

The Robison Reminder

Robison Street church of Christ
Edna, Texas

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Follow Me!

by Mark Mayberry

Jesus said, “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest” (Matt. 11:28-30). Heaven’s invitation is extended to all mankind – “Whosoever will...” (Rev. 22:17). In the four Gospels, Jesus said, “Follow me” some eighteen times. Yet, many do not comprehend the demands of discipleship: “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me.” Jesus calls us, not to a life of sinful sloth, but to a life of sacrificial service (Matt. 16:24-26).

Jesus calls those who are successful. Peter, Andrew, James, and John were prosperous fishermen; yet, when Jesus called them, they left their nets and followed him (Matt. 4:18-22). In like measure, Paul gave up position, prominence, and power (Phil. 3:4-8). Sadly, some value too highly the tokens of earthly success, and are thus unwilling to follow the Savior (Luke 18:18-27).

The rich are called to a higher purpose: good works and humble servitude (Matt. 6:19-21; 1 Tim. 6:17-19). Peter and his companions gave up everything for the cause of Christ: possessions, prosperity, peace, and ultimately, life itself. Yet, the return on their spiritual investment was beyond measure (Matt. 19:27-30; Mark 10:28-31).

Jesus calls those who are scoundrels. After having called Matthew (Levi), Jesus ate with tax collectors and sinners (Matt. 9:9-13). To what end? For the purpose of endorsement or acceptance? No. Jesus called sinners to repentance, i.e., a change of heart followed by a change of life (Luke 5:27-32).

Sinners are called to a higher purpose: sanctification and service (Is. 1:16-17; 1 Cor. 6:9-11). Whatever time we have spent in the service of sin is enough – it is irredeemably wasted and lost.

Disciples of Christ must cease from sin, and devote what remains of life to accomplishing the will of God (1 Pet. 4:1-6).

Jesus calls those who are simplistic. Those who follow him must understand the nature of discipleship (Luke 9:57-62). They must count the cost and be willing to pay the price (Luke 14:25-33). Spiritual service is not a life of ease, but involves deprivation (1 Cor. 4:10-16), tribulation (Acts 14:21-22), affliction (1 Thess. 3:2-4), and persecution (2 Tim. 3:10-12).

Jesus calls those who are sin-sick. After having thrice denied the Lord, Peter was discouraged to the point of quitting, along with the other disciples (John 21:3). Yet, the resurrected Savior met them on the shore of Galilee, demonstrating once again his majestic power (John 21:4-14). Jesus restored Peter to his apostleship, by repeatedly saying, “Feed my sheep” (John 21:15-17).

Afterwards, a most interesting discussion ensued. Jesus prophesied of Peter’s martyrdom, and then solemnly said, “Follow me!” Yet, Simon bar Jonah distractedly asked, “What about John?” Rebuking him, Jesus replied, “If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me!” In other words, Peter was told to mind his own business, to focus on his own service, to avoid foolish questions, and senseless speculation. Nothing must distract us from following Christ (John 21:18-22; Tit. 3:9)!

Are you willing to accept the call of Jesus Christ? Just as it was necessary for Jesus to die, we also must die to sin (John 12:23-26). If you are not a Christian, resolve to follow him! Be buried with Christ in baptism and raised to walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:1-4).

Are We Living in the Last Days?

by Heath Rogers

We can not deny the fascination that many have concerning the prospect of living in the “last days.” Some people are confident that things like the rapture, the seven years of tribulation and the battle of Armageddon are on the horizon. Current events are routinely interpreted as

signs of the end times. The claim is made: “Surely we are living in the Last Days!” Are we? What does the Bible say?

The phrase “last days” or “latter days” is used in a number of passages in both the Old and New Testaments. While its use in the Old Testament

began as a general reference to the future, the prophets used the phrase to refer to the highly anticipated time of the Messiah. *“Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it”* (Isaiah 2:2, see also Micah 4:1).

Occurrences of this phrase in the New Testament help us pinpoint exactly what is meant by the “last days.”

In Acts chapter two, the Holy Spirit fell upon the apostles at Jerusalem. This event produced a sound like a mighty wind. The noise drew a multitude together who heard the apostles speaking in various languages. When asked what this was, Peter stated that it was a fulfillment of prophecy. *“But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh...’”* (Acts 2:16-17). Thus Peter affirmed that the events of Pentecost (the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles) ushered in the “last days.”

The book of Hebrews begins with, *“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son...”* (Hebrews 1:1-2). This passage helps us to understand that the “last days” has reference to a period or dispensation of time.

The use of the phrase “the last days” is not an indication that the Christians of the first century believed that the end was near. Instead, they understood that they were living in the last dispen-

sation of God’s grace. While God had dealt with man through the fathers (the Patriarchal dispensation) and through Moses (the Mosaic dispensation – the Law of Moses), He now dealt with them through His Son (the Gospel or church dispensation). This is called the “last days,” not because the time is short, but because it is the last period or dispensation of this world before eternity.

Are we living in the “last days?” We certainly are, if we are using this phrase in a Scriptural way. We have been living in the “last days” for almost 2,000 years now.

Such an answer will frustrate one who is longing for signs of the Lord’s imminent return. However, the Bible offers no such signs. The apostles asked Jesus about this very thing. *“And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”* (Matt. 24:3). Jesus responded, *“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only... But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect”* (vs. 36, 43-44).

Men like Tim LaHaye and John Hagee have made a small fortune pandering to the paranoia caused by the speculation that the end is near. The plain teaching of the Lord is that we are to *watch and be ready* for we *know not the day nor hour* that He will return. No man can give a more accurate answer than this!

News and Notes



Steve Wilson has shown some slight improvement this week. He is still in room 334 of Methodist Hospital in San Antonio. Doctors drained some fluid, which has provided him with some much needed relief. He has also been placed on a clear liquid diet.

Donna Dunham has four blood clots, three in her leg and one in her lung. Doctors have told her to stay at home with her feet elevated for at least two weeks.

Dorothy White is showing a little improvement, but she is still having a lot of trouble walking and is still in a lot of pain.

Special Announcement: The Wednesday Morning Bible Class will be a **Ladies Class** this week! Sherelyn Mayberry will be bringing a lesson during this class period, and all the ladies are encouraged to attend. The class meets at 10:30.

Keep our shut-ins in your thoughts and prayers.

Stonewall Jackson, Wayne Johnson, Addie Lawrence, Curtis Nordin, Tommy Smith, Jason Thompson, Herman Villarreal and Marie Wilkerson.

**Robison Street
church of Christ**
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website
www.ykc.com/cofc/

Times of Services

- Sunday -
Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning 10:30 AM
Evening 6:00 PM

- Wednesday -
Bible Study 7:30 PM

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