff." Yet Jesus preached more about hell than anyone in the Bible. **Is Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever or not?** (Heb 13:8) Preachers want the power but won't preach like He preached.

Is it any wonder things are going absolutely wild? Sexual immorality is statistically the same among "Christian" young people as among non-Christians. One out of two marriages ends in divorce in or out of the Church. In our generation "sipping saints" are everywhere boasting of their liberty and damning multitudes of their weaker brothers in the process. Come on! How many "Christians" are addicted to alcohol, movies, soap operas, sex, sports or something else? **Where are men and women addicted to Jesus? Addicted to pleasing Him? Addicted to serving one another?**

II Timothy 3:1-5 says *"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false*

accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.” Obviously that time is now! It would seem that the Church would come out from among such junk and be separate. **Who could believe that instead of heralding holiness in the wicked day in which we live, preachers would cry “Peace, peace.”?** (Jer. 6:14)

Plain and simple, it is the result of damnable heresies slipping into the Church. Men who should know better will not receive correction and consequently multitudes will be deceived. As tough as this article is, I must tell you that I write it with a broken heart, a heart broken for the honor of God, a heart broken for Jesus' words which are being ignored and a heart broken for the multitudes whose eternal destinies hang in the balance. Jesus said “As many as I love I rebuke and chasten, be zealous therefore and repent.” (Rev. 3:19) The fact that we can repent is wonderful good news. If you've been guilty of embracing only the parts of the gospel that you like - if you've been deceived by the “new doctrines” that are being peddled as truth then simply repent. **Go back to your first love!** Take His correction and embrace your Lord. Pray that He will teach you the fear of the Lord and that He will keep you from offending Him. I've loved you enough to tell you the truth. I pray that you will receive it and let it prosper your soul.

All My Heart

by Kim Josephson

Jesus, I feel smaller than
I've ever felt before
Lord, I'm hurtin' from the bottom of my soul
I have lived for me alone
and now it's gotten old
Lord, I want your Holy Spirit in control

Chorus

All my heart
All my soul
Lord, I give it all to you
Jesus Blessed Lord,
Let me know what you'd have me to do

To dwell in darkness
even after tasting of your grace
Lord, to see the tears come
streaming down your face
I did the things I wanted to
I gave the world a chase
O, I'm sorry Lord
I know it's not my place

Chorus

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The Heart of Jesus

When Jesus Christ called the apostles, He gave them one promise. He said, “Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.”(Mark 1:17) He did not promise them silver or gold, prestige, health, miracle working power or anything else. He called them to become fishers of men and they responded by leaving their nets and following Him. As they walked with Jesus they learned to heal the sick, to cast out devils, to use their faith and go on with God, but more than anything else they learned the heart of Jesus.

The heart of Jesus was to do the will of the Father. Over and over Jesus told the

disciples that what He saw the Father do, that He did and what He heard the Father say, that He said. His Father had sent Him to redeem man. Where the first Adam had sold us into the slavery of sin and death, Jesus – the last Adam was sent to redeem us (buy us back) from this curse and to destroy the works of the devil (I Jn.3:8).

Everything Jesus did demonstrated the will of God. After years of confusion about what God was really like, Jesus showed us the Father (Jn. 14:9). Every time He healed the sick He showed us the Father's compassion for those suffering and in need of help. Every time He cast out a devil, He declared God's will for our deliverance. When He fed the multitudes He taught us how God wanted to bless us and provide for our daily needs. What a good God we serve! What a loving Father!!

But Jesus, in spite of all His wonders, in spite of all the joy of opening blind eyes, unstopping deaf ears, and even raising the dead, marched on to Calvary. It was God's will for Him to suffer and die that the price for everyman's soul would be paid in full. Though He was anointed with the oil of gladness above His fellows (Heb. 1:9), this is what made Jesus the man of sorrows. THE CROSS! The disciples could not understand this. They were excited by the power they

possessed, they were thrilled with the idea of reigning with Jesus – they were ready and willing for anything but the cross! They even rebuked Jesus for talking about it, but this was the will of God.

Jesus had come to seek and to save those who were lost and the only way to do this was by the cross. Jesus Christ is the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world. His death, even the wicked Roman crucifixion was prophesied thousands of years before it existed (Zech. 12:10; Ps. 22). Again, what a mighty God we serve.

So Jesus came, lived, died, and rose again conquering death, hell and the grave, all to accomplish the will of God. And then what did He do? He came to the disciples and He gave them a command. He said “Go ye therefore into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved and he that believeth not shall be damned.” (Mk. 16:15) **It's not a suggestion it's a command!** But Jesus didn't stop there, He said “And these signs shall follow them that believe. In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover.” (Mk 16:17-18). Jesus Christ did not change. Before the

cross His purpose was the redemption of man and now at His ascension it was the same. He commanded that the Gospel should be carried into all the world, and then praise God, the disciples obeyed. They waited till they were endued with power from on high and then “they went forth and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the Word with signs following.” (Mark 16:20)

Why? Because they learned the heart of Jesus. They began to love like He loved. They were moved with compassion like He was moved with compassion. They were zealous to do the will of the Father. **They understood now that the souls of men were the only thing of value to God.** It had cost God the ultimate sacrifice and they honored the blood of Jesus by sharing the Good News.

They went everywhere preaching the gospel. They weren't detoured by petty differences in doctrine. They weren't detoured by Caesar and his laws. They heard the command of their King and were determined to obey.

