

Navigator

Cause me to know the way in which I should walk, for I lift up my soul to You. Psalm 143:8b

Crucified with Christ

Jesus Christ spoke some of the most radical words that have ever been uttered in the history of the universe. But it is not just what He said; it is the fact that these words passed through the lips of the one who is the God of the universe. That gives what Jesus said gravity and weightiness that is not there if a mere man speaks them. But Jesus is no mere man: He is the man who is also God.



Among the radical words of Jesus Christ are these: "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me" (Mark 8:34). These words hold particular weight because Jesus is laying out for us what it really means to be one of His followers.

What Jesus says in that verse goes totally against popular thinking today about what it means to follow Jesus. In the modern church in America there is the mindset that to follow Jesus simply means that you go to church more Sundays than not; you give a little bit here and there; you don't have any scandalous sin in your life that others know about; you and your family and your kids try to look somewhat normal and adjusted; you help out a little bit at VBS and other things at the church; you own a Christian t-shirt and a couple of contemporary Christian CDs; you cautiously invite a person to church every Christmas and Easter; you pray on occasion and read the Bible now and then; and you are overall satisfied with how you are living the Christian life. That is the picture of Christianity in our society today. It is a cozy picture, it looks like Norman Rockwell painted it, it is a safe picture where there is little or no risk involved in it. With these words Jesus destroys that picture.

The call to follow Jesus is a call to deny self. The idea here is not of denying things, but of denying yourself. It is the total renunciation of self. This is you and I ceasing to make life about us and placing Jesus and not you at the center of your life. That is difficult to do because everything within you (other than the Holy Spirit) wants you to live for you! We are by nature self-centered and self-focused. But the call to follow Jesus is the call

to live as if you do not exist. That is how we are to deny ourselves: to live as if we simply do not exist anymore.

But Jesus does not end there: He then says take up your cross. Taking up one's cross is not some minor irritation that is in your life that you must bear. It is not something that just makes life inconvenient for you that you have to endure. I have heard people say things like, "My boss is so unreasonable. He is always on my case and gripes and complains about everything that I do. I guess everybody has their cross to bear and he is mine." Those things are called thorns and not crosses. Thorns hurt and irritate and you really want to get rid of them because they are very uncomfortable. Crosses will kill you.

A cross is a means of death and suffering, not inconvenience. Jesus is calling for self-execution here; not just a denial of self, but a *death* to self. When you take up your cross you will die to self and you will live as a dead man.

The Apostle Paul understood this. He wrote, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20). Paul is saying that he is dead, but Jesus is alive and well living within him and now his life is lived by Jesus and for Jesus.

Then, and only then, Jesus says, "Follow Me." If you are not denying yourself and if you are not taking up your cross then you are not following Jesus, because it is doing the first two things (the denying and the dying) that frees you to truly follow Him.

Many people today feel this kind of "radical" Christian living that Jesus is referring to here is reserved for the super-saints and the real spiritual people, people in the ministry or people who are missionaries. We think that this passage and these demands are meant for someone else and it is not really meant for "normal" Christians like us. But Jesus says that this is normal Christian living. Unfortunately, we have a tendency to call radical what Jesus calls normal.

† Pastor Matt



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Navigator PDF

To receive the newsletter as a PDF in email, please send a request to newsletter@nrfellowship.org and you will be added to the Navigator email list.

Children's Ministries

Helping Children Become God-Focused Believers Through Essential Christian Truth

Children's Ministries: F/3 Wednesday evenings, 6:30pm to 8:00pm
Sunday School 9:15am-10:15am Bible Builders During the 10:30 worship service

JESUS IS RISEN (MARK 16:1-11)

