

The University Heights Messenger

August 29, 2010

I'm Not A Christian Because...

Many individuals who say they believe in God and Christ refuse to do the things necessary to become a Christian. Since I began preaching that has fascinated me and I have spoken to several people who found themselves in that position, believing but refusing to act on that belief. I've asked them what they were waiting for? Three answers jump out at me. They are common and they are dealt with in Scripture. Perhaps this article will help someone who may find themselves making one of these three excuses.

One explanation, given more through a persons actions rather than their expressing it in words, is that they refuse to become a Christian because they don't want to end up the subject of ridicule among their friends, peers, or family. In most situations this objection would be quite reasonable. After all, none of us knowingly seeks to involve ourselves in things that will make us the target of cruel jokes. We all want to be like and accepted.

Yet this is not "most situations." This is serving the Lord by becoming His child. This excuse simply will not work. In Luke 9:26 Jesus said, "**For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the angel's.**" Ultimately, this all boils down to one of two choices. Shall I become a Christian and live faithful to the Lord, suffering some sort of ridicule from my fellow man on some occasions, yet obtaining a home in heaven in the process; or, shall I refuse the Lord, freeing myself from the possibility of ridicule at the hands

of my peers, and face the horror of eternal damnation for being ashamed of Jesus? Does the choice *really* seem that tough?

Others have told me that they would never become Christians because of the inconsistencies of professed Christians. I freely admit that it is discouraging to see inconsistencies within my brethren. It is even more discouraging to see them within *myself* from time to time! The wonderful thing is that the inconsistencies of other people have *nothing to do with me!* If I stand in the pulpit preaching against stealing and a non Christian who hears that lesson sees me out stealing something he may rightly claim that I am inconsistent. Does that provide an excuse for him to continue living in disobedience to the Lord? Surely not! No one will stand before Christ to answer for what Adam did except Adam.

Make no mistake, we will all stand before Him. "**For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done whether good or bad.**" (2 Corinthians 5:10). When the time comes for us to stand before Christ He is not going to ask anyone to explain why *I* did something contrary to His will. Only I will have to answer that question. Let us never try to use the sins of Christians to excuse our own unwillingness to serve Christ correctly. It has never been an acceptable excuse (**Galatians 2:11-13**) and it never will.

The most common reason of all is that a person is simply not willing to put Christ before everything else in their life. This is not only the reason that many never become Christians, it is also the reason many Christians eventually stumble and fall away.

It is true that becoming a Christian demands that certain things be given up. Some never become Christians because they refuse to give up drinking or drugs, to place Christ before their work or money, or because they recognize they would have to do something about their ungodly marriage. The thought of having to give up *anything* for Christ is not a popular idea in our country. Yet our Lord said, in Mark 8:36-37, “**For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul?**”

When disaster’s strike, such as the floods that hit Tennessee recently, we heard an awful lot about the loss of possessions suffered by a vast number of people. What we never heard a word about was the tragic loss of unprepared souls who were swept away in the flood. Yes, much “stuff” was lost and that is rough and makes a persons life more diffiuct. But that stuff wasn’t crossing the grave with any of those people, only their souls. I can assure you that those who were not prepared are certainly not thinking about the state of their “stuff” right now and that is a true tragedy.

There are two possible destinations available to man upon his death. Because both desintations are open, it is left to us to determine where we shall go. We know what He wants us to choose. We know where we’d prefer to be. Putting all excuses aside, let’s make sure that we do the things necessary to get there. If that involves you putting on Christ for the first time, no excuse is worth the loss of your soul. Think about these things. AL

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Glen Davis received word that his benign tumor had not grown at all over the past few months. This is wonderful news! Having said that, he and the rest of the family are battling illness.

Dorothy Gregg, Jackie’s great aunt, passed from this life Tuesday.

Our members: **Glenn Kimberlin**

Others:**Robert and Sarah Brundige, Kay Montgomery, Jean Gartland, Ruel Baker, Wes Kidd, Vera Howerton, Gail Stein, Glenn Goldy, Shannon Gilbert, Chuck McDavitt, the Shamas family.**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Our meeting is rapidly approaching (September 19-24). Monday through Friday is specifically designed for non Christians so let us all make sure that we invite our non Christians friends and family to attend.

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE FOR 8/29-9/4:

Sunday:2 Chron 29-30, Ps 25, Mark 4

Monday:2 Chron 31-32, Ps 26, Mark 5

Tuesday:2 Chron 33-34, Ps 27, Mark 6

Wednesday:2 Chron 35-36, Ps 28, Mark 7

Thursday:Ezra 1-2, Ps 29, Mark 8

Friday:Ezra 3-5, Ps 30, Mark 9

Saturday:Ezra 6-7, Ps 31, Mark 10

SERMON TOPICS:

Sunday AM. The Merging Image--3

“I have become all things to all people” (1 Corinthians 9:19-23)

Sunday PM. The Christian And Conduct
(1 John 2:4-6; 3:9)