One tiny group of men against the military might of Rome – against the intellectualism of the Greeks – against the religious system of the Jews. But these men were baptized with the Holy Ghost. They were fire-

brands in the hands of God. They could not be silenced. Miraculously they multiplied. Thousands were saved on the day of Pentecost and then God added to the Church daily.

The authorities imprisoned them, beat them, stoned them to death, did every wicked thing against them but the Church marched on! She thrived under persecution. And what did God do? Why, He did what He said He'd do! He went where they went. He sent earthquakes and shook them out of prison. He sent angelic escorts to walk them out of jail. He confirmed the Word with signs following. He healed the sick. He cast out devils and caused them to conquer in the name of Jesus.

If only we would become “fishers of men”. If only this could again become the priority of the Church. In the early days of the Church, if one wanted to see the Church in action they looked in the street or in the homes of Christians. Today however, 99% of Christian activity is spent inside a sanctuary somewhere. Whether we want to admit it or not, 90% of the sinners will not come to any church no matter how beautiful the facilities or the program. If they will ever be reached, they will be reached where they live and work. So, what holds us back from the will of God? What is it that shuts our mouths and

causes us to be silent to the world around us? What has blinded us to the desperate peril of the lost? What has caused our carelessness for men souls? Is it cowardice or preoccupation? **It appears that what law and persecution and even death could not do in the first century has been accomplished by comfort, criticism and controversy in the twentieth! God have mercy on us!**

T.L. Osborn says, "The Church today sits comfortably within her sanctuary walls, pretending to care about sinners by praying for them and by inviting them to come into the church to be saved, while actually remaining out of contact with the lost." This must not be. We must repent. **While we're enjoying church, the rest of the world is rushing into hell.** How can we pretend to be doing the will of God when 90% of the Christians never speak to anyone about their soul. Are we ever learning and never coming to the knowledge of the truth? (II Tim. 3:7) Are we so busy with the programs in our church, that we don't have time for God's program for evangelizing the lost?

Some tell me that they are not called to evangelize but **God commands us all to evangelize.** The job is simply reaching the lost with the gospel. It's not the job of some special task force of ministers. It is the responsibility of every believer to carry the

gospel into his or her world. Your world is where you are commanded to witness. It may be in the halls of your school. It may be in a machine shop – the office where you work or even an oil field. Blessed be God, it's wherever He's put you. Open your mouth for Jesus Christ. If all you can say is “Jesus is Lord come and worship Him with me,” then say it and say it and say it. I believe if you'll dare to take that first step of faith, God will meet you wherever you are and help you. He loves you so much. He has blessed you more than you can tell but just tell it! Tell how one day you were lost but Jesus spoke to your heart and saved your soul. Praise God you'll find people hungry to hear about Jesus. You might be the only Christian in their lives.

And finally, when you begin to speak the Word and to proclaim the gospel, know that God will confirm the Word with signs following. Today is a day of miracles. God is looking to and fro across the whole earth to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose hearts are perfect toward Him (II Chron. 16:9) **Honor the blood of Jesus!** Honor the Love of God. Obey God and share Jesus with someone today.

Luke 10:27

By Kim Josephson

Jesus spoke and the stormy sea was stilled
Blind or crippled any sickness healed
But when thy asked Him, He readily revealed
What His Father in heaven had willed

Chorus

You should love the Lord your God
With your whole heart and your whole soul
And love your neighbor as yourself
You should love the Lord your God
With your whole mind and your whole strength
And love your neighbor as yourself

Though unworthy that He should die for me
Though not guilty, they nailed Him to the tree
But He is living, the evidence I see
And there's a question He brings to you and me

Will you love the Lord your God
With your whole heart and your whole soul
And love your neighbor as yourself?
Will you love the Lord your God
With your whole mind and your whole strength
And love your neighbor as yourself?

All I am Lord and all I'll ever be
All I have Lord, I give it all to thee
Praise your name Lord, I'm now at last set free
I give to you my Lord, all there is of me.

I will love the Lord my God
With my whole heart and my whole soul
And love my neighbor as myself
I will love the Lord my God
With my whole mind and my whole strength
And love my neighbor as myself

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Not Much Like Jesus

We say we're Christians. By definition it means Christ-like. Do you know many Christ-like people? Are you really Christ-like? Frankly, it's easier for me to be religious than Christ-like. If I fulfill the spiritual demands of my peers, that is, if I look the way they expect me to look – talk the way they expect me to talk – act the way they expect me to act – my Christianity is never really questioned. But I can fulfill all these expectations and come nowhere near being Christ-like! And so can you. That is why the “Christian” religion doesn't look much like Jesus at all.

Jesus is so unlike us. He's not boastful or proud or arrogant. He's not jealous or petty or self-pitying. He's not covetous or selfish or insecure or worrisome. He doesn't

crave attention or fear criticism. Praise never goes to His head and condemnation never seems to touch Him. He never walks around with His feelings hurt. He never blames someone else for His situation. He won't gossip – never lies – never compromises the truth to fit in with the group. Look at Jesus. He's so wonderful – so strong – so forgiving – so supernatural.

Now think about the Church for a minute. The Church is full of so-called Christians. Unfortunately, we're just not much like Jesus. We get our feelings hurt – walk around in unforgiveness – feel sorry for ourselves – blame everybody else for our sins, (I mean mistakes) and everything else. Jealousy, covetousness, lust, fear – all these things abound in the 20th Century Church. We love to gossip. We live in absolute fear of criticism. God forbid someone should think or say something they didn't hear from Tulsa or Springfield or Nashville or some other denominational headquarters first.

