



Northside Proclaimer

Proclaiming The Word Of The Lord

1 Thessalonians 1.8

Northside Church Of Christ Welcomes You!

March 1, 2015

“Jesus The Troublemaker”

Bryan Garlock

Isaiah prophesied, “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (9.6).

Jesus Christ is the embodiment of peace. Peter preached, “...Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all)...” (Acts 10.34-36).

It was this peace that tore the middle wall of separation between the Jews and Gentiles. Paul wrote, “But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off [Gentiles – BG] have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near [Jews – BG]. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father” (Eph. 2.13-18).

The peace found in Christ Jesus is forgiveness of our sins and reconciliation between the Father and us. Paul taught concerning this peace, “...through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you...” (Acts 13.38). Paul also wrote, “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom. 5.1) and “...through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross” (Col. 1.20).

Yes indeed Jesus Christ brings peace on earth, but He also brings trouble! He taught, “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it” (Matt. 10.34-39). Continued on back...

Northside
church Of Christ

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Announcements

- Remember the shut in's.
- Pray for the church and one another.
- Men's Bible March 8th @ 3:30 PM
- Teen's Bible study cancelled / Kid's drill today @ 4
- Bible study this Tuesday Cancelled
- Young family / couples' Bible study March 6th 7 PM, Garlock's house
- Ladies' class - March 3rd 7PM, Ruth Bryan's house
- Remember the spiritual sick among us
- Call or email me to add announcements, thanks.

Chronological Bible Reading Plan

Mar. 1 Num. 14-15, Ps 90
Mar. 2 Num. 16-17
Mar. 3 Num. 18-20
Mar. 4 Num. 21-22
Mar. 5 Num. 23-25
Mar. 6 Num. 26-27
Mar. 7 Num. 28-30

In Luke's account we read, "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?" (Luke 14.26-28).

Contextually speaking, Jesus' point is not to be taken literal. Too many passages teach us to love one another (John 13.34-35), our neighbors (Mark 12.31) and even ourselves. Thus, Jesus is using hyperbolic language to show the cost of discipleship. His point is simple: we must be willing to sacrifice all, even to the cost of separating from our loved ones and possessions. These passages, therefore, demand dedication to the only source of salvation, namely, Jesus Christ!

The sword represents the sacrifice we must be willing to make when we come to Christ in humble obedience. Since He wants preeminence in all things in our life of servitude, our love for Him must outweigh the love for anyone or anything. He said, "...whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple" (Luke 14.33). It is only when we detach ourselves from the world that our discipleship to Jesus can be true loyalty.

Consider also that the Father's love was sacrificial. He sent His Son to die on a cross for our sins (John 3.16). Thus, if His love for us cost Him something, our love for Him ought to cost us something. His sacrifice teaches us that love is not selfish, but looks out for the interest of others (1 Cor. 13.5; Phil. 2.4). Are we willing to count the cost of being a disciple of Jesus Christ? We must forsake the world and forsake sin. We must love the Father and love one another. This will take sacrifice on our part!

Finally, the passages teach that Jesus does not consider half-hearted service to be true discipleship. A disciple is a follower of a person or idea. Therefore, if we are to manifest our loyalty to the One we follow, we must first learn from Him and then do as He has instructed. Jesus asked, "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?" (Luke 6.46). Jesus calls for preeminence, not second place.

How are we doing Northside family? Do we truly follow Jesus? Do we love Him more than money and possessions (Luke 16.13)? Does our family stand in the way of doing the Lord's work? Do our temporary activities outweigh serving Him or assembling with His children to worship? Those of us who allow the world to be our master instead of Jesus are not worthy of Him. However, to avoid coming trouble and to experience eternal peace let us fully dedicate our service to Christ. BG