

VOICE OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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SLOW DOWN, WE'LL GET THERE SOON **IMPERFECT CHRISTIANS**

One of my concerns for the children of God is the pace at which we are traveling. The pace has moved from physical to mental. We're so busy with the activities of life that it seems to be influencing our spiritual lives without us recognizing it. I was thinking about some times recently when I was a young kid playing in the yard with other kids while the adults sat on the porch watching us and enjoying each other's company. The somewhat simple life has been replaced with a fast paced, get there as quick as you can life. One has to make a decision to slow down mentally. A mental slow down is a choice to enjoy life at its fullest potential while attending the necessities of life. Personal time is a must. If you don't prioritize the personal then you can't manage the necessary. When is the last time you went for a quiet walk or drank a cup of coffee without the rush or the sound of others invading your moment. You can't recall the last hour but you can rearrange the next one. I hope you give this article serious consideration. Have a great day and slow down!

Pastor George Ferrington

“ . . . Thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are. . . ” (Excerpt from Matthew 6:5) Hypocrisy among those of us who profess Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior continues to be a hindrance to unbelievers. Many have condemned the church of God because of the mistakes and misguided beliefs of some in the church. The truth is that once we make a public confession of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, by word or deed, the devil paints a bull's eye on our backs and we become walking targets for such criticism. Whether we like it or not, we are measured by the world according to our confession, the **absolute perfection** of the sinless Son of God, Jesus Christ. But can any mere human be perfect? Of course not, because we all fall infinitely short of the heavenly ideal. But those who have received Jesus Christ will ultimately be judged by a different standard. And this is something that the world simply cannot understand.

Have you ever considered that our salvation in Christ is similar to the provisions of the “witness protection program” of our legal system in which guilt is overlooked and the individual spared prosecution? A new identity is received and a change in location to protect them from their enemies. However, true Christianity differs from this in that guilt is totally removed and not just overlooked! The individual is a new creature—with a new identity in Christ and a new home in heaven. **“Therefore if any person is [engrafted] in Christ (the Messiah) he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old [previously moral and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold, the fresh and new has come!”** 2 Corinthians 5:17 (Amplified)

And when we stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ, that which we have done for Him (or failed to do) will be in view and not the sins we committed while on earth. Our reward will be commensurate with those works that the Lord deems to be “gold, silver, or precious stones”, as opposed to “wood, hay, or straw”; **“For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is [already] laid, which is Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One). But if anyone builds upon the Foundation, whether it be with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw, The work of each [one] will become [plainly, openly] known (shown for what it is); for the day [of Christ] will disclose and declare it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test and critically appraise the character and worth of the work each person has done. If the work which any person has built on this Foundation [any product of his efforts whatever] survives [this test], he will get his reward. But if any person's work is burned up [under the test], he will suffer loss [of it all, losing his reward], though he himself will be saved, but only as [one who has passed] through fire.”** 1 Corinthians 3:11-15 (Amplified Bible)

Hypocrisy is a sin that any believer can commit and is nearly always magnified in the eyes of unbelievers because of the doubt it casts upon one's profession of faith. But even though such incidents will doubtless fall under the classification of wood, hay, or straw and be burned up by the fires of God's judgment—producing no reward—the individual's position

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Eph 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; (KJV)

“And he gave some,” – This is an interesting statement. First we have Jesus defeating the enemy on the enemy’s territory, and this same Jesus gave some; some is not an amount as we usually use the word today, in this verse it is used twice before apostles. The first some means “the one” and the second some means “affirmation”; the following instances of “and some” means “the one” (some) while pointing back to the “affirmation” (and). This verse could say “And Jesus gave the one an affirmation of the office of the apostle; another the affirmation of the office of the prophet; another the affirmation of the office of the evangelist; another the affirmation of the office of pastor and teacher”. It could also say “Jesus gave some to be...”. Anointing could be used in the place of affirmation, although affirmation carries the indication of anointing being included.

It is clear to me from the above the Jesus gave these offices to different people to build, grow and minister to the body of Christ; the only person we see all of these offices’ working in is Jesus. In our time each is given to different people; each local body should be exposed to all these offices, if not having all of them operating in their local body.

