

Soldiers of the Cross

Making Disciples of all Nations Matt 28:19-20

Issue 2

Fighting the Good Fight Part 2

Following on from our last issue, we continue to explore what it is to be a good soldier of Jesus Christ, 'fighting the good fight', by comparing it to being a soldier in a regular army.

By Leah Knowing

When a soldier goes through 'basic training', also known as 'boot camp' in some countries, to be trained, what is the main thing that is being trained? It's **CHARACTER**.

You could have a soldier that is fit and healthy, knows how to shoot, knows all about weapons, the enemy and his tactics, even about working in a team, but he will still be required to apply himself to the training, just like everyone else, because there is more to a soldier than just skill and knowledge. The army wants to see their character.

In fact, some sections of the defence force choose the 'cream of the crop', so to speak, for their teams, mostly based on their character.

"An army wants to see character"

Retired Lieutenant Colonel, Robin Morrison, who served for almost 30 years in the Australian Army, said, "I learnt that character, more than professional efficiency alone, determines the effectiveness of a soldier, - particularly a leader."

He said the things that matter are whether a man has inner as well as physical resilience, quiet confidence, rather than flamboyance and show, unfailing integrity, honesty and straightforwardness to himself as well as to others. Perhaps, above all, whether or not he can walk in self-knowledge, self-discipline and complete self-control, will dictate whether he can perform when things get tough and can influence others to do so.

"I was an Infantry Commander in the Korean War and the Malayan Emergency. The best soldiers under me were almost always men of admirable character."

He said that later he was, for three years, a trainer of Officer Cadets at the Royal Military College, Duntroon.

"As we assessed the potential of the Cadets for leadership, we very frequently faced the dilemma of whether to allow a clever and technically-proficient man to go

forward, when we had doubts about his character. Conversely, should we pass a man of obviously strong character, who had some way still to go to reach professional standards in his work?"

He said, almost invariably, they backed character.

"I cannot recall a single case in which later events proved us wrong."

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The Old Cross and The New

An article by A.W. Tozer

All unannounced and mostly undetected there has come in modern times a new cross into popular evangelical circles. It is like the old cross, but different: the likenesses are superficial; the differences, fundamental.

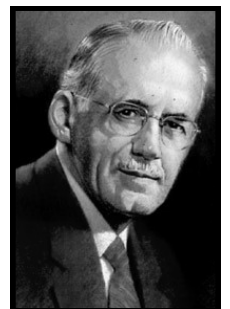
From this new cross has sprung a new philosophy of the Christian life, and from that new philosophy has come a new evangelical technique—a new type of meeting and a new kind of preaching. This new evangelism employs the same language as the old, but its content is not the same and its emphasis not as before.

The old cross would have no truck with the world. For Adam's proud flesh it meant the end of the journey. It carried into effect the sentence imposed by the law of Sinai. The new cross is not opposed to the human race; rather, it is a friendly pal and, if understood aright, it is the source of oceans of good clean fun and innocent enjoyment. It lets Adam live without interference. His life motivation is unchanged; he still lives for his own pleas-

ure, only now he takes delight in singing choruses and watching religious movies instead of singing bawdy songs and drinking hard liquor. The accent is still on enjoyment, though the fun is now on a higher plane morally if not intellectually.

The new cross encourages a new and entirely different evangelistic approach. The evangelist does not demand abnegation of the old life before a new life can be received. He preaches not contrasts but similarities. He seeks to key into public interest by showing that Christianity makes no unpleasant demands; rather, it offers the same thing the world does, only on a higher level. Whatever the sin-mad world happens to be clamoring after at the moment is cleverly shown to be the very thing the gospel offers, only the religious product is better.

(Continued on page 3)



**message
of the
moment**



**Two in One (Hell's Best Kept Secret
& True & False Conversion)
By Ray Comfort**

*See Page 2 for a review of
these excellent messages*

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FREE copy of this CD,**
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soldiersofthecross2009@hotmail.com

The Commission

By Tim Knowling

Welcome to Issue No. 2 of 'Soldiers of the Cross'. It is a year ago since we believed the Lord wanted us to establish this ministry, and I shared then how we had come to that place.