C Y S Z Q B U T J K O L S H K T B M Z Q T Y U D F B I A N I
E F S Z J I T H W R A U E J J J N Z B N T E M D H G F E Z U
U K R O I T T T S E K W J D F Y H B T R C A E R D B L M F Q
B T V W E A D T S D J Q M Y O U N G M A N E S M R I B B N H
M G N N C L M R I E E N G U Y R A I P U M Q Z J S V K Z B C
B E O H T B D A S N U Z O O T D N Z Z B P U P L M S M U A C
U T G Q C Z Q U R C N I A L W C O F F B M T J P C M I I D N
S Y D I J Z S R A Y U S V M U G I Z V I L V H O B M O T P U
Y G P L W N C W G V T V S O A S N B F F C H T A B B A S U B
Y M K H Y K U P W C D H U P U G Q T D H W S S D L U B U J B S
R Q S T J O J N A C L U E I H U B B N L G E C T R I B L I U
F H P Y T B B B F H U U T M B M A B E J E T U D S R W M B N
H V P O N H S B U R F A E I O J U U E B Y B U E J K V P R E
E V R A A F M C T E L D W M V T V Y M B B N S I L Q B B Q S
L G B V S V J D O M Y D B B O Q H E J K W B Y F P Y G E I B
M S O C L I T W M Q H W H R S L A E Q J I Y J I B C P C J T
G N A A P O A K M N B T J W U L A E R K A Z G C N Z H H L I
M B S F U N A I J A O L Y G B J E S V O C A A U S A B M J L
B K L L R H U I E K Y R A K T H T I J E B F B K R L B H B V E
P K K O T A E P G M I Y P K U W S A V M L J R C P R C I R I
M O W Z N I I I H A R O M N E S I R V S P U A P H V O V R A
W J V M D U N D G S F A G A Q K G V L E A E B M L Z V M K K
N Q J F R A Q Y D V Y P K W G M J K A C I D N N E Y N T J Q
G S B M A F B B V Y B A G I T D P U I I E K Y R Q U S J Q S Y
K P W Q Z F N B B K D D P U P L A O L P Y G N A Q U E L V F R
B M E S E T A P G W F Y S M L U Z L R S A C M P I H D U Q B
Y B L Q M Q Y P C L B S O F J G F Z E B A Q Q L C Z R G V T
K B V V D H Q Y Y Z W E M T O B C B U N A N P Y C C Z B B P
P O D P W A U F H W H U W E J V B A U Y E Q L M M S B D R K
U H D B Q U Q O K Z T B I P H U K M C R O R J T R G Y O B Z

- AFRAID MARY MAGDALENE SPICES
ANOINT RISEN TOMB CRUCIFIED
SABBATH SALOME YOUNG MAN JESUS
AMAZED STONE MARY THE MOTHER OF JAMES

T2G TRANSFORMED TO GLORIFY
Teens transformed by Christ, to transform the world, for His glory.

Right Thing the Wrong Way We are often told to do the "right thing." This is not just from a human point of view, but it is a Scriptural admonition as well. (2 Corinthians 13:7: "But we pray to God that you may not do wrong..., but that you may do what is right, ... ") However, there is a right and wrong way to do what's right.

The Bible gives a very good example of this in the story of David wanting to bring the ark to Jerusalem. This story takes place in 1 Chronicles 13. David had recently been made king of Israel. The ark of God had been in the house of Abinadab since the time of Samuel's youth. David thought that since Jerusalem was the capital, that the ark of God should be located there. David had the best of intentions and the people were in agreement. The day arrived and people lined the road to be travelled by the ark. The ark was placed on a new ox cart and one of the sons of Abinadab, Uzzah, drove the cart. The people cheered as the ark went by, David and many others went along and praised God as they travelled the road to Jerusalem. They came to a rough spot in the road and the oxen tripped, the ark wobbled and appeared as if it might fall off the cart. So Uzzah grabbed the ark to steady it. God had commanded Moses that no one should ever touch the ark or they would die. (Numbers 4:15: "And when Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, as the camp sets out, after that the sons of Kohath shall come to carry these, but they must not touch the holy things, lest they die. These are the things of the tent of meeting that the sons of Kohath are to carry." emphasis added)

So, God killed Uzzah for touching the ark. Was Uzzah wrong for wanting to keep the ark of God from falling to the ground? Definitely not! It was not his intention that was punished, but the way he went about it. Later, in 1 Chronicles 15, David figures out his mistake and has the priests carry the ark by poles as instructed by God back in Exodus. When the right method is used the ark is transported without incident.

Sometimes we try to justify what we do because it will bring a good result. God is concerned with both what we do and how we do it. We need to make sure that all we do is pleasing to God. This can only be accomplished by spending time in His Word so that we will know what He has commanded us.

Kevin and Gina Bickel



Meet

Pam St. Clair

Where were you born and raised?

I was born at Maelstrom AFB in Great Falls, Montana. I was raised in Arkansas and Mountain Home, Idaho.

Who are (or have been) the most influential people in your life?

Of course, the Lord—He has always watched over me and protected me, probably without me even knowing it. And my family—I always felt very loved and cared for.

What is one of your favorite passages and/or books of the Bible?

One time a few years ago, I doubted my salvation because I thought maybe I was too young and didn't really understand what I was doing, but God brought I John 2:24 to me. I know now that what He started in me will remain in me and I will continue in Him .

Aside from the Bible, what are your favorite books?

I like the *Left Behind* series and *The Little House* books.

If you were stranded on an island, what four foods would you most want to have?

I love seafood most and on an island that would be readily available. Otherwise, I would most want coffee (white chocolate, hazelnut to be exact), sweet tea, anything gooey and sweet, and Chinese food.

