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Oak Hill  
2115 Graefenburg Road  
Lawrenceburg, Ky. 40342

## **“FOLLOW ME”**

“If you want to be perfect, go sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” (Matthew 19:21)

“Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.” (Mark 8:34)

“If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; - - - (John 12:26)

The hour is late, time is short, and the call is clear! Follow JESUS and JESUS alone, as He is the only One who can bring you through the approaching storm unscathed. There is a firestorm of His holiness building in the heavenlies and when that firestorm makes landfall, and rest assured it will, you had better be following JESUS – not in word only, but in deed! Mankind will soon learn that GOD is who He says He is in His word, and that He will not continue to tolerate our sinful behavior any longer. FATHER has been extremely patient and long suffering with us, especially with those of us who live in America. We have been blessed more than any other nation on earth and instead of His goodness leading us to repentance, many of us have been led away by someone other than JESUS. When man takes his eyes and ears off JESUS, and I mean no other JESUS than the “red letter” JESUS of the Holy Bible, man always ends up in trouble and on the receiving end of GOD’S judgement!

“Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and long-suffering, not knowing that the goodness of GOD leads you to repentance?” (Romans 2:4)

Our Father’s goodness, forbearance and long-suffering has been enjoyed by the Church in America since our nations birth. This is a fact that cannot be denied. However, for the most part we have not been led to repentance. This fact also, cannot be denied. Instead of receiving Father’s blessing in meekness, humility, brokenness and hearts that are filled with a cry for the gift of repentance, we have instead become prideful, unloving, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of GOD, religious, and we have covered up our iniquity rather than exposing it. The end result of this behavior will be the fulfillment of Romans 2:5 & 6.

“But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgement of GOD. Who will render to each one according to his deeds.”

I realize that this charge against the church is not well received by the church. In fact it is not any more popular today than it was in the days of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel or Malachi. You see, we people of GOD have a long, long history of backsliding and taking our eyes off our Lord and turning our ears away from His word. It has happened in the past over and over again, and it has once again happened. You may deny it, you may ignore the continual warnings from FATHER, but facts are facts and we cannot escape the certainty of His word. Once warned, we have no excuse not to obey.

When most of us in the church think of GOD’S judgment, we think of all those lost people out there in the world. We think of those people who are a lot worse than we are. After all, we are believers, baptized in the Holy Spirit, we tithe, go to church, pray and we do some good works every now and

then. We even read our Bible and from time to time attend Bible conferences. How could GOD possibly apply His judgement to us? Because He must!

“For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of GOD; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of GOD?” (1 Peter 4:17)

You see FATHER cannot allow us, His children, to go unpunished for behavior that we refuse to repent of (turn away from) just because we claim to be Christians. And then condemn to hell those unbelievers who practice the same behavior. He cannot and He will not! I am not talking about Christians whose heart is filled with “true” repentance, where you confess your sins, because in such cases FATHER is always faithful to forgive and forget. (See 1 John 1:9) Rather I am addressing sinful behavior that is “practiced”, covered up, accepted and that we refuse to uncover. I fear that much of what we call repentance is nothing more than the sorrow of the world that leads to death. Listen -

“For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.” (2 Corinthians 7:10)

When sin in the church reaches the same level as that found outside the church, something is terribly wrong! Our walk does not even come close to our talk. The world knows it, and as a result has very little, if any respect for us. Jeremiah said in Jeremiah 14:7 “that our iniquities testify against us, For our back-slidings are many, we have sinned against GOD.” Our divorce rate testifies against us! Our abortion rate testifies against us! Our mismanagement of money, debt and bankruptcy testifies against us! Our love of pleasure and self indulgence testifies against us! Our dress code, lack of reverence in the sanctuary and lack of the fear of GOD testifies against us! Our lack of love of the brethren testifies against us! The level of fornication among our young people testifies against us! The lack of unity and “acceptance of division” testifies against us! You can say whatever you want to say, believe whatever you want to believe, confess whatever you want to confess, but facts are facts and we are in a mess!! I am personally ashamed of our behavior and I pray that you are as well. I believe it is obvious that for the most part, we have not been following the “red letter” JESUS of the Bible. May GOD have mercy on us for bringing so much reproach on His Holy name. May GOD have mercy!