When Leah and I both knew that our time with the Tent of Promise had come to an end, we believed we were to spend a time in Rockhampton where Leah's family live. This gave us an opportunity to help family with their business and to sit under the excellent teaching at Peace Apostolic Community, where we fellowshiped.

However, it was also a time of seeking the Lord as to where He was leading us. Whilst the focus of much of our attention this year has been our daughter, Rebekah Grace, who was born on 10th of February (see Leah's article found in this issue), we have been continuing to seek the Lord so that this ministry would be established properly.

This year we decided after seeking counsel to apply to have our ministry incorporated. For us this was a step of faith and my position before the Lord was, "If this is of You, let it succeed; otherwise, close the door".

Soldiers of the Cross Inc. Objectives

- To be Christ's ambassadors (2 Cor 5:20) and an example to the believers. (1 Timothy 4:12)
- To preach the Gospel to the lost and disciple the saved. (Matthew 28:18-20)
- To come alongside local churches to train and equip the body of Christ for the work of the ministry (Ephesians 4:11-12), including, but not limited to -
 - Training believers in evangelism
 - Providing teaching and other resources for churches
 - Encouraging believers in ministry

After going through the process of filling out the relevant paperwork and lodging our application with the Office of Fair Trading, we had a lengthy wait as it was processed. However I am pleased to say that we eventually received a certificate verifying that our application had been accepted. So we are now officially, 'Soldiers of the Cross Inc.'

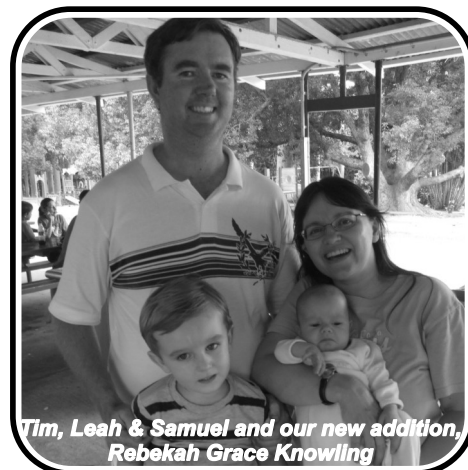
Our desire, as stated in our mission statement is **"to see the church become the mighty, mature and fully-functioning army of God it is meant to be, fulfilling the Great Commission, as commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 28:18-20."**

We have also been continually blessed as we have witnessed the Lord's hand in providing for our own personal needs as a family and in the ministry. At the beginning of the year we were blessed by the provision of a car - a Holden Commodore station wagon, which came just when we needed it. We pray that the Lord will richly reward the giver.

As I write this, we are currently in Tweed Heads, helping the Promise Faith Centre Church, which is the ministry base of the Tent of Promise, where Leah and I served for 5-6 years. We came to assist them in their preparations for their annual mission trip to Africa and have also been helping David and Kristen Semmens, their Assistant Pastors, while the Senior Ministers, Ps Barry and Sandra Cunningham are in Africa.

What we have been doing here in serving the church, is actually fulfilling the objectives of the ministry, as can be seen (left). As such, is our first official open door, since incorporation. Having said that, it has been such a blessing to us to be able to serve those who imparted, trained and served us for all those years prior.

As you will see in this issue of SOTC we have included a message written by AW Tozer. I am so grateful for the wonderful legacy that we have received from men of God who have gone before us. However, I cannot help but wonder how grieved the Lord must be when we ignore the warnings they have sometimes brought (see the article, 'Standing our Ground' on pg 4)



Tim, Leah & Samuel and our new addition, Rebekah Grace Knowling

A few years ago I was reading the book of Hebrews, in Chapter Six, about the "Foundations of our Faith" and thought then that we as the church needed to go back over this teaching so that people have a thorough understanding about Repentance, Faith, Baptism's, Laying on of hands, Resurrection of the dead and Eternal Judgement. At some point I would like to put together a teaching series on all these subjects.

One of the great inventions of our times has been the internet. This of course is abused by many and is used as a tool of the devil, however, like television, can be a great avenue for preaching the Gospel.

"I am so grateful for the wonderful legacy we have received..."

One Pastor I know of had a very successful website which he used to spread the gospel. It is also a great source of information which makes producing a newsletter like this much easier.

