

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)*

---

May 2025

No. 473

---

## DO AS I SAY AND AS I DO

Growing up, many of us have heard the phrase “do as I say, not as I do,” implying a double standard, or hypocrisy, at times. “You really should not do this, and don’t watch when I do it.” Thinking about Biblical examples that we strive to follow, it was never done like this. Paul is a good example of someone who lived in a way that showed how to act and did not just tell others how to act.

*Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you. (Php. 4:9)*

---

THE HARVESTER  
141 County Road 474  
Woodland, AL 36280  
**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



We have heard this verse many times, but have you ever thought about every word in it? It says that what you have learned, received, heard, and seen is what you should be doing. Not just what you have heard or been taught, but what you have seen by example. Paul also shows this in other ways through his writing.

*Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us. For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you; Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you: Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us. For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread. (2 The. 3:6-12)*

This example shows how Paul is asking for the people who receive the letter to act in a certain way, but he also says that he acted in that manner as well. It is important to live in a way that shows an example and shines a light for God in everything that you do. Not to just be saying the right things but also doing the right things. Paul also gave advice to Timothy regarding this:

*Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. (1 Tim. 4:12)*

Be an example not just in word, but in how you act. This was a vital point that showed that while it is important to say the

right things, it is just as important to do them as well. Another example of someone that showed action in addition to words was Jesus.

*If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. (John 13:14-15)*

He washed the feet of the disciples to show that if you expect something to be done, you should be willing to do it too and not just talk about it.

*For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: (1 Pet. 2:21-23)*

We should follow in His footsteps. It does not say we should do what we are told; it says to follow the example that was given to us, always striving to do what is right in the eyes of God. It is about walking the walk, not just talking the talk.

If you see someone who needs help, do you help them or just talk about it?

*But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. (1 John 3:17-18)*

In deed and in truth, not just in word--helping others with works and not just faith.

*What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye*

*warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. (Jas. 2:14-17)*

Jesus also taught us that no matter what is being done to us or how we are treated, we need to act in the right way, using actions as much as words.

*But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you. And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloke forbid not to take thy coat also. Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again. And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. (Luke 6:27-36)*

Do good to those that use you, be kind to evil people, be merciful. These are powerful words that show just how important actions and how you do things are.

It is important to note that you should not always follow examples that you see and hear.

*All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they*

*say, and do not.* (Mat. 23:3)

This shows that just because you see it done by “religious people” does not mean that it is good. The scribes’ and Pharisees’ actions were not an example that Jesus’ disciples were to follow.

The point of this all is that we must always do what is right in the sight of God. We should do good and not evil. We cannot just say we do good or that we act in a certain way. We must do it. Talk is cheap.

*And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.* (Luke 6:46-49)

*For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.* (John 3:20-21)

This gets us back to the original thought:

*Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.* (Php. 4:9, emphasis added)

A. D.

**THE SMALLEST GOOD DEED IS  
BETTER THAN THE GRANDEST INTENTION**

## CHRISTIAN INFLUENCE

The Bible has a lot to say concerning the influence that Christians should have. In his first letter to the Thessalonians, Paul was thankful of the example and influence these brethren had.

*And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost: So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia. For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing. (1 The. 1:6-8)*

In His famous Sermon on the Mount, Jesus stressed the importance of being a good influence on others.

*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. (Mat. 5:13-16)*

When God's people become a good influence, then our Heavenly Father will be glorified!

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, address changes and all correspondence to:

The Harvester

141 County Road 474 \* Woodland, AL 36280

Phone: (256) 449-9221\* Email: [theharvesteronline@gmail.com](mailto:theharvesteronline@gmail.com)

Web Page: [www.churches-of-christ.org](http://www.churches-of-christ.org)

So how are we influencing others when it deals with attending the church services? Are we setting good examples? Parents know how children tend to imitate their every movement. Do we want our children to follow the very steps we are taking today? Skip services whenever we feel like it?

*Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. (1 Pet. 3:1-2)*

This passage suggests that the life and influence of a believing wife can possibly convert the man who has yet to obey the gospel. Such is the power of influence! Now, what would the husband think about the Lord's church if he saw his wife make no effort to attend the services? (And vice-versa.)

Sometimes we try very hard to get non-members to come to the worship services. But consider the example we are setting before them. We will be more influential in getting people to come to church when we start coming ourselves!

RAY MCMANUS

Reprinted from *The Harvester* April 1986

---

## THE PARABLE OF THE TWO SONS

(Matthew 21:28b-31)

*A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not. Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.*

## GOSPEL MEETINGS

DATES	PLACE	SPEAKER
May 2 - 4	Van Lear Van Lear, KY	Hunter Bulger (Prattville, AL)
May 4 - 8	Mount Zion Crab Orchard, KY	Hunter Bulger (Prattville, AL)
May 7 - 9	Clay Village Clay Village, KY	Joe Hill (Hagerhill, KY)
May 11 - 13	Napoleon Woodland, AL	Bill Prince, Jr. (Oxford, AL)

## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. What kind of leaves did Adam and Eve sew together to make clothes for themselves?
2. Which son did Jacob not send to Egypt for grain during the famine?
3. What was Jonah found doing on the ship while the storm was raging?
4. Which disciple tried to walk on water, as Jesus did?
5. In the parable of the ten virgins, what were they waiting for?

...ANSWERS NEXT MONTH

And remember last month's questions?

1. What did God do on the seventh day, after he had finished creating everything?     **HE RESTED (Gen. 2:1-3)**
2. What was Esau doing while Jacob stole his blessing?  
**HUNTING (Gen. 27:1-3,23)**
3. Who lied when he was asked to reveal the source of his great strength?     **SAMSON (Jdg. 16:13-15)**
4. What miracle did Jesus perform at the marriage in Cana?  
**HE TURNED WATER INTO WINE (John 2:1-11)**
5. When the disciples saw Jesus walking on water, what did they think he was?     **A GHOST (SPIRIT) (Mat. 14:26)**