We are to be imitators of Christ but I'm afraid all we imitate is each other. God hates the hypocrisy that is inherent in this whole carbon-copy religion. The facets of Jesus are so dazzling, so unique, and so precious that the Church should radiate with diversity and color. And by all means it should be radically alive with the supernatural presence of the Living God. Again, it is a travesty that we continue to maintain the status quo and just have church as usual.

Frankly, I believe if Jesus were walking the streets as He did 2000 years ago, He would blast us for our complacency and our pride. His words would hurl like thunderbolts against the religious spirits that keep the Church turned inward while **letting the whole world go to hell!** I believe He would weep like Jeremiah over the strutting and showmanship of our namby-pamby religious programming. He would condemn our empire building and our worldly-mindedness. Can you imagine what He would say about the begging for money that goes on and on and on? I know He would cry aloud and spare not! (Is. 58:1) What do you think He thinks about today's gospel showbiz? I don't think He's impressed. In fact, so much of it is so unlike Christ that I think it makes Him sick! Jesus is not a sponsor of a show. In fact show has no part in it. Jesus wants reality not show.

Can you imagine? What if at the on-set of some "Christian Broadcast" the Spirit of the Lord just came down on a congregation in such heaviness that no one could sing their song or preach their message? What if a spirit of brokenness just swept over the place and with bitter tears and groaning the Church went to her Master for cleansing and renewal? But it doesn't happen. Why? Because everybody just puts on their little plastic smile and just goes right through the program by the numbers. How the angels must weep – **the world is going to hell and rather than crying for revival, we pretend that**

things just couldn't be better in our program. We've got to keep up that image – look successful – sound positive. What a sham!! It is so unlike Jesus!

Look at Jesus weeping over Jerusalem. Broken-hearted at their lostness He cries out His invitation. Look at Jesus seeking out the lost and going to the unlovely – finding the hurt ones and restoring them. Look at Jesus, never too busy for individuals or children – nothing else mattered. What matters to us – are we Christ-like?

Jesus showed us what to do. Unfortunately we've left His example and joined up to every other kind of thing under the sun – supposedly doing His will. Look at Jesus. He's walking in the Spirit – spending time in prayer – knowing the will of the Father and dedicating Himself to it. Can we do that? Sure we can if we want to. Prayer meetings are a thing of the past but that's only because we've walked away from the godly pattern of our fathers to embrace some worldly junk.

O Church, I'm not trying to condemn you, but to open your eyes. To be a Christian is to be Christ-like. To be Christ-like, we have to look at Jesus. What was He really like? We know. We just need the courage to walk like He walked and to talk like He talked. We need to stop messing around and dedicate ourselves to His example. The bottom-line is, He came to seek and to save those who are lost. It was His mission and His passion. It must become ours.

Jesus Do You Cry?

by Kim Josephson

I will never understand
the reason you love me
Jesus, oh my Jesus
When I look into your eyes my Lord
Your love is all I see
Jesus, oh my Jesus

Jesus I have left you so many times
To live a life in satan's realm of lies
And there is just one question
I would bring to you
Do you Cry? Do you Cry?

Does it make you sad to see me do
The things I often do?
Jesus, oh my Jesus
And then to hear me tell the others
"Oh how I love You"
Jesus, oh my Jesus

Jesus I have left you so many times
To live a life in satan's realm of lies
And there is just one question
I would bring to you
Do you Cry? Do you Cry?

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**If Christ be God and died for me then
no sacrifice can be too great for me to
make for Him.**

C. T. Studd

Love Slaves

When Paul and the apostles introduced themselves in the epistles, they often referred to themselves as servants of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Greek word they chose to describe this was “doulos”. It refers to a special kind of servant. A bond-servant. A servant by choice. A servant because of love. Literally a LOVE-SLAVE.

In the Hebrew economy a man could sell himself into slavery, however, on the seventh year he was to be released. If the slave loved his master he could dedicate himself to his master for life. To do this he would present himself to the priest who would take an awl and pierce the slave's ear, identifying him with his master forever. He was then a bond-slave or love-slave for life. (Ex. 21)

This is how the apostles thought of themselves – as bond-slaves. They chose not to identify themselves as “sons of God” or “special anointed messengers” or anything else. Instead they chose to identify themselves as slaves of Jesus – Slaves of Love.

Theologically it was right on. They were redeemed (bought back) from satan's dominion by the blood of God's only begotten Son. Now they were owned by God. Nothing held back –nothing kept for themselves. They were God's property. They were the **property of Jesus.**

Now to understand the significance of this distinction one must realize that to own Jesus as ones master meant certain persecution which could include imprisonment or even death. This was the reality of a commitment to Christ. It was **not** a “Jesus as my Savior and not my Lord proposition”. Instead, it was totally sold out – dead unto sin and self and alive unto God. It meant a daily experience of taking up ones cross and following the Master – no matter what!

This was not seen as some sort of lofty plateau of Christian specialization – it was “your reasonable service”. (Rom. 12:1) What it cost the disciple was not even considered. What it cost God was the consideration! There was no thought of sacrifice in terms of “giving up” the things of this world – its pleasures and fleshly appetites. The sacrifice was the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. The sacrifice was His precious blood.

How dare one call himself a Christian and be owned by this world! It was inconceivable in the minds of the apostles. They knew that they were not their own. They knew that they were bought with a price – and they lived like it.