By the next issue of SOTC we hope to have started a website to help promote the vision of the Soldiers of the Cross but also

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Hell's Best Kept Secret & True and False Conversion

Last issue we previewed 'Hell's Best Kept Secret', a message by Ray Comfort talking about a 'Key' which has been forgotten by most of the church but was used by all the great evangelists of the past. This issue we are still offering this message free, along with its complimentary message, 'True & False Conversion'. Sadly, there is little teaching on the sub-

ject of true and false conversion within the contemporary Church, yet the Bible is full of instruction on this vital subject. Through this teaching you will learn about the cause of a false conversion and the incredible key that unlocks the mystery of all the parables, the six characteristics of a false convert, the factor that proves the genuineness of a true convert and why a

genuine convert will stand no matter how great the adversity.

"That is the reason we have so many mushroom converts . . . why? Because their stony ground is not plowed up; they have not got a conviction of the Law."

George Whitefield

See the front page for how you can receive your FREE COPY.

The Old Cross and The New

(Continued from page 1)

The new cross does not slay the sinner, it redirects him. It gears him into a cleaner and jollier way of living and saves his self-respect. To the self-assertive it says, "Come and assert yourself for Christ." To the egotist it says, "Come and do your boasting in the Lord." To the thrill seeker it says, "Come and enjoy the thrill of Christian fellowship." The Christian message is slanted in the direction of the current vogue in order to make it acceptable to the public.

"The old cross is a symbol of death"

The philosophy back of this kind of thing may be sincere but its sincerity does not save it from being false. It is false because it is blind. It misses completely the whole meaning of the cross.

The old cross is a symbol of death. It stands for the abrupt, violent end of a human being. The man in Roman times who took up his cross and started down the road had already said goodbye to his friends. He was not coming back. He was going out to have it ended. The cross made no compromise, modified nothing, spared nothing; it slew all of the man, completely and for good. It did not try to keep on good terms with its victim. It struck cruel and hard, and when it had finished its work, the man was no more.

The race of Adam is under a death sentence. There is no commutation and no escape. God cannot approve any of the fruits of sin, however innocent they may appear or beautiful to the eyes of men. God salvages the individual by liquidating him and then raising him again to newness of life.

That evangelism which draws friendly parallels between the ways of God and the ways of men is false to the Bible and cruel to the souls of its hearers. The faith of Christ does not parallel the world, it intersects it. In coming to Christ we do not bring our old life up onto a higher plane; we leave it at the cross. The corn of wheat must fall into the ground and die.

We who preach the gospel must not think of ourselves as public relations agents sent to establish good will between Christ and the world. We must not imagine ourselves commissioned to make Christ acceptable to big business, the press, the world of sports or modern education. We are not diplomats but prophets, and our message is not a compromise but an ultimatum.

God offers life, but not an improved old life. The life He offers is life out of death. It stands always on the far side of the cross. Whoever would possess it must pass under the rod. He must repudiate himself and concur in God's just sentence against him.

What does this mean to the individual, the condemned man who would find life in Christ Jesus? How can this theology be translated into life? Simply, he must repent and believe. He must forsake his sins and then go on to forsake himself. Let him cover nothing, defend nothing, excuse nothing. Let him not seek to make terms with God, but let him bow his head before the stroke of God's stern displeasure and acknowledge himself worthy to die.

"God offers life, but not an improved old life"

Having done this let him gaze with simple trust upon the risen Saviour, and from Him will come life and rebirth and cleansing and power. The cross that ended the earthly life of Jesus now puts an end to the sinner; and the power that raised

The Commission

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to help promote resources that people can use in better establishing themselves in fulfilling the Great Commission.

In closing, consider these words by Charles Spurgeon, "*What we want in the Church of Christ is a band of well-trained sharpshooters, who will pick the people out individually and be always on the watch for all who come into the place, not annoying them, but making sure that they do not go away without having a personal warning, invitation, and exhortation to come to Christ.*"

Christ from the dead now raises him to a new life along with Christ.