Who in the Bible do you most identify with?

Paul, only because of Philippians 4:11-13. I believe you should be content in whatever situation you are in. Not that I have suffered much, but I think I just have to fix things if I can and not complain about them if I can't, and make the most of what I have.

What are the four most interesting places you have been to?

Mexico, Oregon coast, Grand Canyon, and Walt Disney World.

How did you come to know Christ?

I was about 7 years old and I kept hearing my sister and brother talking about being saved, so I asked my mom about it. She had the pastor come over to our house. He talked to me about salvation and asked if I understood and wanted to pray to ask Jesus into my heart, and I did!



An Excerpt From The Classics



Excerpted from "Of True Godliness; Of The Law and Faith," by Martin Luther, 1522, at Borna, Germany.

But what is the Gospel? It is this, that God has sent his Son into the world to save sinners, Jn 3, 16, and to crush hell, overcome death, take away sin and satisfy the law. But what must you do? Nothing but accept this and look up to your Redeemer and firmly believe that he has done all this for your good and freely gives you all as your own, so that in the terrors of death, sin and hell you can confidently say and boldly depend upon it, and say: Although I do not fulfil the law, although sin is still present and I fear death and hell, nevertheless from the Gospel I know that Christ has bestowed upon me all his works. I am sure he will not lie, his promise he will surely fulfil...

Now whoever does not appropriate this faith to himself, must perish; and whoever possesses this faith, shall be saved. For where Christ is, the Father will come and also the Holy Spirit. There will then be pure grace, no law; pure mercy, no sin; pure life, no death; pure heaven, no hell. There I will comfort myself with the works of Christ, as if I myself had done them. There I will no longer concern myself about cowls or tonsures, St. James or Rome, rosaries or scapularies, praying or fasting, priests or monks.

Behold, how beautiful the confidence towards God that arises in us through Christ! You may be rich or poor, sick or well, yet you will always say: God is mine, I am willing to die; for this is acceptable to my Father, and death cannot harm me; it is swallowed up in victory, as St. Paul says in I Cor 15, 57, yet not through us, but "Thanks be to God," says he, "who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." Therefore although we must die, we have no fear of death, for its power and might are broken by Christ, our Saviour.

So then you understand that the Gospel is nothing but preaching and glad tidings, how Christ entered into the throes of death for us, took upon himself all our sins and abolished them; not that it was needful for him to do it, but it was pleasing to the Father; and that he has bestowed all this upon us, in order that we might boldly stand upon it against sin, death, Satan and hell. Hence arises great, unspeakable joy, such as the disciples here experience. The text says: "The disciples therefore were glad, when they saw the Lord"—not a Lord, who inspired them with terror or burdened them with labor and toil, but who provided for them and watched over them like a father is the lord of his estate and cares for his own. Aye, then first they rejoiced most on his account, when he spake to them: "Peace be unto you! It is I", and when he had showed unto them his hands and feet, that is, his works, all which were to be theirs.

In the same manner he still comes to us through the Gospel, offers us peace and bestows his works upon us: if we believe, we have them; if we believe not, we have them not. For the Lord's hands and feet really signify nothing but his works, which he has done here upon earth for men. And the showing of his side is nothing but the showing of his heart, in order that we may see how kind, loving and fatherlike his mind is toward us.

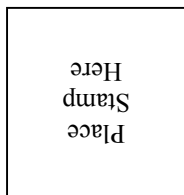
Spelling and punctuation retained. From volume II:364-377 of *The Sermons of Martin Luther*, published by Baker Book House (Grand Rapids, MI). Public Domain. Complete sermon: trinitylutheranms.org/MartinLuther/MLSermons/John20_19_31b.html

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8

9:15 a.m. Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Worship

Sunday Services

www.norridgefellowship.org
314 West Ave J
Jerome, ID 83338



To The Ends of the Earth



Not to be served, but to serve

In Mark 9:35 Jesus told His disciples how to be great. He said, “If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.”

Consider four obstacles to being that kind of servant. You will struggle to be a true servant if:

- 1) You are filled with pride
- 2) You have not denied yourself and taken up your cross
- 3) You are consumed with your rights
- 4) You are concerned with positions and titles and prestige

The common denominator in all of these obstacles and struggles to be a servant is me; it is *self*.

But consider ten things that a true servant will do and be. A true servant:

- 1) Knows that there is nothing that is beneath him
- 2) Is never inconvenienced by serving Jesus and others
- 3) Will help and will give whether they get anything out of it for themselves or not
- 4) Serves out of delight and not out of duty
- 5) Serves so that people will see Jesus and not him
- 6) Is not just concerned about what is done, but about how something is done
- 7) Is always on the lookout for ways to serve
- 8) Realizes that serving is about people
- 9) Will get tired (sometimes exhaustedly so), but will not quit

- 10) Realizes that as they serve others they are ultimately serving Jesus

The Apostle Paul writes in Colossians 3:23-24, “Whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.” When you serve others it is not as if you are serving Jesus; but it is you serving Jesus.