Today there is such confusion. The Church hobbles along – unsure – unsteady – tossed to and fro by various “winds of doctrine”. We are crippled by compromise and afraid of absolutes. Consequently we find ourselves moving in hope and calling it faith, living on emotion and calling it anointing.

In a recent newsletter I dared to proclaim that we were not in the midst of a “great revival”. Though there were many who were offended when they first heard these words, in the light of the recent scandals it is easy to see that respect for the ministry is at an all-time low in the USA and around the world. The detractors of the Church are now having a field day as they watch Christians bite and devour one another. Net effect? Jesus' blood is trampled under foot. The Church is divided and the world wags on in its negligence of a Holy God and His demands. This confusion is obviously not revival. But can this confusion come to an end?

Yes, but only if we embrace the commitment of the early Church. Only if we are willing to embrace the cross – where we are crucified unto the world and the world is crucified unto us. (Gal 6:14) Only if we esteem

Jesus and His blood of more worth than all the world. Only if we are willing to become Love Slaves of Jesus. It is time to stop arguing or even agreeing with God about what should be done and to simply go out and do what He said to do in the Name of Jesus. (see Mark 16:15)

Dear Church, don't be afraid to embrace Jesus. Don't be afraid of His Word and its demands. Dare to see yourself as His Love-Slave. Dare to proclaim His Holy Word without regard to any detractor's comments or criticisms. Stand tall as the SLAVE OF JESUS. He is a worthy master. He is a good master. C.T. Studd, missionary pioneer, said it best when he said, **“If Christ be God and died for me then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him”**. In Jesus name turn loose the things of this world and embrace the cross. Ask God to show you the vanity of this world and its pleasures. Ask Him to show you your life in the light of eternity.

Now more than ever the world needs to see the Church sold out to Jesus. They need to see men and women sent from God who are bright and shining lights for their King – men and women who are truly the **Property of Jesus**.

At the judgement seat of Christ there will be no greater honor than to be known as a Love-Slave of Jesus. Nothing else will matter. Oh for the grace to realize this and the heart to accept the challenge of it.

Touch of His Love

By Kim Josephson

I can remember a time in my life
When I always felt so alone
But Jesus you found me
and a new life is mine
And now I am on my way home

Chorus

And I know that I will forever be blessed
In the house of my Father up above
And I know the joy that I'm living in now
Is just a touch of His love.

I can remember a time in my life
When sad was my part in the play
But life is a vapor a velvet curtain call
And I'm just passing through anyway

Chorus

I can remember a time in my life
when pain had parched my heart dry
But Jesus you touched me
just one touch of your hand
Healed my heart and opened my eyes

Chorus

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Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Jesus Christ

One Way Jesus

Jesus Christ said, "*I am the way, the truth and the life, no man cometh unto the father but by me*" (John 14:6). In our day this statement is taken to task by almost everyone. The broad-minded, compassionate, brotherhood of man type thinker challenges Jesus' narrowness. Philosophers balk at the bigotry and uncompromising position of the Messiah! Even the Church which dares not deny it, has in its embarrassment minimized the import of such a statement. Yet, there it stands. "Heaven and earth shall pass away but my Words shall not pass away." (Matt. 24:35) The statement is stark and severe and it must be dealt with. Don't be

deceived by a bunch of rhetoric. The timid will be put off by the so-called implications of these words but listen, Jesus isn't implying anything. He categorically defines the way – the truth – and the life and then promises damnation to anyone who refuses – **no man cometh unto the Father but by me.**

Note the exclusiveness of the definition. Jesus did not say He was a way – or one way of many ways. He did not say He was a truth – or one truth of many truths. Plainly, definitively Jesus says that He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Here, Christianity is loosed from any common ground with man's concept of religion. Jesus gives us no rituals, no forms but instead demands relationship. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and if that will be effectual for our salvation, it will be by the grace of God through faith in Him.

But Brother Kim, what about the millions of good people – the Hindus – the Buddhists – whatever? Jesus plainly says there is no other way but Himself. I will not challenge the Son of God. I will not argue with the Risen Lord – the soon coming King of Kings. Jesus did not lie. He is the Truth. He loved us enough to tell us the truth.

But agreeing with the truth is not enough. We must act on what we know. Jesus has spoken – we must act. **How can**

we be silent when the world all around us is damned? If Jesus had never commanded us to witness, the knowledge of this one fact would make us responsible for the souls of others. C.T. Studd said, **“We call ourselves the soldiers of Christ, the Army of the Lord, while millions die having never heard the name of Jesus – I wonder what the angels call us?”** The knowledge of this one fact should launch a thousand ships to the mission fields. It should send Christians through their neighborhoods in every city and town. It should break every heart in every church and a river of tears should flow for the souls of the lost. **How will they know if you don't tell them?** How can we live as if Christ were an option? In Jesus' name we must tell them!

It's Over

By Kim Josephson

You were puttin' on a real good show
When He finally got to town
You should have won you an Academy Award
But Jesus left you standing on the ground

Do you think it's over? Do you think it's over?
I'm afraid it's over. It's all over.

You read your Bible and
You said your prayers at church
You even had a favorite place to sit
A real leader among your family and your friends
But in your heart – you were just a hypocrite.

Do you think it's over? Do you think it's over?
I'm afraid it's over. It's all over.

You wouldn't listen to the warning of the Spirit
You thought it best to have your way
You knew the truth
but you just couldn't stand to hear it
And now just look at the price you're gonna' pay

Because it's over. Don't you know it's over?
I'm afraid it's over. It's all over.