To any who may object to this or count it

"Let us preach the old cross and we will know the old power"

merely a narrow and private view of truth, let me say God has set His hallmark of approval upon this message from Paul's day to the present. Whether stated in these exact words or not, this has been the content of all preaching that has brought life and power to the world through the centuries. The mystics, the reformers, the revivalists have put their emphasis here, and signs and wonders and mighty operations of the Holy Ghost gave witness to God's approval.

Dare we, the heirs of such a legacy of power, tamper with the truth? Dare we with our stubby pencils erase the lines of the blueprint or alter the pattern shown us on the Mount? May God forbid. Let us preach the old cross and we will know the old power.

An extract from '*Man, the Dwelling Place of God*', c. 1966 by A. W. Tozer.



EVANGELISM TRAINING

If you've been wanting to help a small group, or your entire church learn how to witness, this comprehensive course is the ideal training tool! These 8 lessons will teach you to overcome your fears by using a proven, powerfully effective way to make the Gospel make sense.

You won't be at a loss for words. You don't need to be an expert in apologetics. Instead, you'll learn the forgotten Biblical principle of bypassing the intellect (the place of argument) and speaking directly to the conscience (the place of the knowledge of right and wrong) - the way Jesus did.

Using a captivating teaching style, Kirk Cameron and Ray Comfort not only tell you how to witness, they show you, through fascinating on-the-street conversations. You will be inspired and motivated as you learn, watch, and then do.

This course is available at www.wayofthemaster.com.au

The Soldiers of the Cross ministry can facilitate these courses and are available to come to your church to set up and run the course, as well as to motivate participants by taking them on 'fishing trips'.

If you or your church would like more information, please email us at soldiersofthecross2009@hotmail.com

Last year we helped to facilitate this course in a small group setting. We reported this in Issue One. The Way of the Master's 'Basic Training Course' is specially formatted to train believers simply and confidently in sharing the gospel with family, friends, and strangers.

Standing our Ground

“The chief danger of the 20th Century will be religion without the Holy Spirit, Christianity without Christ, forgiveness without repentance, salvation without regeneration, politics without God, and heaven without hell.”

General William Booth.

By Tim Knowing

I find the above quote by William Booth quite interesting given that this was stated by him over one hundred years ago. I am sure to the average Christian, the concerns which he aired are just as relevant in this 21st Century as when he warned back then.

I can not help but wonder that if it was not for the fact that it was William Booth, still respected and regarded by many as a church father, that his comments might not be taken as seriously.

Let us consider where we are at today in light of his warning.

Religion without the Holy Spirit

I still marvel at the fact that a lot of the opposition that we received over the years travelling in the Tent of Promise was over the current day ministry of the Holy Spirit. A sad fact given that the only way we can live this Christian life is through the Holy Spirit who lives in us and who also empowers us to “be His witnesses”. You can read about the many Christian denominations that were started as a direct result of spiritual awakenings over the last 200 years. But sadly as time goes by we slide back into formalism, and structure ourselves, so that we leave no room for the Holy Spirit to work.

Sometimes churches would rather not allow spiritual gifts to operate in their congregations for fear that they might get it wrong. They hear of someone who received a prophetic word that didn't come true, so they decide to throw the baby out with the bathwater. That way no one gets hurt.

A number of years ago we were working in an Aboriginal community. At an Anglican church there, I was blessed to witness a message given by someone with the gift of tongues. The Pastor then called for someone to bring the interpretation, which followed. This incidentally was a confirming word to those who were being prayed for, but also encouraged me to see a house that was in order.

Christianity without Christ

We hear of liberal churches where the minister stands in the pulpit and declares that the Word of God does not apply today. Man's ideas are declared as higher than God's Word. Jesus is looked upon as a

good man, whose teachings are good examples to be followed, but He is rejected as God.

Recently we had to take our baby daughter to have her four month immunisations. We struck up a conversation with the doctor who turned out to have had a religious background. He claimed to be a follower of Jesus, but yet, had rejected His sovereignty. To him Jesus was just a good moral man.

Forgiveness without Repentance

At the end of 2006, when both Leah and I had been seeking the Lord for “Bread” for the new year, the Lord started speaking to us about repentance. As we re-examined our own lives and thought about what it was that was working in us that brought us to the place where we truly believed unto salvation - it was repentance.

