

Ministering Grace

www.galaatgrace.com

The Ladies of Grace monthly newsletter
November 2009-2010

Following Christ

by Mrs. Jan Brigner

We make "Following Christ" harder than it needs to be. Our lives are all about choices we make. Some choose to follow Christ, and some choose to follow the world. Many folks choose to walk on the fence even though it is very dangerous, and they can easily fall. Some that walk on the fence feel very comfortable, as they can choose to walk with the Lord that day or go with the crowd. We can all be influenced by our peers, which is why it is so important for us to choose our friends wisely and with God's help. 2 Corinthians 6:17 says "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you." When we attend church and church-related activities, we experience the positive actions of others' lives, and it will influence our lives. Jesus asked us to follow Him and He would show us how to teach other people about Him. Matthew 4:19 says "And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." God's plans are always much better than ours and we must yield to them. Jesus asks us to be consistent in our walk with Him. When we live every day as we should, folks around us can depend on our walk with the Lord to be a blessing to them. It is important for us to read our Bibles and pray every day. When we have the love of Jesus in our hearts, we should smile and be happy so others will want to join us. We may be the only Bible some people read.

People fall away from following Christ when they take their eyes off God and focus on anything other than Him. Psalms 62:3 says, "How long will ye imagine mischief against a man? ye shall be slain all of you: as a bowing wall shall ye be, and as a tottering fence." When Satan tries to get us away from following Christ, he may devise a "he said, she said incident" to annoy us. People often lose their focuses on Christ when something annoys them. Keeping our eyes on the Lord and following the Word will keep us from being deceived by Satan. Dr. Schaap made this statement, "A hero is someone who succeeds while struggling with the same problems you use as excuses."

Matthew 7:14 says, "Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." God never said following Him would be easy, but He promises to walk with us. We should never wander from the Word or become lost sheep; we must remain on the straight and narrow to allow God to work in our lives. I trust in one of my mother's favorite hymns, "In the Garden" by C. Austin Miles. The chorus says "and He walks with me and He talks with me, And He tells me I am His own: and the joy we share as we tarry there, None other has ever known". If we are not there, we will not receive all of the blessings the Lord has promised us. Our goal should be to have a personal one-on-one relationship with Jesus Christ and be in His will. Dr. Hyles made this statement, "Success is on the same road as failure; it is just a little further down the road."

Let's walk the road of success in "Following Christ." It is simple: keep your eyes on Jesus, read your Bible, and pray every day. Maybe people will start to see you as a "Hero" as you let God work in your life, and you can use that to point them to Christ.

Meeting Schedule

"Where Jesus Walked - Lessons from the Holy Land"
Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. unless specified otherwise.

Next meeting: December 8, 2009 (Christmas Potluck)

A Little Humor

by Mrs. Joyce McQuown

One day Katelyn and Zachary were talking about school. Zachary said, "Katelyn, are you going to graduate from school?" Katelyn told Zachary that she would, as long as she didn't have straight F's. So Zachary said, "Well, why don't you just get crooked A's?"

December Potluck Information

Christmas Potluck Menu - Please bring the menu item designated beside your leader's name.

Julie - hot meat dish

Kacie - hot potato or hot vegetable dish

Sandy - dessert

Joyce - salad (pasta, vegetable, fruit, etc.)
2 ladies bring 4 dozen dinner rolls each

Jan - dessert

Linda - 2 large cheese and fruit trays with dip and crackers
2 large veggie trays with dip
5 - 24 case name brand soda (cold in coolers)
2 - 30 cases of bottled water (cold in coolers)

Wear your favorite Christmas sweater if you have one!

Memory Verse

Philippians 2:5

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus."

This month's issue:

- "Following Jesus" by Mrs. Renee Weaver
- Book Review by Mrs. Beulah Rao
- "Following Christ" by Mrs. Jan Brigner

Featuring:

- Tips on being well-rested, by Mrs. Caryn Bane
- Information about the Christmas potluck!

Special offer!
Purchase the book
Is God Good Enough
for You? tonight at the
discounted price
of only \$10.50!

Where Jesus Walked

1 Peter 2:21 "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow in his steps."



Welcome from Mrs. Bane

A lot has happened in the life of Grace Baptist Church since our last meeting. We have reproduced a new church in Enfield, England; we have had our annual Faith Promise Missions Conference, with the added element of a regional conference for two days. These two events don't look like much on paper, but we all know what has gone into these two significant projects. I want to thank each of you for your involvement and sacrifice. Investing in eternity pleases the Lord and allows Grace Baptist Church to have continued influence for the cause of Christ. We are all tired, but it is a good tired, especially in light of the souls who will one day be in Heaven because Grace Baptist Church has caught the vision that God has given our pastor.

Continuing in our theme of "Where Jesus Walked – Lessons From the Holy Land," tonight's theme is "In His Steps." This year's theme verse reflects this theme. I Peter 2:21 says "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow in his steps." (There is a book with tonight's theme as its title that was written over one hundred years ago, that approached the challenge of walking in Christ's steps from a practical, applicable standpoint. I read this book as teenager, and was greatly challenged by its content. I recommend the book wholeheartedly to everyone: "In His Steps" by Charles Sheldon.)