It is this writer’s firm belief that our greatest sin in this hour is not our backsliding. It is not our sinful condition. It is our “spiritual pride” and our unwillingness to acknowledge our sinful condition, and cry out to our GOD to have mercy and send the gift of true repentance. For at least the past 50 years FATHER has raised up men who were given a prophetic voice to call this generation of His people to repentance, and to turn back and follow JESUS. Some of these “voices” are with us now and they are crying out to the church, and begging us to turn back to the “red letter” JESUS before it is too late! Sadly, there are other voices that are being heard that are not voices that FATHER has ordained to speak. Of those, FATHER would say:

“They have lied about the LORD, and said, “It is not He. Neither will evil come upon us nor shall we see sword or famine.

And the prophets become wind, for the word is not in them. Thus shall it be done to them.” (Jeremiah 5:12,13)

“Shall I not punish them for these things? Says the Lord. Shall I not avenge Myself on such a nation as this?”

“An astonishing and horrible thing has been committed in the land: The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule by their own power; and My people love to have it so. But what

will you do in the end?” (Jeremiah 5:29-31)

When these false prophetic voices began to speak out they brought words to our ears that sounded so comforting, so understanding and so loving, and they always quoted scripture. Such messages made us feel so good that we quickly accepted them as truth and in doing so we were led astray and now find ourselves right where the people of GOD have found themselves in times past.

There is only one true prophetic voice and that is the voice of JESUS CHRIST! All others are liars.

“For the testimony of JESUS is the spirit of prophecy.” (Revelation 19:10)

The true prophetic voice of JESUS is no more popular in the church today than it was in the days of Jeremiah or of JESUS Himself. They put Jeremiah in a deep pit and they butchered JESUS. FATHER said of these people yesterday:

“They mocked the messengers of GOD, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against His people, till there was no remedy.”  
(2 Chronicles 36:16)

In Romans 2:5 and 6, Paul warned the people of GOD in Rome, that their hardness of heart was resulting in GOD’S wrath being stored up for them. Today, we in the church, believe that our sin is insignificant and therefore not serious enough to incur the judgment of GOD, much less His wrath. In fact, we count ourselves as part of the church at Philadelphia, which JESUS had nothing bad to say of. The only problem is, the church at Philadelphia “kept His word” (See Revelation 3:8). Today, for the most part, we have not kept the “red letter” word of JESUS. May GOD have mercy! Oh how easily we are deceived when the mouth of the prophet is shut out of the assembly and his word is rejected. That is the same thing as shutting JESUS Himself out of the assembly! May GOD have mercy on those in leadership who have chosen to reject the prophetic warnings of GOD. Mercy, Mercy, Mercy – how we need FATHER’S mercy. If we could see our true spiritual condition in relation to the Holiness of JESUS, we would quickly turn from our “self assured” Christian comfort zone and cry out – “Oh my GOD forgive me, and I beg You, have mercy on me, a sinner”!

Today, the average Christian demonstrates a greater loyalty to their church than they do to JESUS and His word. They demonstrate a greater loyalty to their pastor, favorite evangelist or their denomination than they do JESUS and His word. I have personally known Christians that would become offended if you quoted the word of JESUS, if that word contradicted the position of their church or their pastor, or their denomination, etc. etc. You would think that at the time of death their church, pastor, Pope or some leader of their denomination was going to judge them. May GOD have mercy! I am shocked that so many Christians sincerely believe that as long as we believe in JESUS that all is well and we are on our way to heaven, regardless of whether or not we have and keep His word. In other words, what JESUS said has no real bearing on our eternal future. Listen to the very words that FATHER spoke through the lips of His only begotten Son –

“He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him – the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.”

For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the FATHER who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak.

And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the FATHER has told Me, so I speak.” (John 12:48-50)

You may say that you have not rejected JESUS just because you do not accept all of His word, but I tell you, in love, that you cannot reject His word, not so much as one word, and not reject Him. JESUS and His word are one and the same. (See John 1:1 and 14) Do not be fooled by some false prophet that tells you otherwise, because they are liars and the truth is not in them. No wonder FATHER said in Hosea 4:6-

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.”

