

"The Way of the Church"

Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints. (Jude 1:3 NASB)

I believe the culture of the church today has, and is getting away from Biblical Principles and the Holy Word of God, the Bible. The B-I-B-L-E. "Yes, that's the book for me." We seem to be going through a time that the Word of God is watered down to suit the culture of the times, instead of the culture conforming to the Bible.

In this culture, it doesn't matter what the Bible says, it seems that man's knowledge rules above God's. For this time in the culture we can use the Bible in any way we chose and make it say, whatever we want it to say. But, I believe it is God's Word for us and we should respect it and use it in a way that God intended us to use it; "as a guidebook for all areas of our life." It's not to be taken lightly. Peter talks about this misguided avoidance of the laws of God in 2 Peter 3:16-18; *as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. (2 Peter 3:16-18 NASB)*

The Bible, it's a book that Christians know that it exists and it is the Word of God. They know about it, but they don't know what is in it, except for what little they hear at church or some other place. They know about Jesus, but don't really know the Master Jesus. Protestant theologian William Chillingworth is noted for saying, "The Bible, the whole Bible, and nothing but the Bible, is the religion of the Protestants." We say these phrases, "the Bible and the Bible only," over and over again, yet most churchgoers have almost no knowledge of the specifics of the Bible.

When any institution or any society rejects the spiritual laws of the Creator and the inspired example of Jesus Christ as the absolute basis for all right conduct, it is doom to failure! This is becoming more, and much clearer as our society begins to tumble down, unless God Himself intervenes. Jesus speaks of this in Matthew's Gospel; *"For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will." Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.* (Mat 24:21-22 NASB) You know what I think is keeping this world together and postponing His glorious return? It's the praying true church of Jesus Christ. Jesus is keeping us in His arms and as I've heard many times, "He's saving us from ourselves." In short, it's the praying church that can bring yet other sinners into the true flock of God. Jesus wants none of His children to perish. The apostle Peter was inspired to write about it; *The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.* (2 Peter 3:9 NASB)

There has been and will always be a chosen church, the true church of Jesus Christ. I'm not talking about a denomination or a particular church or a church building, for remember the true church is made up of what: of the people of God. These are the ones that are saved and keeping the commandments of God. Christ even calls them the little flock. You may notice in Luke that it does not say a large flock. For the way to eternal life with Jesus Christ is through a narrow gate and on a narrow road and few will find it. Don't look for the true church on the wide road to eternal damnation. Jesus said; *"Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom.* (Luke 12:32 NASB) I'm asking you today to stay on that narrow road if you are on it, and if you are not, then seek Jesus Christ today, before it's too late and start your travel on the narrow road to eternal life.

Jesus Christ commanded his followers in Matthew 4:4, when He answered and said, *"It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY*

WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD." (Mat 4:4 NASB)

According to a March 18, 2007 Charlotte Observer article; let me quote: "U. S. citizens know almost nothing about the Bible. Although most regard it as the word of God, few read it anymore. Even evangelicals from the Bible Belt seem more focused on loving Jesus than on learning what He had to say." I'm personally not opposed to loving Jesus, but there is more to this man called Jesus. How are we going to know about Him if we don't read about Him? Jesus Himself said; **"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.** (John 14:15 NASB) So, if you love Jesus, how are you going to keep the commandments, if you don't read the Bible how will you know what His commandments are? That is love, keeping the commandments of God as He has asked us to, as recorded in John 14:15 above.

The Bible is God's way for us to learn more about this Savior of ours. This is why we are so confused, so divided and so ignorant about the inspired Word of God. We do not study the Book as a complete book, we study it in bits and pieces, taking from it what we like or what we think agrees with our way of thinking. We fail, in asking God for the willingness to obey what the pages are telling us to do.

As one writer wrote and I agree; "Today, the basic Christian concept of the Bible as the "inspired word of God" is being "watered down," "criticized" and virtually eliminated from our professing Christian culture in America. In fact, the vast majority of present-day ministers and religious leaders often teach attitudes and ideas totally contrary to what the Bible actually says! And instead of admitting that their teachings are just their own "philosophy", they teach their ideas in the name of "Christianity"! Why do they bring Christ's name into it, when it has nothing to do with Christ or what He taught?" Paul said; *For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.* (1Co 2:2 NASB)