You'd like to tell yourself that everything's OK
It couldn't end up just like this
I wonder if the feeling that you're feeling deep inside
Is like Judas when he gave the Lord that kiss?

Because it's over. Don't you know it's over?
I'm afraid it's over. It's all over.

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What's Wrong with the Jesus of the Bible?

“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous, And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets. Wherefore ye be witnesses unto your-

selves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets. Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers. Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?" (Matt. 23:27-33)

The first time you read these words, you think surely they must be from one of the Old Testament prophets, but this is not the case. They are words in red in my Bible. They are from the mouth of "gentle Jesus – meek and mild". They, like all the words in the chapter beginning with verse 2 rail in judgement against the excesses of the religious system. In our generation we know nothing of this Jesus. Most of us are biblically ignorant of this chapter and others like it.

In John chapter 2, when Jesus went up to the temple and found it full of oxen, sheep, doves, and money changers, the Bible says he went out, and made a scourge of small cords, came back to the temple and drove out all the animals and the money changers, overturning their tables and denouncing them for their despicable behavior. Do we know this Jesus, or are we dismayed at His intolerance? Does this Jesus make you uncomfortable? Do you feel like you need to apologize for Him or at least explain such an outburst?

We do not know this Jesus who upbraids the cities wherein most of His

mighty works were done because they repented not (Matt. 11:20). We do not know Him because He has been stolen away from the Church! It was said of Him “The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up” (Jn. 2:17) and yet we know little of this heart.

Today, we are given a different Jesus. We are given a Jesus who never gets angry. We are given a Jesus who never speaks out of turn. We are given a Jesus who never bucks any authority. We are only given “gentle Jesus – meek and mild”. Unfortunately, this is **not** the Jesus of the Bible. Though Jesus came not to condemn the world, there was nothing but condemnation to those who dared not repent. Read it, “Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgement than for you. And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgement, than for thee.” (Matt. 11:21-24) Is this not Jesus

doing just as He commanded in Matt. 10:14 – shaking off the dust of the city as a testimony against it? We don't know this Jesus. Has anyone ever seen the men of God shake the dust off their feet against a wicked city? I've never seen it. Jesus intended for us to command men to repent, and then run to the next city or town with the Good News. He never intended for men to “vex their righteous souls daily” in the midst of some Sodom. It only led to compromise in Lot's life and it has done the same in the life of the Church ever since. **We are forever building new works among the scoffers while millions die having never heard the Good News even once!**

Today, the churches long to hear more and more about the unconditional love of Christ, yet on almost every page of His testimony – the Gospels – He qualifies and conditions His love. Read it, Matt. 10:33 “But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.” That's a condition, isn't it? Or how about in Matt. 7:21? “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven”. The condition is doing the will of the Father, isn't it? The Jesus of the Bible straight out gives the conditions which must be met for salva-

tion. Remember John 3:3. “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God”. And then in vs. 7 “... Ye must be born again”. Today we're given a Jesus who accepts all sincere devotion – all faiths and even simple good intentions. But this is not the Jesus of the Bible! Folks, these requirements (conditions) that Jesus demands cannot be dismissed by the rhetoric of modern day theology. Read Matt. 25 beginning at vs. 31! Do we know this Jesus?

See Luke: 14:26-27, “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.” Verse 33, “So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.” These are staggering words, yet they are straight from the mouth of Jesus Christ. We must not try to dance around them, and God forbid that we should buy into any lie that would exempt us from the weight of these words. Church, we must simply embrace them, and conform to them.

Finally in John 15:14, “Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you”.

How narrow can you get?! But instead of a Jesus like this, we are told over and over about a Jesus that “understands” our disobedience and rank rebellion and is thankful that we’ve made it back to church on Sunday.

Jesus is sick of the drivel that misrepresents Him. Yes, He so loved the world that He laid down His life, but whether that love will be of any benefit to a man depends on the man’s response. Will he repent of sin? Will he make Jesus his Lord? Will he die to himself? Will he abide in Jesus’ Word? These are all conditions that must be met for the love of Christ to affect a life!

Why is the Church content to accept some other Jesus? **What’s wrong with the Jesus of the Bible?** Why have we allowed ourselves to be carried away into the excesses of this religious junk? Let us return to Christ. Let us accept His every word. If we don’t understand His words then let us pray for wisdom and search the scriptures for the whole counsel of God. But God forbid that we should buy this one dimensional cardboard cutout of Christ that is being pitched by modern theologians. **What did Jesus say?** Read His words! I suggest you get into the Gospels and find out exactly what He said. Read it for yourself – I’m sure you’ll be startled. I know I am!

These Days

by Kim Josephson

Jesus I've been thinking about the tears you cry
When the ones you love just won't walk in your way
And all that I can say Lord is I'm sorry for my sin and
I miss you more than ever Lord
These days

Lord I've grieved your Holy Spirit so many times before
when I wouldn't stop and take the time to pray.
Now I really don't remember
what was so important then
But I miss you more than ever Lord
These days

Chorus

Lord I need to feel your presence
Oh make your glory known
Lord I need to feel your fire in my soul
And Jesus if you're listening I want to tell you now that
I miss you more than ever Lord
These days

Lord, my prayers have been so shallow
and my life so compromised
I just don't know the words that I should say
But Jesus if you're listening I want to tell you now that
I miss you more than ever Lord
These days

Chorus

I miss you more than ever Lord
These days

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**We call ourselves the soldiers of Christ,
the Army of the Lord, while millions die
having never heard the name of Jesus –
I wonder what the angels call us?**

C.T. Studd

Whatever Happened?

