

"How Much Will Christianity Cost Me?"

(Adapted from article by James Eaves in the *Christian Worker*)

People often do things without thinking about what it will cost them in the end. Purchasing items on their credit cards, eating the wrong foods, buying houses or cars they cannot afford. All of these examples can impact our lives greatly, but there is an area of our lives where cost-counting has a far greater effect. In Luke 14:25-35 Jesus warns those who would follow Him of the importance of counting the cost of such an endeavor.

Jesus Instructs. Jesus begins with a statement that at first glance seems inconsistent with His teachings on the subject of love. "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters...he cannot be my disciple" (Lk. 14:26). Further study will reveal that the meaning behind the word here translated as "hate" is "to love less." Once this is understood we can see that Jesus was not contradicting Himself, He was warning those who would follow Him of the cost of discipleship. Those who would follow Jesus must be ready to love Him above all others. Verse 27 tells us this individual must also be willing to put their old life of sin to death ("bear his cross") and replace it with the will of Christ ("come after me").

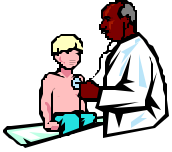
Jesus Illustrates. In verses 28-35, Jesus, being the Master Teacher, uses three illustrations that make His point about "counting the cost" very real and applicable to the individuals listening: 1) If you are going to build a tower, you are going to make sure you have enough money to finish it, 2) If going to war, you will count the cost to make sure you have enough men to win, 3) "Salt is good"- wanting to follow Jesus is good but "if the salt has lost his savor"- if the listener has never counted the cost of following Jesus, there is a good chance he will lose his desire to follow after Him.

We Apply. A) If you are not yet a Christian, please note there are costs involved in following Jesus. We must observe His commandments (Matt.28:20). Drastic changes may be needed in our actions, our friendships, or family relationships (Eph. 4:28; Matt. 19:9). These costs may seem high, but they pale when compared to the reward of the salvation of your soul (Matt. 16:26). B) Christians need to point these costs out to those who desire to follow Jesus. It is our duty to help them see what is involved in the life-changing commitment they are making when they put off the old man and put on the new (Rom. 6:1-6). C) It is the responsibility of each Christian to uphold these costs each day in our lives. Many want to follow Jesus on their terms, not His.

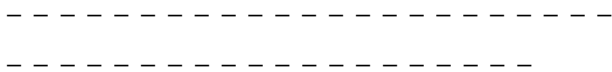
Salvation is free (Eph. 2:8-9) but following Jesus will cost you.

Continue to remember in prayer:

Sick Margaret Kratz, Miriam Majors, Betty Jenkins, Jim Dorsett, E.V. Wimmer, Martha Keith, WJ Wood, Jonnie Charles, Al Furrow, Lyn Anderson, Marguerite Charles, Jo Musgrove, Truman Parker, Velda Gearhart, Ron White, Wayne Walk, Jack McGrady



- Jack Cook had successful surgery and is home.
- Yvette Hartless, friend of the Gwaltney's, is in ICU in a Richmond Hospital.
- Bob Maness, Charlie's brother, has stage 4 cancer. He lives in Grafton, VA.
- Trey Guilliams, Jeff's nephew, is in RMH with double pneumonia.



Happy Birthday this week to:

Shannon Lowe—10/23

Mary Ellen Crowe—10/24

Becky Cooke—10/25

Thomas Kelly—10/25

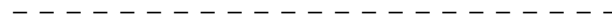


Happy Anniversary this week to :
Glenn & Sandra Neighbors—10/18
Bobby & Wanda Martin—10/25



Military

Jay Martin—Afghanistan



Upcoming Events:

Team 2 (Garby) will be having a Chili Supper at Charlie & Hazel Maness' on Oct. 24 at 5 pm. Sign up sheet on the board!



Fellowship Meal Assignments: Team 1—clean up; Team 2—set up; Team 3—drinks & ice

Feed the Preacher details:

Team 1 (Durham) will be having a soup/chili dinner in the fellowship room on Monday at 5:45. Sign up sheet is on the board.

Team 2 (Garby) will be going to Shoney's on Tuesday at 5:15.

Team 3 (Valentine) will be having a catered meal on Wednesday at 5:45 in the fellowship room. Sign up sheet is located on the board and pay your \$5 at the door!



Teens

October Dates



Teen Bible Study—10/18

Gospel Meeting—10/25-28



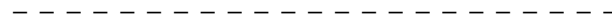
WOW

The WOW group will be having lunch at Harbor Inn today.

Next Meeting will be on November 10 at 10:30.

Upcoming **Gospel Meetings** and **Ladies Days:** (check the board for specific details)

- Cold Harbor Lectures – various speakers – 11/5-8 – 9am
- Rocky Mount – Cindy Guy – 11/7—Please sign up on the board if you are planning to attend or see Lori Cook.



For Your Information

GOSPEL MEETING

Our Fall Gospel Meeting will start next week with BJ Clarke. There are addressed postcards and mailing labels available in the foyer to send him a note of encouragement. Also available are flyers to pass out to your friends and neighbors and the latest copy of H2H.