If we don't know about Jesus, not just of Jesus; how can we live a holy life and imitate as close as possible the commandments, precepts, statutes, and rules of our Lord and Master Jesus Christ? For we are to try to live as close as possible as Jesus

did while he walked this earth some 2,000 years ago! We are to use Jesus as our, teacher, example and mentor. For our convenience we use some of the Scripture, while ignoring others. As one writer put it; “Millions of churchgoers are in confusion, and often practice a “cafeteria” approach to religion – choosing a little of this and a little of that.” (End of quote) If we are to please and live for Christ we must take the faith that we have and fully return to the teachings of the Bible. After all Jesus said, *“So then, you will know them by their fruits.”* (Mat 7:20 NASB)

It’s not an easy path, regardless what others may say! We have a tendency to take the easy route, the wide road and not the narrow road of Christ. Jesus himself said; *“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.” For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.*

(Mat 7:13-14 NASB) And then again in Luke 13:24 Jesus cautions his followers;

“Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and

will not be able. (Luke 13:24 NASB) In Jude, the half-brother of Jesus says; *Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.* (Jude 1:3 NASB) Jude says that we are to

contend earnestly for the faith. Folks, it’s a fight out there for Christ, for he is against the evils of this secular and sinful world. I looked the word “contend” up in the dictionary to see what it had to say about the contending for the faith, to get a better understanding of the meaning of this verse in Jude, and it said;

1. To strive in opposition or against difficulties; struggle:
2. To compete, as in a race;
3. To strive in controversy or debate; dispute.

Guys it’s not a casual walk in the park, we are at war with the forces of evil. Then you add the word, earnestly to the word contend and the word earnestly means according to the dictionary;

1. Marked by or showing deep sincerity or seriousness:
2. Of an important or weighty nature;

You have to strive in opposition, with great sincerity. It's not a game, its Jesus Christ you are dealing with; the creator and maker to this universe and all other things, including us.

There is more to Jesus than just going to church! To come to church we need to experience Jesus Christ in a very personal way. It's an experience. You do not just start worshiping Jesus when you walk in the church doors. You begin days before by praying and preparing yourself for the church experience. It's hard to go straight from the secular world into the spiritual world in one step. Maybe I'm talking to myself here, but I have an idea others may be having the same problem of preparing for your God experience in the church setting. In the Bible it's called preparation day!

Church is a place where we can meet our brothers and sisters in Christ and be a better person for it. We can come to our brothers and sisters for support, encouragement, edification and admonishment. We can share our testimonies, hurts and victories for the past week. In some ways we can get our batteries charged for the coming week. There is something about an every seven day cycle. God knew what He was doing by setting up the seventh-day memorial. We all need to rest in Jesus every seven days just as he commanded us to do. God knows best! Believe it and do it today would my recommendation to all of us today!

The Secularization of the Church

Secularization is the process by which a society becomes more and more distant from its Christian roots. The essence of secularization is the fact that the culture no longer depends upon Christian morals, principles, or practices. Secularization of society is one thing, but the secularization of the church is another. The church is built upon Christ and His Word. Nothing more and nothing else! We should never forsake our roots and turn from God as society has done and is doing.

One writer wrote; “The church is no longer the assembly of believers, the church is now defined merely as a public utility. What does this public utility do? It exists, in order to provide service such as education, funerals, and a context for important national events.”

A thoroughly secularized church is the end results of liberal theology. Liberal theology is defined as any belief or no belief at all. In other words anything goes, believe whatever you want and you will be okay. Nothing of eternal significance is hanging in the balance anyway. A clear proclamation of the Gospel and the bold preaching of the Word of God may be missing, but the music is glorious. The church meets its end when liberal theology begins to entry the doors of the church. Jesus asks a question in Matthew, chapter 16, verses 15 and 16; *He *said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."* (Mat 16:15-16 NASB) and later on in the same Chapter of Matthew Jesus tells Simon Peter what the church will be built upon; *"I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.* (Mat 16:18 NASB) The gates of hell will easily prevail over anything reduced to the status of a “public utility.” Remember, God’s Church is built upon the rock and corner stone of Jesus Christ.

Without a Preacher

According to a report by the Durham University’s College of Preachers; “Preaching of the Word of God is the chief means by which God conform Christians to the image of Christ. Rightly understood, true Christian preaching is not aimed only at this earthly life, but is the means whereby God prepares his people for eternity.” The report goes on to say, you wouldn’t know this if you judged the importance of preaching by its place in many of today’s congregations. “In many churches this most vibrant of moments has withered to little more than 20 minutes of tired droning that serves only to pad out the gap between hymns and lunch.”