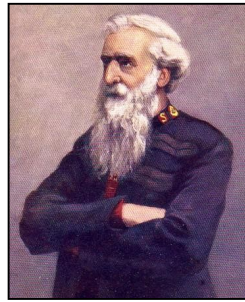
Both of us felt quite convicted by the fact that we had not really preached repentance, and the Lord reminded us that it was such an important part of the Gospel, so much so, that when a sinner repents the scriptures say that the Angels in Heaven rejoice (Luke 15:10). Sure we spoke a lot about believing, but I know that this most necessary part of the Gospel had only really been given lip service. It was this message of repentance that was spoken by our Lord when He first came out of the wilderness, (Matt 4:17) and by Peter on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:38, 3:19). Paul preaching on Mars Hill also commanded his hearers to repent (Acts 17:30).

Charles Spurgeon, known as the “prince of preachers” said, “*Sin and hell are married unless repentance proclaims the divorce*”.

Salvation without Regeneration

I was listening to a message recently by David Wilkerson speaking on repentance, and he spoke of how the Lord sent him to preach in New York. For those who have ever seen the film, “The Cross and the Switchblade”, will remember the culture in which he was ministering. But what got my attention was him giving witness to the changed lives that resulted.

The Apostle Paul in speaking with King Agrippa spoke of how people “should



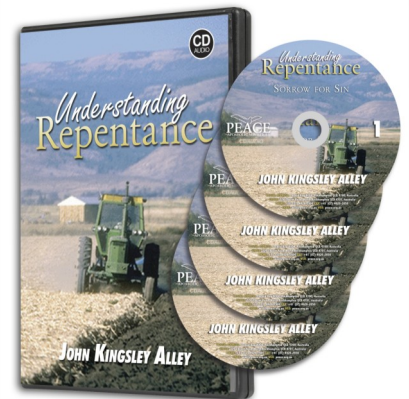
REVIEW

Understanding Repentance

At the time when the Lord was speaking to us about the importance of repentance, we happened to be in Rockhampton where over a period of four weeks Apostle John Alley preached the following series of messages. It was an encouragement and confirmation to hear these messages, on a subject that has been often neglected in the church today.

I know this series of messages has impacted others who have listened to them as well.

It is commonly understood in Christian circles that the basis for salvation consists of repentance, faith, and the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit. But what is the real meaning of repentance?



Beginning with the heart attitudes and continuing through the sins of omission and sins of commission, the listener is exhorted to deal with the sinful heart on an ongoing basis. We are challenged and encouraged as the difference between a shallow approach toward sin and confession, and the wonderful assurance of forgiveness and the grace of God following true repentance is explained.

Having explained repentance in great depth, Apostle John continues on examining the close connection between repentance and faith, as well as the difference between Godly sorrow and worldly sorrow. Through this series, Apostle John Alley provides real encouragement to those who follow after Christ, building a genuine hope of salvation within every believing heart.

To purchase this 4-CD set for \$25, contact www.shop.peace.org.au or email, books@peace.org.au or phone their office on (07) 4922 7055.

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What is it to be Born Again?

By Leah Knowling

A story is told about a man seeing a group of chickens hatching out of their eggs. As he saw them peck their way out of the shell, what a terrible time they had! They struggled and fell over and tumbled around and he pitied them from the bottom of his heart. He thought, "The next eggs that I see hatching; I'm going to help them out." So the next time he saw a hen hatching, he pushed her off and picked them all out of the shell and they all died!

What a tragedy. It is a well-known fact that, with chickens, it is the struggle that gets the blood pumping and the muscles moving which then gives it the strength to survive.



A W Tozer said, "Unfortunately, that is what's the matter with so many of our Christians: we have picked them out of the shell! In order to get them at all, we have rushed ahead and picked them out of the shell and the result is they die all around us and we say they backslid! They never backslid because they never were regenerated to start with!"

Let me put this another way. When Jesus spoke to Nicodemus in John 3:3, He said,

'I tell you the truth, no one can see the Kingdom of God unless he is born again'.

So what is it to be Born Again?

You will get many answers to this question. And most of them are true and biblical. Answers such as "through repentance towards God and faith in Jesus Christ" are very true. And everyone who is a Christian certainly will have repented and believed.