One hundred years ago, General William Booth warned that the greatest danger in the 20th Century would be:

1. Salvation without regeneration
2. Faith without repentance
3. Politics without God
4. Heaven without Hell
5. Religion without the Holy Spirit
6. "Christianity" without Christ

Obviously the Holy Ghost was showing this man of God things to come. His contemporaries probably thought he was only speculating. Some with more hope than wisdom probably thought he was too hasty and negative. But what should we think? Look at

the list again. One would think it's a doctrinal platform for many of the television and radio ministries of today!

How can it be that in our generation so many basic doctrines of the Christian faith would become so diluted with damnable heresies that the Church would be shaken to her core. Whatever happened?

There was a day when Jesus was the standard. His life, His method, and His Word were the final authority. But now His methods are ignored! The demonstration of His life is dismissed and whole chapters of His Word are never addressed. **Apologies are made for His absolutes and compromises are made to make religion convenient.**

The difference between Christianity and any other religion was always the reality of relationship. However in our generation, relationship once proven by adherence to God's Holy Word, is now assumed by the mere use of the word. One of the most patent lies of our century is that a man can have a relationship with God on his own terms. This is in direct opposition to scripture. Whatever happened to "You must be born-again"? Whatever happened to "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, no man cometh unto the Father but by me"? Whatever happened to "Not everyone who

sayeth unto me Lord, Lord shall enter into the Kingdom of God but he that doeth the will of my Father.”?

No, in our day God exists as a servant of man. He is to be used when necessary. Just be sure you are on “good speaking terms with the ‘Big Man’ upstairs” and give Him a call if you need Him.

This is not to say that man is not interested in God. It is only to say that man wants to make God in his own image. Man is a spiritual being and is in desperate need of God. In every bookstore, the psychic and self-help books abound, promising that special something that puts one in touch with the power of God within and blah, blah, blah... People are turning to this junk in droves. All trying to use “God” to satisfy their own desires. Many men and women have forsaken the Word and the Church and are “seekers for truth” in the wilderness of confusion. God have mercy!

And what has been the response of the Church? One would think there would be a unified shout against the ungodliness of this junk. But instead preachers are pandering some watered down pabulum that promises the same things in a pseudo-intellectual fashion. You hear it on the radio all the time. “Christian” professors trying to stay right up with the latest psychological fads and dishing

up tons of whatever's hip. That's what happened!

Isn't it a shame that the blood of Jesus is not effectual in the 20th Century? Isn't it a shame that we have been so influenced by the world that holy living and loving Jesus is just not satisfactory for the "almost Christians" of our day? Who would have thought that in the 1990's the blood of Jesus would virtually be forgotten by the Church? That the Lordship of Jesus would be an option in the "salvation package"? Who would have thought that the Holy Ghost and the angelic hosts would be seen as servants of the brat-pack on call for their every whim? Who would have thought that the truths of prosperity would be turned into "Let's Make a Deal" with God – where covetousness, greed and selfishness prevail? Who would have thought that Jesus would just not be enough to meet our every need?

Gabriel! sound the saddest note in heaven. Fly the flags of heaven at half-mast and let every elder in heaven moan before the Lord of Glory! What a wicked day has come upon His Church. Let every angel weep before the throne of God that in this dark hour when the truth should be shouted from the housetops, Christ's Church clamors for the drivel of another con-man's scam!

Where are the men of God who will

rise up and once more proclaim Jesus!?! Where are the men of God, who will make no compromise and preach the whole Word of God? Where are the men of God who will “Cry aloud and spare not and show my people their sin”?(Is 58:1) Where are the men of God who will call a solemn assembly and fast and weep before the Lord our God?

If you think for a minute that this namby-pamby mess that's being preached is satisfying the needs of God starved people – Think Again! Almost every ministry in America is simply trying to weather the storm of indifference and callousness that is gripping our nation, while the new-age movement and every imaginable psychic self-help cult continues to grow in leaps and bounds. But this is no surprise. This half-gospel – rather this pseudo-gospel will never meet the needs of a hungry heart. Men still need to hear the story of Jesus. They need the good old-fashioned truth about heaven and hell. They need to learn about the blood of Jesus and its saving power. They need to hate sin and turn from it. They need the reality of the new birth. They need a confrontation with the Holy God. They need the baptism of the Holy Ghost. But what do they get?

In our day, repentance is out of fashion. (Paul called it basic doctrine.) Eternal

judgement is out of style. (Jesus talked more about this than anyone in the Bible.) The fear of God is forgotten. (God said it was step one in a relationship with Him.) C'mon Church! Whatever happened to the Great Commission? Whatever happened to Holiness? Whatever happened to sanctification? or dying to yourself or being a servant or just plain old righteous living?

Wouldn't it be something if people began to tell people about Jesus just because He told us to? Wouldn't it be something if people began to pray just because they loved God and wanted to talk to Him? Wouldn't it be different if people just tithed and gave offerings to God just because it's the right thing to do? Can you imagine what would happen if the Church just really began to walk in love as Jesus Christ commanded? I'm not talking about running back to the church-house to talk about it again. I'm talking about going into the neighborhoods and stores sharing the Gospel with those who just don't know Jesus. I'm talking about being straight enough – and bold enough – and loving enough to warn the wicked of the wrath to come. Doesn't that sound like the right thing to do?

Is Jesus coming back or not? If a man must be born again to go to heaven shouldn't we Christians be telling people about Jesus

all the time? I dare say many of the people you work with don't even know what you believe.