It was Jesus who gave us the ultimate example of that kind of service. In Mark 10:45 Jesus said, “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” The ultimate example of serving others was seen as Jesus hung on the cross for my sins. God in the flesh becoming the sacrifice and payment for every wrong that I have ever done against others and against Him. Dying in my place, for my sins, not coming to be served, but coming to serve as my Savior and my Redeemer, even at the price of His own life.

So now I can and must be a servant of Jesus and others because Jesus has bought me at the price of His life. Therefore, I am His possession and this now frees me to serve Him and to serve others because my life is not my own.

Do you want to be great? Here is how you do it: live as a servant of Jesus and a servant of others. That is how you achieve greatness in the Kingdom of God and that is how you really live!

Matt Boyd

APRIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Helms are hosting a **Family Easter Egg Hunt and BBQ** on Saturday, April 3 from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. Bring hamburgers or hotdogs for your family and a picnic item to share. Paper goods, buns, condiments, beverages, baked beans and dessert will be provided. Bring lawn chairs or a blanket. Egg Drop at 2:00 p.m. The kids will love the giant inflatable fun! Call Jan Helms at 324-4698 or Carly Brainard at 324-8029.

Ladies' **Esther Bible Study** is every Tuesday from 11:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at NorthRidge Fellowship. Contact Alison Arreaga at 944-4950 or 650-8127.

MEN's LEAD Bible study meets **every Wednesday from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.** All men are invited to study and eat lunch with us at the Wok and Grill in Twin Falls.

HEY KIDS! What did the Israelites eat for their first Passover meal? Tell Mrs. Brockway the answer, and you will get a prize! (Hint: see Exodus 12:1-13)

So I hold out my arms to my Redeemer, who, having been foretold for four thousand years, has come to suffer and to die for me on earth, at the time and under all the circumstances foretold. By His grace, I await death in peace, in the hope of being eternally united to Him. Yet I live with joy, whether in the prosperity which it pleases Him to bestow upon me, or in the adversity which He sends for my good, and which He has taught me to bear by His example.

Blaise Pascal
SECTION XII: PROOFS OF JESUS CHRIST,
Pensees

Await the Great and Very Terrible Day

As I reflect this Easter about the price Christ paid for our sins as "the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29b), the words of 2 Corinthians 5:21 come to mind: "For He (God) made Him (Christ) who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." As a Bible student, I am assured of God's promises for those who accept His Son as their Savior. His ultimate sacrifice now allows Christians access to our Father in heaven through our Mediator: "For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 2:5).

But what about those who reject God's gift? In our Wednesday night Bible study, we are going through the book of Revelation verse by verse. We have reached chapter 6 where Christ is now opening the seals of the scroll and judgments are beginning on earth. I ponder on the wrath of God that we will not see, but will be poured out on the peoples still on this earth during the Tribulation.

What is the wrath of God? It is frequently called "The Day of the Lord" in the Old Testament. I am currently studying the Minor Prophets and noted that 13 of the 16 prophets address this subject. It describes a period of time in which God shows in a mighty way His wrath on the wicked and salvation to the righteous. He is Lord of time. Most of the prophets described great trials and tribulations on the nation of Israel and the world. Some of these have taken place. Others, however, are still in the future. The passage in Joel 2:1-11 describes the Babylonian invasion initially then in verses 10-11 says, "The earth quakes before them, the heavens tremble; the sun and moon grow dark, and the stars diminish their brightness. The Lord gives voice before His army, for His camp is very great; for strong is the One

who executes His word. For the day of the Lord is great and very terrible; who can endure it?"

Zephaniah 1:14-18 says, "The great day of the Lord is near; it is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the Lord is bitter; there the mighty men shall cry out. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of devastation and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet and alarm against the fortified cities and against the high towers. I will bring distress upon men, and they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the Lord; their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like refuse. Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's wrath; But the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of His jealousy, for He will make speedy riddance of all those who dwell in the land."

However, the day of the Lord is not just a day of wrath and judgment on the disobedient. It also includes deliverance and restoration for the righteous. It speaks of future hope, prosperity and blessing on God's people. As believers studying Revelation (and spending much time in the Old and New Testament to help understand it), we see His plan unfolded and are excited to look forward to meeting our Savior.

Revelation 22: 17 and 20 state, "And the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' And let him who hears say, 'Come!' And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely. He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming quickly.' Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!"

Rich Henry

Neither
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