Many church goers expressed a desire to be entertained, rather than educated. Evidently, many are looking for a short message from a preacher that entertains them. The article goes on to say that, “the right preaching of the Word of God is the first essential mark of the church. As the early Reformers made clear where that mark is absent, there is no church at all. The study was interesting as well as frightening since we have now found that there is little gained from asking confused people what kind of preaching they want. The faithful preacher takes as his first and most sacred responsibility the charge to give the congregation the preaching it needs, not what it wants. Can I get an Amen! Paul, in Romans 10, gives us a little insight on preaching; *How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?* (Rom 10:14 NASB)

Apostate Pastors that don't believe in God

Believe it or not, there are now many preachers in the pulpit today that do not even believe in God, and a number of them are atheists. For example, there was a study done on pastors that do not believe in God. They quoted one pastor, Wes, a Methodist that said, “I went to college thinking Adam and Eve were real people,” But, he explained that now he no longer believes that God exist. He has ministerial colleagues that are even more liberal: They don't believe Jesus rose from the dead, they don't believe Jesus was born of a virgin. Wes is like many others in the pulpits today. They never seem to ever want to preach the Bible. They preach their theology, not God's! They preach man's knowledge!

Some theologians and denominations have embraced a theology so fluid and indeterminate that even an atheist cannot tell the believers and the unbelievers apart. Gilbert Tennent preached his famous sermon, “On the Danger of an Unconverted Ministry.” In that 1739 sermon, Tennent described unbelieving pastors as a curse upon the church. They prey upon the faith and the faithful.

It has gone even so far that Pastor Klaas Hendrikse, who serves a congregation of a Protestant Church, wrote a book in 2007 described as a “manifesto of an atheist pastor.” In his book, Hendrikse argues for the non-existence of God, but he insists that he does believe in God as a concept.

The church bears the responsibility to make the issues clear and to defend the faith – otherwise it isn’t a church at all. The Dutch have become famous worldwide for their liberal approach to assist suicide and euthanasia. In this case, we have something new – the suicide of a church.

From an article by R. Albert Mohler, Jr., it says; “The theological self-destruction of the church never starts with a pastor who doesn’t even believe in the existence of God. It begins with denials of one doctrine here, another there. Before long, the unwillingness of the church to call its churches and ministers to account, leads to further theological concessions. The cowardice of church bureaucrats opens the door to any and all theological aberrations. The next thing you know, we have an atheist in the pulpit.”

Prosperity Theology – A False Gospel

“God knows where the money is, and he knows how to get the money to you.” That was the message of one of the Copeland’s at the Southwest Believers’ Convention recently held in Fort Worth, Texas. One by one, preachers and speakers enticed the gathered thousands by offering them the assurance that God wants them rich.

According to the preachers of the prosperity gospel, these are merely examples of the riches and rewards that come to those who have sufficient faith – and invest sufficient funds in the ministries of the prosperity preachers. Prosperity Gospel is the promise that if an individual has sufficient faith in God and donates generously, God will reward that generously by multiplying the offerings a hundredfold. Folks, it’s a “ME” world out there. And, it’s not about me or you or anyone else, it’s about Christ.

Time magazine published an article several years back that the writer wrote, and I agree; “This turbocharged prosperity gospel offers a false hope, presents a failed message, and is a False Gospel.” The entire movement presents the Gospel as a message that is primarily about earthy rewards – a theology that turns God into a heavenly banker who is obligated to invest His people with material riches, if they possess adequate faith and claim these blessings for their own.

I love how one author put it, “Our hope was and is established in Christ, who accomplished our salvation from sin and secures their hopes for eternal life through His death and resurrection.” We are promised the riches of Christ, the gift of eternal life, and the assurance of glory in the eternal presence of the living God. We are aliens to this world, we are only passing through. Our mission is not to be rich in money, but to be rich in the attributes of Jesus.

R. Albert Mohler, Jr. sums it up very well. “In the end, the biggest problem with prosperity theology is not that it promises too much, but that it promises far too little. The Gospel of Jesus Christ offers salvation from sin, not a platform for earthly prosperity. While we should seek to understand what drives so many into this movement, we must never for a moment fail to see its message for what it is – a false and failed gospel.”

We are not promised prosperity. But, when we do enjoy prosperity, we should be thankful stewards – not peddlers of our own prosperity theology.

Churches Hear so Little of the Bible

There is impatience with the Word of God today in a number of churches. In an article in Christianity Today the author wrote, “It is well and good for the preacher to base his sermon on the Bible, but he better get to something relevant pretty quickly, or we start mentally to check out.” The writer Mark Galli was told to cut down on the biblical references in his sermon. One staff member told him that he would lose people if he continued too long in the Bible. Cutting down on Bible verses would save time and would better hold people’s interest.