As I have been pondering walking in the steps of Christ, my mind seems to be drawn to the need of knowing the mind of Christ. The Bible plainly addresses many situations; however, not every circumstance of life is dealt with in a particular manner. Because of this, I have learned that I must know the mind of Christ so that I can be equipped to follow His will. While in the Holy Land, our guide showed an actual route to which the Bible refers to Jesus walking on many times. It was neat to be in that place, but I know that following Christ has always been more than placing my foot where He placed His. Yes, it is walking with Him, but mostly it is getting to know Him as I walk alongside Him that teaches me His mind. The more time I spend with Christ and meditate on His Words, the more I know His mind. It is like any relationship: the more time you're together, the more you know each other.

The question for tonight is this: Do we really want to have the mind of Christ? Our theme verse indicates one of the reasons of our salvation – that we should follow in His steps. We must follow, but to do so we must know what is in the mind of Christ. In recent years there has been Christian jewelry and apparel with the letters W.W.J.D. on them. The letters mean "What would Jesus do?" That's what it all boils down to. If I am truly following Christ, I must be ever mindful of what Christ would do if He were right here, right now.

Ladies, I trust you will enjoy the evening at Ladies of Grace! I love each of you, and I pray for God's blessings and guidance in your lives.

Love,

Mrs. Bane

Balanced Health

Getting Enough Rest, by Mrs. Caryn Bane

Determine hours of sleep needed and adjust your schedule to accommodate your need – your family will thank you! Learn to take a 10-15 minute "power nap" when you arrive home. It will refresh you for evening tasks and allow you to enjoy your family. Go to bed at a reasonable hour, even if you are not exhausted and feel you could stay up and get more done. (If you are married, always go to bed at the same time as your husband.) Get into a daily "rhythm" for sleep and only vary occasionally. At least a few times a week, enjoy a few minutes of leisure activity, such as reading, stitching, bubble bath, or other hobby. A common-sense way to ensure a good night's sleep is to get plenty of exercise and work hard during the day so you are ready to sleep at night.

Following Jesus

by Mrs. Renee Weaver

The Webster's 1828 Dictionary defines the word "following" as "coming or going after or behind, pursuing; attending; imitating"; then the final definition of "following" is "proceeding in the same course." It seemed interesting that the words used to define "following" state that following is basically *becoming that which you follow*.

For instance, the word "imitating" means "to copy." The word "attending" is defined as "going with or accompanying." "Pursuing" is defined as "following and continuing to follow." Proceeding in the same course is simply following on the course that was started. It would then be easy to conclude that following Jesus is to continue doing what He has done.

(I Peter 2:21) "Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that we should follow his steps." Following Jesus is attending to Him; accompanying Him by staying close to Him in prayer and in His Word.

Following Jesus is staying with Him on the same course until our final destination is reached. Christ suffered for us on the cross to provide our redemption and suffered when He willingly left a perfect Heaven for our sinful world. He had to live and exist, as we must also live, in order to provide us the example that we should follow. (John 1:37-38) "And two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. Then Jesus turned and saw them following." Jesus knows who follows Him.

If today Jesus were to turn around, would He see us following? Would He find us pursuing after Him or following our own paths? If He turned, would He see us imitating His gentleness towards each other? As we attempt to follow Jesus and happen to trip over a personal failure, Jesus will turn and steady us. If we stumble over a severe heartache, but continue to keep following Jesus, He will wipe away our tears and comfort our hearts.

While we continue to follow Jesus, and we get knocked down when bad news comes our way, Jesus will carry us on the course until we can follow on our own. Following Jesus is a daily journey that we must all pursue. It starts with finding where Jesus is and then taking the first step.

Book Review

by Mrs. Beulah Rao

Is God Good Enough for You?, by Dr. Jack Schaap

Bro. Schaap has written a very practical book about something common to all mankind: Temptation. He has taken the art and science of Scripturally facing temptation, and has succinctly put them together in an easy-to-read format. Each chapter addresses a specific part of dealing with temptation. If you take seven days and read one chapter a day, it will revolutionize the way you deal with specific temptations in your life.

Using examples from his own life and from his many years of ministry experience, Dr. Schaap teaches practical ways to overcome the temptation that is your weakness. He begins by showing that the key to escaping temptation is to build a lifestyle that prevents you from being tempted. Avoid placing yourself in situations or where you are prone to give in to temptation. He describes how one can streamline his choices in order to successfully bypass or overcome temptation.

He continues in another chapter by discussing how a person opens himself up for temptation. He also deals with the root causes and sources of temptation. He concludes with a chapter emphasizing the importance of obeying God and the principles He has set in His Word, even when you don't quite understand them.

I found this book to be an excellent tool in understanding temptation even as it pertains to us ladies as wives, mothers, and disciples of Jesus. As in many of his books, Dr. Schaap motivates the reader toward a greater intimacy with God by using personal and other illustrations and analogies. In this 122-page practical book, Dr. Jack Schaap teaches us lessons in conquering temptation by using the principles of God's Word.

Here are some quotes from the book:

"If we do not find a constancy of person in each of our worlds, we will open the door to being a radically different person in our secret world."

"Those who sin are not people who are not smart; those who sin are smart people who did not think they would ever get into sin."

"When Christians complain and gripe and whine, God turns them over to the destroyer. The best defense against temptation is praise and gratitude."

"Testing is an opportunity to prove that there is nothing I need outside of what God provides, and each test purges me of those appetites which tell me I need more."

If you have ever wondered why Christians have "life-sized" problems, then this book is for you. If you want wisdom on how to deal with those problems, then this book is for you. If you are looking to displace the discontentment in your life with contentment, this book will show you how. It contains the formula for Christians who want to be overcoming and victorious Christians. You will find answers on how to be consistent in your emotions from day to day, even as you change roles.