Why is it then that so many flounder and struggle in their 'walk' and give up and turn back after they have 'made a decision for Christ'. They say they repent and they say they believe, and they often sincerely believe that they are 'saved'.

Now I don't have all the answers. But God does. And His Word gives us some illustrations that, quite frankly, are hard to swallow and don't get preached on very often. However, I believe, if we are going to truly understand what Jesus meant when He said 'You must be born again', we need to look in the Word and also in the natural, at the point he was illustrating.

There are those who say being born again is a joyous occasion and is EASY. That it's

just a matter of believing and saying a prayer and 'whalah', you're saved.

Now, there is certainly truth in the fact that when someone has been born again that there is rejoicing in Heaven "over one sinner who repents" (John 15:7,10 *emphasis added*). However, it is not and should not be easy. Stay with me in this.

If the Lord Jesus was using the term 'born again', then he was wanting us to understand something from the natural realm. Anyone who says that being born, or rather, that the 'birth process' is easy, is probably a man. No offense!

"His Word gives us some illustrations that are hard"

Just ask any mother if the birth process is easy. The answer is NO. There is pain involved. That's why they call it 'labour'. I should know. My 'labour' was only a few months ago and is still fresh in my mind.

I know there are those women who pop out babies seemingly easily. However, there is still pain, there are still contractions, there is still the pushing. It still hurts.

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Fighting the Good Fight

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God is no different. We can be the most gifted singer, the most talented musician or the most eloquent preacher, but without good character, it means nothing. In fact, you will find that such people often don't fulfil the potential God has for them, simply because they haven't allowed God to build character in them.

So what is CHARACTER?

Character is not what we do, character is who we are. Last issue, I talked about obedience to a Commanding Officer. And this is certainly one aspect of good character. Other good character traits would include, in no particular order, submission (as defined differently to obedience - submission being an attitude, obedience an action), faithfulness, integrity, honesty, loyalty, unity, compassion and perseverance, to name but a few.

"Character is not what we do, character is who we are"

The Bible mentions more in Galatians 5:22-23, namely "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."

How, then, can character be built?

In an army, soldiers go through various training, exercises and trials. So, too, a Christian will go through trials, temptations, distresses and frustrations of many kinds. Jesus said so (see John 16:33).

"It is through trials where true character is tested"

And just as in an army, a soldier's training and exercises have a purpose; so, too, our trials, temptations and sufferings also have a greater purpose (See James 1:2-4).

Army Officers will use the various exercises, not just to build a soldier's body, but to build his character. It is through these, often painful, trials, where true character is tested and developed.

This is also true for Christians. God, like Army Officers, uses our trials and temptations to build and then to test and prove our character. If we are a true Christian, then these sufferings will produce 'perseverance; perseverance character and character, hope.' Romans 5:3-5.

However, if we are not a true Christian (if we are a false convert or a pretender), then these trials and temptations will only serve to show us our true colours and cause us to 'fall away', as explained by the

Lord Jesus in the Parable of the Sower (see Luke 8:5-15 and Mark 4:3-20).

Does this mean there is no hope for the false convert? Not necessarily. God, in His great wisdom, uses these things to help bring us to our senses, as with the Prodigal Son. However, we do all have a choice.

Over the years, I have seen gifted people, who had a call of God on their lives, but because their character was flawed, when temptations, tests and trials came, they ended up 'shipwrecking their faith' and even 'falling away', proving themselves to actually be false converts all along. My prayer for them is that they would realise "God's kindness leads [them] toward repentance" Romans 2:4b.

"A true Christian need not fear these trials"

However, if we are a true Christian, we do not need to fear these trials. In fact, Jesus, Paul and James all tell us to rejoice in these times. Why? Because, as with a soldier, if we allow ourselves to be trained by them, the Lord will use these momentary trials and tests to build our character and "make us mature and complete, not lacking anything" (James 1:4) - a soldier of the Cross fit for service in God's great army.

What is it to be Born Again?

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Folks, let's have a reality check here. The baby inside has to get outside through a very small opening. There's no easy way for it. The opening is narrow and compressed. And if it is hard for the mother, it is also hard for the baby. These little ones have got to do a lot of work to get to the 'outside'. And that is exactly the analogy Jesus is wanting us to understand.