In many churches there is very little reading of the Bible in worship, and sermons are marked by attention to the congregation's concerns – not by an adequate attention to the biblical text. The exposition of the Bible has given way to the concerns, real or perceived, of the listeners. The authority of the Bible is swallowed up in the imposed authority of congregational concerns. Congregations expect the preacher to start from some text in the Bible, but then quickly move on “to things that really interest us.” Like.....ourselves? We want to fixate on our needs, our wants, our wishes and our hopes – at the expense of others and certainly at the expense of preaching Christ.

We catch a little light of preaching and church services in Nehemiah Eight.
Neh 8:1-8 NASB

(1) And all the people gathered as one man at the square which was in front of the Water Gate, and they asked Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses which the LORD had given to Israel.

(2) Then Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly of men, women and all who could listen with understanding, on the first day of the seventh month.

(3) He read from it before the square which was in front of the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of men and women, those who could understand; and all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

(4) Ezra the scribe stood at a wooden podium which they had made for the purpose. And beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand; and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah and Meshullam on his left hand.

(5) Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up.

(6) Then Ezra blessed the LORD the great God. And all the people answered, "Amen, Amen!" while lifting up their hands; then they bowed low and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

(7) *Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, explained the law to the people while the people remained in their place.*

(8) *They read from the book, from the law of God, translating to give the sense so that they understood the reading.*

Jesus himself read Scripture, as recorded in the book of Luke.

Luke 4:15-17 NASB

(15) *And He began teaching in their synagogues and was praised by all.*

(16) *And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read.*

(17) *And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written,*

They read the scriptural text clearly, and then explained the meaning of the Scripture to the people. The congregation received the Word humbly, while standing. The pattern is profoundly easy to understand – the Bible was read and explained and received. The point of the sermon was simple – to make clear the reading of the Scriptures.

In many churches, there is almost no public reading of the Word of God. Worship is filled with music, but congregations seem disinterested in listening to the reading of the Bible. We all need the ministry of the Word of God.

The biblical formula is clear – the neglect of the Word of God can only lead to disaster, disobedience, and death. God will rescue the true church from error, and He will preserve His Church and has during all these centuries. We witness only by His Word - not congregational self-study. Jesus himself said; Mat 11:15 NASB (15) *"He who has ears to hear, let him hear.*

Moralism is not the Gospel

The Apostle Paul was shocked by what he had learned about the church in Galatia; that they had accepted or had started practicing a different gospel than he had

originally preached to them. They had failed in the crucial test of discerning the authentic Gospel from its counterfeits. Paul wrote to them; *I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.* (Gal 1:6-7 NASB) We desperately need to hear and to heed this warning, even in today's churches. These false doctrines are no less subversive and seduction than those encountered and embraced by the Galatians.

One of the most seductive false gospels is moralism. The basic structure of moralism comes down to this – the belief that the Gospel can be reduced to improvements in behavior. It communicates to lost persons the message that what God desires for them and demands of them is to get their lives straight. We are never the less, forgetting about the main message and the first message, and mission of the Gospel, forgiveness and repentance. Jesus gives us the guidance and priority on the subject in Matthew 6; *"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.* (Mat 6:33 NASB)

Moralism leads us to believe that we can achieve righteousness by means of being raised right and proper behavior. But our communities are filled with people who have been “raised right” but are headed for hell. We cannot, let me repeat, we cannot achieve salvation by being good and on our best behavior. If we are promoting this in the church we are given over to moralistic messages, rather than the preaching of the Gospel.

There is a message that comes directly from the Apostle Paul when he insists that; *nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.* (Gal 2:16 NASB)

Moralism makes sense to sinners, for it is what they have been taught since early childhood; to be good, to act proper, and be nice to others. And there is nothing

wrong with these qualities. But, moralism is not the Gospel, and it will not save. The only Gospel that saves is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul continues in Galatians with his message; *But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.* (Gal 4:4-5 NASB)

I want to be clear today, that we are justified by faith alone, saved by grace alone, and redeemed from our sin by Christ alone. The Gospel of Jesus Christ transforms sinners into adopted sons and daughters of God. We can now be in the family of God by this adoption. Moralism can only produce sinners who are better behaved.

The Apostle Paul insists that the law shows us our sin and makes clear our inadequacy and our total lack of righteousness. *Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.* (Gal 3:24 NASB)
The church must never hide the law of God.

