

Whoever finds his life will
lose it, and whoever loses
his life for my sake will
find it.
Mt 10:39

Share the teaching
Guard the sharing

Male Call

February 9, 2007

The Responsibility of Christians

5:55 – 1) Coffee & Donuts
6:05

2) Opening Prayer

6:05 – Some interesting stats—

6:25 1) Christian Bible reading

- a) Percentage of Evangelical Christians who say they read the Bible: 65%
- b) Of those 65%, percentage who read the Bible *only* along with the Pastor at church: 85%
- c) Therefore, percentage of Evangelical Christians who actually regularly read the Bible outside of church: 10%

1) Our nature

a) Image Bearers of God

- So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Gen 1:27

2) Our charge (privilege and obligation)

a) Be like Jesus—

- Those who do not take up their cross and follow in my steps are not fit to be my disciples. Mt 10:38 (GNB)
- For I [Jesus] have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Jn 13:15 (ESV)
- If we say we are his, we must follow the example of Christ. 1Jn 2:6 (CEV)
- The attitude you should have is the one that Christ Jesus had. Phil 2:5 (GNB)
- It was to this that God called you, for Christ himself suffered for you and left you an example, so that you would follow in his steps. 1Pet 2:21 (GNB)
- Those whom God had already chosen he also set apart to become like

his Son...Rom 8:29 (GNB)

- Be obedient to God, and do not allow your lives to be shaped by those desires you had when you were still ignorant. Instead, be holy in all that you do, just as God who called you is holy. The scripture says, "Be holy because I am holy." 1Pet 1:14-16 (GNB)

3) There is a cost

- You cannot be my disciple unless you carry your own cross and come with me. Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. What is the first thing you will do? Won't you sit down and figure out how much it will cost and if you have enough money to pay for it? Otherwise, you will start building the tower, but not be able to finish. Then everyone who sees what is happening will laugh at you. Lk 14:27-29 (CEV)
- If you belonged to the world, its people would love you. But you don't belong to the world. I have chosen you to leave the world behind, and that is why its people hate you. Jn 15:19 (CEV)
- They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. Jn 16:2 (ESV)
- "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword." Mt 10:34 (ESV)
- "Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets. Lk 6:22-23 (ESV)

4) It takes effort on our part

- We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ...2Cor 10:5 (ESV)
- Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified. 1Cor 9:24-27 (ESV)
- But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil. Heb 5:14 (ESV)
- So then, my friends, try even harder to make God's call and his choice of you a permanent experience; if you do so, you will never abandon your faith. 1Pet 1:10 (GNB)
- Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the

renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Rom 12:2 (ESV)

- What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me— practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. Phil 4:9 (ESV)

5) We have help (power steering!)

a) The expectations are high, but Jesus is not an unloving task-master (contrast this with the Law)

- Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Mt 11:28-30 (ESV)

b) And, we have the Holy Spirit

- And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. Jn 14:16-17 (ESV)
- When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. Jn 16:13 (ESV)

6) There are benefits

a) The great promise of Jesus

- "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going." Jn 14:1-4 (ESV)
- Anyone who hears and obeys these teachings of mine is like a wise person who built a house on solid rock. Rain poured down, rivers flooded, and winds beat against that house. But it did not fall, because it was built on solid rock. Mt 7:24-25 (CEV)
- These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. Jn 15:11 (ESV)

b) "Deeds" are a great witness

- But I have a witness on my behalf which is even greater than the witness that John gave: what I do, that is, the deeds my Father gave me to do, these speak on my behalf and show that the Father has sent me. Jn 5:36 (GNB)
- A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people

will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."
Jn 13:34-35 (ESV)

- God has made us what we are, and in our union with Christ Jesus he has created us for a life of good deeds, which he has already prepared for us to do. Eph 2:10 (GNB)
- Then you will be able to live as the Lord wants and will always do what pleases him. Your lives will produce all kinds of good deeds, and you will grow in your knowledge of God. Col 1:10 (GNB)
- Your conduct among the heathen should be so good that when they accuse you of being evildoers, they will have to recognize your good deeds and so praise God on the Day of his coming. 1Pet 2:12 (GNB)
- You boast about having God's law—but do you bring shame on God by breaking his law? The scripture says, "Because of you Jews, the Gentiles speak evil of God." Rom 2:23-24 (GNB)
- Even so, many [false prophets] will follow their immoral ways; and because of what they do, others will speak evil of the Way of truth. 2Pet 2:2 (GNB)

6:25 – Interaction and Prayer:
7:00

1) Why do *you* want to be like Jesus?

2) How has Jesus helped you to follow him?

3) What cost have *you* paid to follow Jesus? What costs are *you* prepared to pay?

7:00 Closing Prayer

Further reading:

- *The Bible*
- *The Silence of Adam*, Larry Crabb
- *Finding the Will of God, a pagan notion?*, Bruce Waltke
- *Then Secret of Guidance*, F.B. Meyer
- *Hearing God*, Dallas Willard
- *Walking Like Jesus Did*, Larry McCall