***"The gate is narrow
(contracted by pressure)
that leads to life"***

Now don't misunderstand me. I am NOT advocating salvation by works. However, in **Matthew 7:13-14 (AMP)**, Jesus says *"Enter through the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and spacious and broad is the way that leads away to destruction, and*

many are those who are entering through it. But the gate is narrow (contracted by pressure) and the way is straitened and compressed that leads to life, and few are those who find it."

Notice He says the gate is narrow, contracted by pressure and compressed, that leads to life. That's what it is like for a natural birth and that's what it should be like for a spiritual one. At least one where the 'baby' survives.

I believe we are seeing so many 'backsliders' today, because those who are preaching the Gospel are trying to make the way so easy for sinners to 'come to Christ' that there is little or often, no mention of 'sin, righteousness and judgement', so there is no *"Godly sorrow, which brings repentance, that leads to salvation and leaves no regret."* 2 Corinthians 7:10.

Being born again may be 'simple', but it certainly shouldn't be easy. There is pain involved, because something has to die - US! There is pain when the Holy Spirit brings conviction of sin upon a unregener-

ate sinner and their eyes are opened to see how utterly sinful they have been (see Romans 7:7-13).

However, when someone humbles themselves before God, recognises how much they have offended such a Holy and Righteous God and gone through the 'birth pangs' of true repentance, then the 'Good News' of Christ's death and resurrection will be good news indeed. Then, through, faith in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit will birth a new creation and that 'new man' will bring forth fruit with much rejoicing.

CLASSIC QUOTE

"It is a great mistake to give a man who has not been convicted of sin certain passages that were never meant for him. The law is what he needs. Do not offer the consolation of the gospel until he sees and knows he is guilty before God. We must give enough of the law to take away all self-righteousness."

D. L. Moody

Standing our Ground

(Continued from page 4)

repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds." (Acts 26:20)

I know for myself that before I repented of my sin and truly believed there was no evidence of regeneration. I was truly a friend of the world and hence an enemy of God (James 4:4; 1 John 2:15).

Bishop J. C. Ryle, a great preacher and teacher of the late 1800's said *"A conversion which allows a man to live in sin, to lie, and drink, and swear, is not the conversion of the Bible. It is a counterfeit conversion, which can only please the devil, and will lead the man who is satisfied with it, not to heaven, but to hell."*

Politics without God

Opening a newspaper we do not have to look too far to see the great challenges our Government has. Economic down-

turns, the threat of terrorism on our shores, etc., etc. We are all guilty of having roast politician for dinner, but I cannot help but be reminded to pray for those in government. Even despite the fact of where they are or are not in regard to their own personal relationship to the Lord. An older man that I know who's father had come from Wales and lived during that time of revival in the early nineteen hundreds, said his father spoke of the government consulting the church in matters of state. Compare this to where we are today where the prayer offered up when parliament sits is not held in respect as in times past. There are, however, committed Christians in the political arena working to make a difference.

Heaven without Hell

"And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in Hell" Matthew 10:28.

In Matthew Chapter 11 Jesus warned

cities of coming judgement because they did not repent. Even to the point that He said that it would be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of Judgement. It was the reality of this judgement of the unrepentant that has driven every great preacher.

John Wesley said, *"Before I can preach love, mercy, and grace, I must preach sin, law, and judgment."* Today, there is often a hesitation to mention such things for fear of offending people or persecution. Compare this to the Apostle Paul who had the following reaction from those who he preached to. They either repented or were angry and even tried to kill him. Sinners have to know that they are going to stand before a Holy God one day.

In conclusion, my prayer for us, the church in this 21st Century, is that the Lord would give us grace to stand our ground and where necessary, take back the ground on these points William Booth warned, that were in danger of being compromised. He truly understood that we are in a war.

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Pastors Tim and Leah Knowling are affiliated with the International Communion of Charismatic Churches (Aust) Inc.

All articles are written by Tim and Leah, unless otherwise stated. Scripture references taken from the KJV, NKJV, NIV or AMP Bibles.

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