

**Be ye followers of me.
Even as I also am of Christ
“The Truth As We Know It”**

7/12/15

Today I want to talk about following Christ's example in our lives. The Apostle Paul could say with confidence that his converts should follow his example. In 1 Corinthians 11:1 he said, "Be ye followers of me , even as I also am of Christ." And in 1 Corinthians 4:15-16 we read, "For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me."

Jesus said he was the way, the truth and the life. In other words, we need to look at Jesus' example to understand how best to live our lives. In Isaiah we read of a 'way of holiness.' Isaiah 35:8 we read, "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the traveling men, though fools, shall not err therein." and in Proverbs 16:17 we read, "The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keeps his way preserves his soul."

In Revelations 21 the Apostle John describes the Glories Church, without spot or wrinkle, coming down out of heaven from God at the coming of Jesus. In verse 2 we read, "And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." and in verses 9-10 we

read, "And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will show thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God," Then in verse 21 we read, "...: and the street of the city was pure gold,..". It is 'street of gold' singular not streets of Gold as is commonly taught. The 'Street of Gold' is the "Way of Holiness." by which we should be living our lives.

Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." so we need to look at the examples He left us.

1. **He went about doing good.** Acts 10:38 tells us, "...God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him."

2. **He taught us to forgive.** In what we call the 'Lord's Prayer' in Matthew 6:12 He taught us, "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." In Matthew 6:14-15 He goes on to say, "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." We have no choice but to forgive those who harm us if we are to be forgiven for our sins. This is probably the hardest principle of Christ we are to follow. It is in our nature to want to get revenge, but as Christians, we

must not! Paul tells us in Rom 12:19-21, "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord. Therefore if your enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire (Of Conviction) on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

And in what is probably best example of all is Jesus' statement on the Cross where He said in Luke 23:34, ".. Father, forgive them ; for they know not what they do."

3. He taught us to have compassion on the guilty. In the often used example of the woman caught in the act of adultery Jesus showed compassion for the woman though she was obviously guilty, yet Jesus forgave her on the condition of her repentance from her sin. He said in John 8: 11, "Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more."

4. He taught us to feed the hungry. On two different occasions Jesus miraculously fed thousands of people. Once five thousand men, plus women and children as told in Matthew 14:21, "And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children." And in Mat 15:37-38 "And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken meat that was left seven baskets full. And they that did eat were four thousand men, beside women and children."

And in that wonderful parable in Mat 25:35-37 where He said, "For I was hungry, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungry, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? And in Mat 25:40 we read, "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."

5. He taught us to pay our taxes. In Matthew 17:24-27 we read, "And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute money, (Taxes) came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay tribute? He said, Yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus stopped him, saying, What do you think, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? of their own children, or of strangers? Peter said unto him, Of strangers. Jesus said unto him, Then are the children free. Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, you shall find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee."

And in His teaching about money. In Mat 22:17-22 They asked Him, "Tell us therefore, What do you think? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not? But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? Show me the tribute money. And

they brought unto him a penny. And he said unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? They say unto him, Caesar's. Then said he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's. When they had heard these words, they marveled, and left him, and went their way.

He taught them to pay their taxes in spite of the fact that the Roman empire was highly corrupt. We benefit from good government and we are expected to support it by paying our taxes honestly.

6. We are to be the example for those who come behind.

Probably the most important responsibility we have is to pass on to the next generation our Christian values. I fear a great mistake we have made in America is to rely on the public schools to teach our children how to be good citizens and to have the values they need to live productive Christian lives. It is totally our responsibility as parents to see to it our children have the spiritual training and hope in Christ. It is our responsibility to lead them to receive Christ as Savior. In Deu 6:7 we read, ".. thou shall teach (The Laws of God) diligently unto your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when thou walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when thou rise up." And in Isaiah 62:10 we read, "Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people." We are to lead the way so that others can safely follow our example and be

safe.

Paul could confidently say, , "Be ye followers of me , even as I also am of Christ." And "For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me." May we all be able to say that.

Listen again next week.

This we do know, The Bible is God's Word, God's word is true, Jesus Christ is God's son, Jesus died to save us from our sin, Without Jesus we are eternally lost. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we might be saved. Atheism is a temporary condition, for every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord! Jesus stands ready to save you now, Will you call on Him today?

Until next week, God bless.