Evangelist:

The Evangelist is a messenger, a transmitter of good news. His good news is the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that Jesus was sent to seek and to save that which was lost, and a message of restoration; restoration to God, restoration of fellowship and restoration to life.

The Evangelist is not sent to ridicule, criticize or condemn. His primary mission is to the lost; his secondary mission is restoration of those who are out of fellowship with God and/or their brethren.

The Evangelist has an anointing to minister to the lost. His ministry is centered on salvation. He basically goes looking for someone to get saved. He is drawn to areas where there is a need for salvation. He can stand on a street corner to preach and witness to those in need of salvation. This calling is so strong in him that many times he does not understand why everyone is not doing what he is doing; this is also true of people with an evangelistic anointing but not called to the office of an evangelist.

Philip was an Evangelist; the Apostle Paul and his company recognized him as an evangelist.

Acts 21:8 And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, (KJV)

Philip the Evangelist went to the people who were in need of the good news of the Gospel of Christ. When the Evangelist is operating in his office with the anointing of the Holy Spirit; signs, wonders and miracles will follow his ministry. These are a confirmation of God’s anointing on his ministry, just as when Jesus taught and ministered there was a confirmation of His ministry by signs, wonders and miracles.

Acts 8: Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. (6) And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. (7) For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. (8) And there was great joy in that city. (KJV)

God directs the Evangelist.

Acts 8:26 And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. (KJV)

The second part of the Evangelist ministry is to restore those who have drifted away from the truth of the Word of God and have broken fellowship with Him.

2 Tim 4: (1) I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; (2) Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. (3) For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to

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themselves teachers, having itching ears; (4) And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. (5) But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, **do the work of an evangelist**, make full proof of thy ministry. (KJV) (Go to Page Three)

Paul, in his letter to Timothy, instructed Timothy to do the work of an Evangelist. In the preceding verses he had outlined the work of an Evangelist.

The Evangelist is to reprove and rebuke and then exhort with longsuffering and doctrine. He is to reprove and rebuke those who have itching ears (always going from one new teaching to another, looking for something new or exciting), those who are accepting false teaching and going after false doctrines. He is then to exhort them to return to Christ and the truth of His doctrine with longsuffering (not pushing them to quickly or forcing them) and by exposing them to the true doctrine of Christ. The evangelist is an exhorter, he encourages the lost to be saved and those out of fellowship to be restored.

Order:

The Evangelist **sets relationships in order**. He ministers to the lost, setting in order their relationship with God and Christ. Then he gets them filled with the Holy Ghost setting in order their relationship with the Holy Ghost.

The Evangelist comes through, dumps his load and leaves the Pastor to sort out what has happened. He does not have a strong relation with the congregation, therefore he feels the freedom to say what needs to be said before moving on, and he is not as apt to be affected by the feelings of others when presenting his message.

The Evangelist gets saved (sets relationships in order), the Prophet cleans up (set thine house in order) and the Apostle sets in place (sets in order that which is lacking wanting and coming behind). Then the Pastor and Teacher are left to put the pieces together after the others are finished. This is why our focal scripture says Pastor and Teacher; most of the time a Pastor is a Teacher and a Teacher will have a Pastors heart.

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(Cont. from Page One)

The Evangelist is usually a rover who sets relationships in order and moves on to another place under the direction of God.