FELLOWSHIP MEAL

We will be having a fellowship meal after morning services next week. Make plans to attend and see the team assignments to see what your team is doing for the meal!

WEST SIDE GOLF TOURNAMENT

The annual Men's Golf Tournament will be taking place on October 24. Sign up on the board if you are interested and see Jeff with any questions. Jeff still has 2 open spots if you are interested!

LADIES NIGHT OUT

Ladies Night Out will be held on November 5 at 6:30 in the fellowship hall. Bring your favorite cold weather dish as we welcome fall. Sign up sheet is on the board!

MEN'S PLANNING BREAKFAST

The Annual Men's Planning Breakfast will be on November 14 at 8 AM. The men will be going over plans and ideas for next year. Please plan to attend this important event! Breakfast will be served!

MARRIAGE RETREAT

The Great Smoky Mountain Marriage Retreat is scheduled for February 17-20, 2010 at the Pigeon Forge Holiday Inn Conference Center. Guest Speakers include Phillip Hines of Hartselle, AL and David Shannon of Mt. Juliet, TN. Details are on the board and make your reservations soon!!!


Weekly Reminders

Prayer list:

Marguerite Charles
Lyn Anderson
Martha Keith
Miriam Majors
Betty Jenkins
WJ Wood
Margaret Kratz
Jonnie Charles
Jim Dorsett
E.V. Wimmer
Rebekah Richey
Charlie Puckett
Jo Musgrove
Velda Gearhart
Al Furrow
Jack Cook
Ron White
Wayne Waller
Jack McGrady
Yvette Hartless
Bob Maness
Truman Parker

Activities:

Harbor Inn/Wow Lunch—10/18
TBS—10/18
Ws Golf Tournament—10/24
Team 2 Chili—10/24
Gospel Meeting—10/25-28
Fellowship Meal—10/25

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This week's ? ? ? ? ? ?
Emphasis: Evangelism

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All upcoming events for the months of November and December need to be in the office by October 28.



October 2009

Not Better; Just Better Off

Announcements Fred Altizer
Song Leader (AM) Eric Earnhart
Opening Prayer (AM)
10/4 Charlie Gwaltney
10/11 John Black
10/18 Don Petit
10/25 Wayne Dixon

Preside at Communion Danny Guard
Serve Table Jeff Reed Sam Valentine
AC Janney Marc Laplante

Closing Prayer
10/4 Collin Gregory
10/11 Mark Brooks
10/18 Charlie Maness
10/25 Greg Edwards

Song Leader (PM) Jason Oldham
Opening Prayer (PM)
10/4 Jim Harrington
10/11 Josh Whitlow
10/18 Cameron Brown
10/25 Jeff Durham

Scripture Reader Bradford Durham
Closing Prayer (PM)
10/4 Paul Mays
10/11 Eric Earnhart
10/18 Glen Hartman
10/25 Adam House

Serve Table (PM)
Nathan Pelfrey Garrett Durham

Song Leader (Wed) Bob Garby
Prayer (Wed)
10/7 Mitch Jearls
10/14 Bob Martin
10/21 Jim Bush
10/28 Gene Benefield

Open/Close Bldg Squeaky Valentine
Greeters Pettit/Peverall

Nursery Attend Sandy Garby Jennifer Laplante
Ushers Herb Baker Curtis Oakes
Handouts Mark Brooks Jeff Guilliams

Most of us have heard someone say of another person, "He just thinks he's better than everyone else." Some of us have heard such statements in regards to the church. Statements such as, "They think they're the only ones going to heaven." Others have said, "They think they're better than everyone else." These kinds of statements are usually meant to prejudice the listener. But, what about the idea of New Testament Christians being "better" than other people?

The book of Hebrews uses the word "better" 13 times. It speaks of Christ's being better than the angels (Heb. 1:4); of a better hope (Heb. 7:19); of a better covenant (7:22; 8:6); and of a better sacrifice (Heb. 9:23).

It is not the case that Christians are "better" than people of the world. To the contrary, Christians esteem others better than themselves (Phil. 2:3). But, it is the case that we are "better off." We have been redeemed by the blood of Christ (I Pet. 1:18, 19), that "better sacrifice" to which the Hebrews writer alluded. We have been made "partakers of the inheritance of the saints" (Col. 1:12), "partakers of Christ" (Heb. 3:14), "partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (II Pet. 1:4), and "partakers of His holiness" (Heb. 12:10). We have been washed in the blood of the Lamb (Rev. 1:5), saved from our sins through faithful obedience to His will (Heb. 5:9; Lk. 13:3; Acts 2:38; 22:16; I Pet. 3:21), and are assured of the hope of heaven if we remain faithful to Him (Rev. 2:10; I Jn. 2:25). Through the grace of God, His Son has gone through death for us (Heb. 2:9) so that we will not have to be separated from Him eternally because of our sins (Is. 59:1, 2). What could possibly be better? And who could possibly be "better off?"

-Eddy

Prepare communion
Rebecca Durham Karen Munsey
Cards & Pencils
Austin Whitlow Noah Laplante

Last weeks attendance 10/11&14/09
Bible Class— 145 Worship Service—167
Sunday Eve.— 129 Wednesday Eve.—121
Contribution—\$5056

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