C'mon Church! This is War! Satan is destroying thousands and their souls are damned! **It's high time we quit this addiction to the self-indulgent dribble that has lulled us to sleep and began to fight the real fight of faith!** Faith is not a formula to use in some area of your life to satisfy your desires – it's a living breathing relationship with Jesus Himself. It's walking in His name – on His assignments. It is doing your duty in the kingdom of God. It is giving your life for the salvation of others. It is sacrificing your will to accomplish His.

Now then, what will you do? I pray that in this late hour you will give yourself to God's service. Do it right now. I pray that you will diligently listen to the Holy Ghost. I know that if you do, many of you will begin to be missionaries right where you live. Others will hear the call of God to some foreign field – to loose the chains of darkness that bind the souls who have never been told. Others will rise up and quit their apathy and be the men and women God has called them to be. God forbid that we should stay the same. **God forbid that we who call ourselves Christians should do nothing in Jesus name. Rise up O Men of God!**

House in Flames

By Kim Josephson

Suzy had a boyfriend that she brought home from school

The older boy made her feel like such a lady

Fourteen years of living now she's taking a life

You know she can't afford to have a baby

Chorus

We play with fire that can't be tamed

And still the story ends the same

Don't try to tell me baby. Who's to blame

No – it don't matter when your house is in flames

No – it don't matter when your house is in flames

Julie took the pills she found in her Momma's purse

With a friend she hangs out with at school

Now she's in a coma and things couldn't be worse

She took the dope with whiskey, broke the rules.

Chorus

Why do we wait until the house is on fire

To call on God – To stop and pray

Look all around you see the flames burning higher

Give your life to Jesus Christ today

Johnny grew up listening to the same old cliches

“Do what I say not what I do”

Johnny found the needle that his Daddy threw away

And now there's a monkey on him too

Chorus

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Can a Man Know God?

When we moved to Oklahoma this summer, one question kept hounding my soul. It was this – can a man know God? Of course everything in me answered with a quick and definitive yes, but that only made the next question even more poignant – then why don't you know Him better?

This was something else altogether. The longer I thought about it, the harder it pressed me. Why don't you know **Him** better? became, why don't you know **Me** better? This was not the devil trying to condemn my sloth and self-reliance. It was the Holy Ghost speaking to my heart. It was Jesus inviting me into a closer rela-

tionship with Him. It was Jesus inviting me to be His friend.

Every Sunday School child knows Jesus is his or her friend. We're told constantly that God loves us. "Yes Jesus loves me", "Jesus loves the Little Children", and the countless sermons we've heard about how much God loves us form the seedbed of our faith. Yes, we believe that He is, that He loves us and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him (Heb. 11:6). We understand that God cares about every detail of our lives – even down to the number of hairs on our head! We understand that He has compassion for us – that He remembers our frame and has pity on us. We count on His forgiveness and rely on all the promises of His love toward us. We trust that He will stick closer than a brother and that He will never leave us or forsake us. We know that He is touched by our infirmities and shares our sorrows. He is a friend beyond compare. But what about us? Are we Jesus' friends?

What does it mean to be Jesus' friend? Jesus said in John 15:14:

Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

Again in John 14:21:

He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me...

in vs. 23 He continues:

If a man love me, he will keep my words..

and the next verse provides the contrast:

He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings...

Isn't it amazing that in our day so little attention is paid to the "red letter" words of Jesus Christ! In fact, we've been told just the opposite! We've been taught that our obedience really doesn't matter, and yet, obedience is at the very root of Jesus' own definition of friendship with Him. We've been taught that if we simply believe that Jesus is the Christ and that He is risen from the dead, that everything's cool with God. **But what about all these words of Jesus?** Could it be that Jesus just didn't get it? I shudder at the blasphemy of the thought and yet am staggered by people, church leaders included, who ignore the words of the Son of God! How dare we avoid His words to hold on to some cherished religious tradition we've picked up along the way!

No! Let's get it straight! Jesus knows exactly what He is talking about and He makes it so clear, even a child can understand it! John 14:15 makes it plain:

If ye love me, keep my commandments.

That's what He said and that's what we must do!

We say, "I love you Jesus" and then go on in disobedience. We say, "I love you Lord" and continue in some sin God has spoken to us about numerous times before, it's time to come to our senses! Jesus said in Luke 6:46:

... why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

Too long we have made excuses for our sins! Too long we have made excuses for our half-hearted commitments! Too long we've excused our prayerlessness, our carelessness, our covetousness and many other things that interfere with our relationship with Him! According to Jesus there is **no excuse**, and we just don't love Him like we should! We have got to get this straight if we want to be His friends. Read on.

One of the most misused words in the Church today is the word relationship. A relationship is supposed to be a two-sided thing. The caring is supposed to go both ways! If Jesus cares about what breaks my heart, I'm supposed to care about what breaks His heart. If He shares my sorrows, then I'm supposed to share His sorrows. Too often we try to use God to make our lives what we want them to be. Our prayers are like Christmas lists for the big Santa in the sky! It's blasphemous in its arrogance and its ignorance. Believe it or not **we're here to serve Him – not the other way around!** We're quick to tell God how we feel about

things. But I ask you; do you ever ask Him how He feels about things? Have you ever felt His pain or sorrow about some situation? Do you even think that God suffers?