Your

Brother in Christ, Ray Jennings

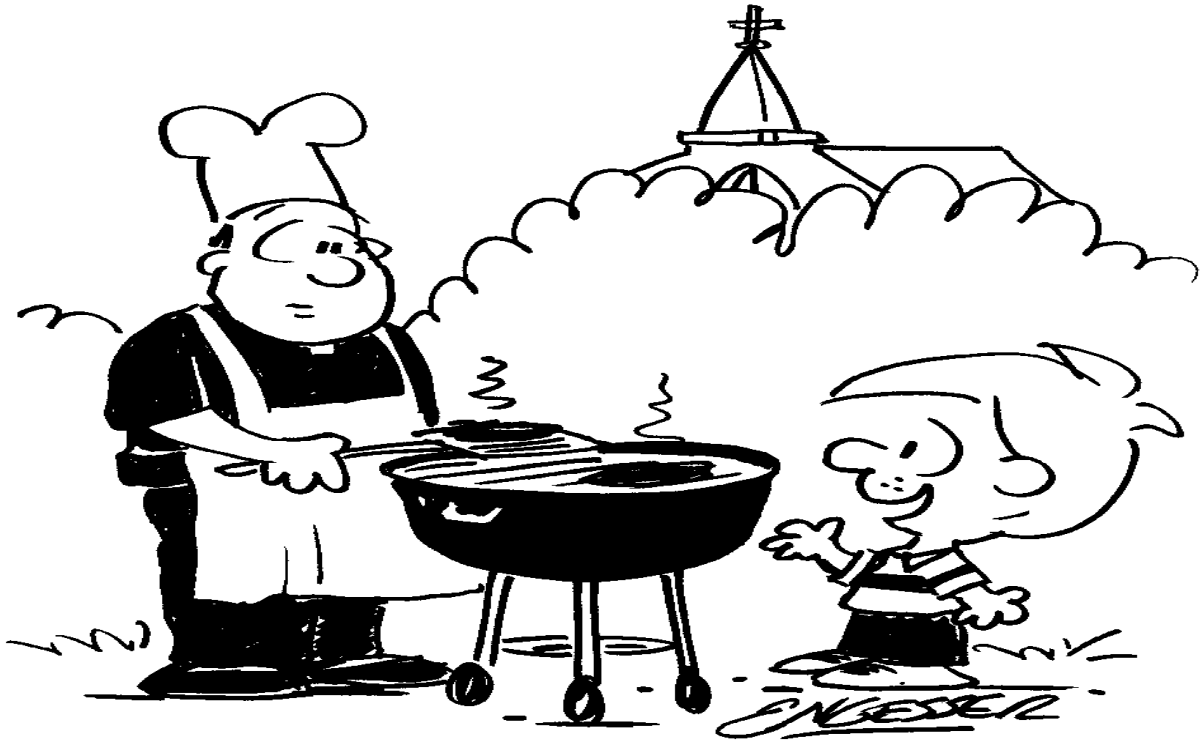
God's ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20), genuine believers will never suffer divine prosecution.

According to the Word, every man, woman, boy and girl will have to answer to a Holy God for their lives. But what the world does not understand is that the unit of measurement—"the yardstick"—God will use to judge the believer is entirely different than that for the unbeliever. Those who die without receiving Jesus Christ will be judged on the relative degree of sin they commit while on earth and their eternal punishment in hell will be meted out in proportion to that sin. Whereas believers will be judged on the basis of what they did (or failed to do) for the Lord and then be rewarded accordingly, but their sin will never be taken into consideration! Both were born "dead in trespasses and sins" (Ephesians 2:1), possessing the same sinful nature, but the difference in how they are ultimately viewed by God is that the believer's sin was paid for by Christ when He died on the cross. Therefore, they will spend eternity in heaven because of His sacrifice on their behalf.

And that wonderful and awe-inspiring fact can lead to an attitude problem if we are not extremely careful! Knowing that we will not be prosecuted for our sins is an area of great vulnerability because it gives the devil an engraved invitation to attack us. By causing thoughts of, "Why should I be overly concerned about what others think of me, when my name is written down in heaven?" (Revelations 21:27), is one way he tempts us to let our guard down and engage in hypocritical behavior. Then anger and resentment by unbelievers is a natural response—especially when it is perceived as being flagrant—and turns off people to the Gospel message. Plus there is the added dilemma of hypocritical behavior among those who claim to be born again while their lives clearly say otherwise.



"GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS."
L A M E N T A T I O N S 3 : 2 3



"You're grillin', pastor. That must make you a friar!"

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*"Everyone who
calls on the
name of
the LORD
shall be saved."*

Romans 10:13 NRSV