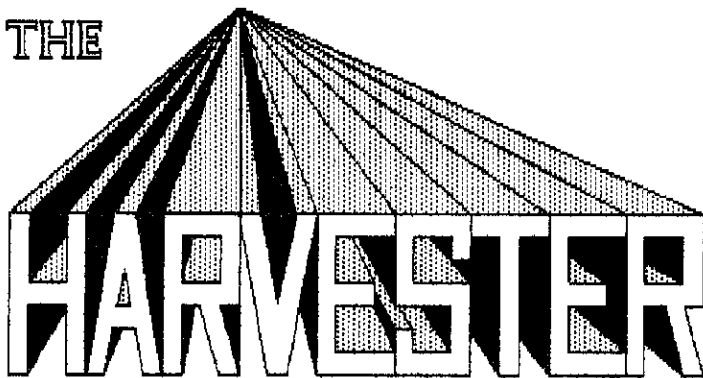


THE



"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2)

SEPTEMBER 2002

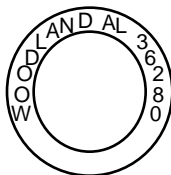
No. 201

HOW TO LIVE THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Life is set before each of us; no one can live it for us. Each one must live his or her own life.

1. God has set LIFE and DEATH before us, but we must do the choosing. Deut. 30:19 - *"I call Heaven and Earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live."*

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2. God has made us creatures of choice, but tells us what is best for us to choose. Jeremiah 10:23 - *"O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps."* Proverbs 16:25 - *"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."*

3. The Christian must live by every word of God. Matthew 4:4 - *"But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."*

4. Man's life does not consist of the things he possesses. Luke 12:15 - *"And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness; for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."*

5. It is a life lived by Faith. Galatians 2:20 - *"I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."*

6. Our body is not our own. I Cor. 6:19-20 - *"What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."*

7. It is bought with a price. Acts 20:28 - *"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the*

Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."

8. It is a life lived by the teaching of God's grace. Titus 2:11-12 - *"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world."*

9. It is a life lived in caution and watchfulness. Ephesians 5:15-17 - *"See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is."* Mark 13:33-37 - *"Take ye heed, WATCH AND PRAY: for ye know not when the time is. For the Son of Man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, WATCH."*(emphasis A.L.D.)

10. Why do some fail to live the Christian life?

A. They do not Watch and Pray. Matthew 26:41 - *"Watch and Pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."*

B. They love worldly pleasures. Luke 8:13-14 - *"They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word*

THE HARVESTER is a monthly publication intended to encourage all men everywhere to become laborers into God's harvest (Luke 10:2). This paper is mailed free of charge to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please submit name, address and all correspondence to:

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with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. And that which fell among thorns are they which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection."

C. They are too mindful of material things. Colossians 3:1-3 - *"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God."*

ALBERT L. DAVIS (deceased)
 Lucedale, MS
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Things to Ponder: "Going to church does not make you a Christian anymore than going to McDonald's makes you a hamburger."

"Lead your life so you won't be ashamed to sell the family parrot to the town gossip."

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. To whom was God talking when he said that women's sorrow and conception would be increased?
2. After Joshua defeated Jericho, what city was attacked next?
3. How did Paul and Barnabas show they were displeased with the attitudes of the Jews in Antioch?
4. According to 3 John, what are we not to do of evil, but do of good?
5. After David hit Goliath with a stone, what did he do to him?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH . . .

and remember last month's questions?

1. Who ultimately made the decision as to whether Rebekah would go to be Isaac's wife? REBEKAH (Gen. 24:57-58)
2. What was the occasion for Jesus turning the water to wine? A WEDDING (John 2:1)
3. What type of bread were the loaves that fed the 5,000? BARLEY (John 6:9)
4. Zechariah foresees a day when the Lord will remove the idols and prophets. What will happen to anyone who still tries to prophesy? HIS PARENTS WILL THRUST HIM THROUGH (Zech. 13:3)
5. What two instruments of war did the skilled men of King Uzziah's army invent?

ENGINES TO SHOOT ARROWS AND HURL STONES
(2 Chr. 26:15)

THE LOCAL CHURCH

"It is of no avail to talk of the church in general, the church in abstract, unless the concrete particular local church which the people attend can become a center of light and leading, of inspiration and guidance, for its specific community." -- Rufus Jones

I like this quote. It makes me focus on my attitude.

Sometimes I feel discouraged because the "church", both as a whole and as individual congregations, seems to be struggling. There are times I feel myself asking "why can't we do this?" or "why aren't we doing that?" "Why is it that sometimes when we take guests to a congregation that they had never been to before, no one spoke to them?"

Thoughts like these can be dangerous. The more we ask them, the more we are inclined to run down the church. Frustration builds with each question -- I know, because it just did.

Instead of allowing these "questions" to lead us to frustration, we need to use them to fuel our spiritual flame. It's all a matter of perspective. If I want the church as a whole to grow, then I want the congregation I meet with to

grow. If I want the congregation I meet with to grow, then I need to grow. I need to let my light shine. I need to go all out to fellowship more with our brothers and sisters in Christ. I need to be truly glad to see everyone that assembles, welcoming them into our number. I need to care more, learn more, visit more, call more, ...

Maybe, not for my sake, but for His, others will follow the same path and let their own light shine brighter. Perhaps the entire congregation will shine brighter, and be a beacon of the hope in Jesus to the community, as well as an example to other congregations.

"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matt. 5:13-16)

Tearing down the church in our own minds is in no way a help. It all starts with our attitudes, and the realization that "the church is you!"

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GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>DATES</u>	<u>PLACE & TIME</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
Sept. 6 - 8	Gilstrap Church Morgan, TN	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
Sept. 13 - 15	Fayetteville Road Fairburn, GA (7:00 EST)	Various brethren
Sept. 13 - 15	Pleasant Ridge Church Woodbury, TN	Joe Hill (Paintsville, KY)
Sept. 16 - 20	Lily, KY	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
Sept. 16 - 22	Estesburg Church Eubank, KY	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
Sept. 23 - 27	Mt. Zion Church Crab Orchard, KY	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
Sept. 30 - - Oct. 4	New Bethel Church McKinney, KY	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)



THE ONLY ONE OF ITS KIND!

THE CHURCH OF OUR LORD

is almost 2000 years in existence. Any church built by man later than this is not therefore the ONE church of the Old Testament promises, or the ONE church spoken of in the New Testament (Rom. 12:4; Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22-23).