I do. I think God's heart breaks at much of what is going on in the world today. There is so much violence, so much hatred, so much killing. How can His heart not ache? From ethnic cleansing (isn't that a nice name for murderous genocide) to drive-by shootings in America, surely all heaven must weep! God's whole redemptive plan is to save man and give him life and love and yet satan inspires selfishness, destruction, and death. Just as heaven rejoices when a sinner repents and comes into the kingdom, I am sure there is a dreadful sorrow over one who rejects the Holy Spirit's pleading for the last time and rushes headlong into an eternal hell.

How do you think God feels about the domestic problems here in the US? What does He feel when some woman is beaten, some child abused? What does He feel, when someone takes their own life, or the lives of others? What does He feel when someone gives themselves over to their lusts? When someone begins the self-destructive trip into alcohol or drugs or whoredoms? I believe God's heart aches. Does your heart ache with His?

Even closer to home, what about when one of His "followers" betrays Him? I think it

breaks His heart when we deny our Lord with some God-dishonoring behavior on Saturday night and then seal it with a sweet little “Judas” kiss on Sunday morning. We trample over the blood of Jesus during the week to have our own way and then sing “Have thine own way” during the invitation. It’s a mockery and surely His wrath is stirred. **How dare we worship at the shrines of self-indulgence all week long and then offer God some half-baked leftovers on Sunday morning!** God have mercy!

God’s heart is aching for the Church to get real and to be the Church 24 hours a day, 7 days a week! In fact, the Bible says in Romans 8, that the whole creation is groaning for the manifestation of the sons of God! The whole creation is longing to be delivered from all this death. For far too long we’ve been too much like the world! It’s time for us to “come out from among them, separate ourselves and touch not the unclean thing” (II Cor 6:17) **Rise up O Men of God!** God has given us everything we need to break the chains and set the captives free! He has given us the gospel and it is the power of God unto salvation for the whole man – spirit, soul and body. It is criminal for us to be silent with the world around us screaming in so much pain! We know all we need to know to get the job done – **His name is Jesus!** He is the only hope! Let the politicians debate, it is time for us to demonstrate His love toward this untoward

generation! We will have to tell the truth. We will have to stand up, say no, and go against the flow of this world but as men see the light and repent and come to Jesus we will be on shouting ground! Hallelujah!

Simply put, if we'd stop messing with the world, and stop bickering among ourselves about all the little things and get on with the program of winning this world to Jesus, we would wreck Hell! If we would hazard our lives for the gospel like the early Church did, it would be said of us as it was of them, that they turned the world upside down with Jesus Christ (Acts 17:6.) And how would God feel then?

Jesus came to seek and to save those who were lost (Luke 19:10) Is that what you're about? You should be, if you want to be His friend. Is that what your church is about? It should be – **It Must Be!** Jesus has given us everything we need to preach the gospel, to heal the sick, to cleanse the lepers, to cast out devils – to raise the dead! (Matt 10:7-8) **Surely, we should be doing something!**

Can a man know God? You know he can. Can you know him better? You know you can! So what will you do? Will you begin to give of yourself? To pray – to fast – to stand in the gap for others? Will you sacrifice your time, your comfort, your food, your love for others less fortunate than yourself? There is so much to do and so little time!

I close with just one last thought. In Matt. 25 Jesus tells about the coming judgment where He separates the sheep from the goats. Sheep on the right – Goats on the left. To the sheep He says:

34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed,

into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

42 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:

43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

44 Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?

45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.

46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Which group will you be in?

Can a man know God? You know he can. Can you know Him better? You know you can. Will you feel what He feels? Will you care about what He cares about? Will you do what He's telling you to do? It's up to you. Sheep or Goat? **Will you be Jesus' friend?** It's your choice.

Make it So

By Kim Josephson

Somewhere in the night a man is losing a war
With a bottle and a gun in his hand
Cuz' the voices in his head say he can't take anymore
It's the hounds of hell that want to see him dead
In desperation a shot rings out
And his body just slumps to the floor
Another life taken, all heaven is shaken
Jesus cries like never before

Chorus

Do I wanna' see what God sees
Do I wanna' feel what He really feels
Do I wanna' be what He'd have me to be
in this desperate hour?
O Lord, make it so by your holy power....Make it so.

Somewhere in the night a baby's gasping for breath
Just moments since he left the womb
Cuz' his Momma don't want him,
he's been sentenced to death
And a garbage can now becomes his tomb
His muffled cries go unheard by the crowd
As they dance away the night of his birth
Another life taken, all heaven is shaken
Jesus cries as if this were the first

Chorus

Somewhere in the night a man is trying to fill
The hole in his heart by getting high
The dope in his vein feels like a railroad train
But the ride stops tonight when he dies
The poison he chooses, the needle he uses
Rushes death to the soul of the man
Another life taken, all heaven is shaken
Jesus cries again and again

O I wanna' see what God sees
O I wanna' feel what He really feels
O I wanna' be what He'd have me to be in this desperate hour
O Lord, make it so by your holy power....Make it so.

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A Prayer

Ps 51:10-17

**Create in me a clean heart, O God;
and renew a right spirit within me.**

**Cast me not away from thy presence;
and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.**

**Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation;
and uphold me with thy free Spirit.**

**Then will I teach transgressors thy ways;
and sinners shall be converted unto thee.**

**Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,
Thou God of my salvation: and my tongue
shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.**

**O Lord, open thou my lips;
and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.
For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I
give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering.**

**The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit:
a broken and a contrite heart, O God,
thou wilt not despise.**

**Have mercy on us O God
In Jesus Name
Amen**

Suggested Reading

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