“Hell will be highly populated with those who were “raised right.”

The Center of the Gospel

Not sure who said it concerning the center of the Gospel, but their comments were; “ May the power of the cross and victory of the empty tomb fill every pulpit, every pew, and every Christian heart – and may the Good News of the Gospel be received with joy by sinners in need of a Savior.” How many here today believe that this is the center of the Gospel – the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ? The Apostle Paul affirms this priority in I Corinthians 15: *Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than*

five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also. For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed. (1Co 15:1-11 NASB)

Paul is not concerned with any other Gospel, only the true Gospel of Jesus Christ, which is the only Gospel that saves. This is the Gospel I preached says Paul to the Corinthians. Paul is encouraging them to hold fast to the Word preached to them, not some other or any other Gospel. Folks, what Gospel are we referring to today, of course it's the Bible, the Holy Word of God.

What are we to be preaching today, and of first importance? "That Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures," and "that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures." Yes, the cross and the empty tomb stand at the center of the Gospel. Without these, there is no good news and no salvation through Christ.

Just remember what Paul tells us in I Corinthians 15: *The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord. (1Co 15:56-58 NASB)*

You Must Be Born Again

*Nicodemus *said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. "Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'*

(John 3:4-7 NASB) Nicodemus was confused as many of us are. How can I be born again? The revolutionary character of the Gospel broke through old traditions and understandings. The new wine of the Gospel could not be contained in the old wineskins. (Mark 2:22) Jesus continued with Nicodemus, him being a teacher of the law and did not know this. (John 3:10) I think we all have a yearning in us to be born again. No matter how faint it may be!

The New York Times ran a story in 2008 that provides evidence that there is within the human heart a yearning to be born again. Half-way around the world we find a Buddhist temple that offers, for a small fee, an opportunity to die, rise up again, newborn and make a fresh start in life. Sound interesting?

The paper reports that nine big pink coffins dominate the grand hall of the temple and every day hundreds of people take their turns climbing in for a few moments, as monks chant a dirge. Then, at a command, the visitors clamber out again cleansed – they believe – of the past. Their way of being born again. Not quite what Jesus was referring to with Nicodemus.

Like Charlie Chaplin on an out-of-control assembly line, they follow the monks' commands: into the coffin, down on their backs, eyes closed, shroud on, shroud off, up on their feet, quick prayer and scramble out into a new life. These so-called "funerals for the living" are attracting so much attention, that a movie has been produced, -"The Coffin." Brings to mind Acts 17:27; *that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;* (Act 17:27 NASB) They were groping for God, or reaching with uncertainty. Grope - To reach about uncertainly; feel one's way: *groped for the telephone.*

- To search blindly or uncertainly: *grope for an answer*

One person that had been through the coffins six times said; when I went in I felt warm, and when I came out I felt released." As I lay there and listening to the chanting of the monks, I felt relaxed, she said. When I got up, I was thinking of good things, thinking of the Buddha image in the hall. I felt good.

The Only Way

Folks let me tell you that there is only one way for eternal life and that is through Jesus Christ. The apostle John quoting what Jesus said in his gospel; Jesus *said to him, *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.* (John 14:6 NASB) *"I am the bread of life.* (John 6:48 NASB) *"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.* (John 15:5 NASB) *'I AM THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB'?* *He is not the God of the dead but of the living.*" (Mat 22:32 NASB) Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, *"I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."* (John 8:12 NASB) *"While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world."* (John 9:5 NASB) So Jesus said to them again, *"Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.* (John 10:7 NASB) *"I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.* (John 10:9 NASB) Jesus said to her, *"I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,* (John 11:25 NASB) *and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"* (John 11:26 NASB) Jesus said, "Do you believe this, do you believe that," "I AM." If you believe, then show me your fruit. Jesus is saying, if you believe me why are you not walking the walk and talking the talk.

The final question - Can others see Jesus in me and you daily, in or out of the Church?



I have gotten information for this article from a number of different sources; From God, internet, Bibles, dictionaries, and study materials from several different authors, etc. I do not take full credit for these writings since there are many. I did not in some cases keep up with this information in order to give proper credit. Credits will sometimes be in the above writing. My comments, writings and rewriting of the sources are in this article. I therefore cannot take full credit for this writing. The full credit would have to go to Jesus Christ, the creator of all things. This article as well as many other messages can be found at www.deweyfox.com and click on "Christianity."

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Dewey E. (Obbed) Fox, Bond Servant of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