I urge you my brothers and sisters, if you are sitting under or following a teacher, preacher, leader, etc. that will not acknowledge that every word that JESUS spoke is truth and must be kept to the best of our ability, then I beg you to flee from that person as if your life depended on it - - - and it does! Remember that Lucifer and his demons believe in JESUS and they are doomed. Also remember when Lucifer began his attack on man, he attacked the Word of GOD. (See Genesis 3:1-4) Our Father’s word has been under constant attack ever since Adam and Eve, and that attack is now in full force. If JESUS had kept His mouth shut, no one would have harmed Him. But the moment He began to speak, all hell began to break loose because of the word He spoke. Because of man’s refusal to accept that word, our Lord was beaten to a pulp, humiliated before the public and then butchered on the cross. Those very words that He spoke some 2000+ years ago are still infuriating man today. Especially those in the average church. The only difference today is that we do not have JESUS to pick on, so we will pick on the one who brings His word to us and calls us to repent and follow only JESUS. And as we persecute the Living Word of JESUS, of course we will do so in His name. May GOD have mercy!

“For My people are foolish, they have not known Me. They are silly children, and they have no understanding. They are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge.”  
(Jeremiah 4:22)

One thing is for certain, we did not get to where we are today, as far as the church is concerned, by following the “red letter” JESUS of the holy Bible. I believe it is plain to see that the enemy slipped into the camp with his ministers of righteousness, (See 2 Corinthians 11:14,15) quoting the word and saying all the right things and before you knew it, we stepped into the snare of the fowler and did not realize it. In fact we have enjoyed ourselves and have become quite comfortable in our deception. We are just a part of history repeating itself. Please go to Jeremiah chapter 5 and see for yourself what FATHER’S attitude was then toward behavior such as ours is today. We may think that FATHER has changed and will excuse us because we are special, but I must tell you that we are getting ready to learn the truth. And those who believe that GOD is going to overlook or wink at our sin, are going to die from fright as they see the one true GOD react to open rebellion toward the word of His son! For those of us in the church, the only way to escape His rod of discipline is to be found not just believing in JESUS, but following Him, regardless of the personal cost! No one will be able to help you in that hour – not your church, not your pastor or Pope, not your family or friends! Only JESUS will be able to see you through the storm. I will promise you that if you will get off your religious merry-go-round and go back to JESUS and His word alone, He will not fail you. He will not!

“My covenant I will not break, nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips.” (Psalm 89:34)

The word of GOD is full of promises of blessing for both now and in eternity. I would refer you to the 91<sup>st</sup> Psalm as an example. However, all of GOD’S blessings are conditional and reserved only for those who meet the conditions. For example, we can rightfully claim all of the blessings of the 91<sup>st</sup> Psalm so long as we meet the condition of verse one! Not in word only, but in deed. Likewise all of the promises of JESUS for today, tomorrow and forever are available for us – for you and for me. But just like the blessings of Psalm 91, our Lord’s blessings are likewise conditional. They hinge on the obedience of

our heart to His word. Not that we are expected to be perfect in this life, but that we have a heart that is bent toward perfection through obedience to the whole of His word. You cannot just mouth words that say you desire to obey if your heart does not agree with your mouth. You may be assured that your actions will reveal the true condition of your heart. If your heart does not believe the word of JESUS , not just believe in Him, but believe Him as He spoke, and desire to obey in your heart, then you have a serious heart problem.

“- - -For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” (1 Samuel 16:7)

Sadly, the vast majority of those who call themselves Christians and are even in a church will end up in hell because they were only religious and were never “Twice born”. (See John 3:3-8) Hell will be full of people that we viewed as good because they said the right things and outwardly did the right things. However, inwardly they were spiritual adulterers and did not believe JESUS.

Many in places of church leadership today have great plans for church growth and ministry. It all sounds and looks so good, but just beneath the surface of the church there lies a disease called “spiritual corruption” and that disease is quietly eating away at the hearts of the people. Very few seem to be overly concerned about the level of sin in the church. In fact they would rather not talk about it –out of sight, out of mind. It is just this same attitude of not dealing with sin and pointing all to JESUS and His word that has always gotten us in trouble. Many well-intentioned men are more concerned with preserving the church and their ministry than they are in seeing the people become true friends of JESUS. (Remember John 15:14)

My brothers and sisters, we are now faced with one major question that each of us must answer. Who will we believe and who will we obey? Peter answered this question in Acts 5, verse 29 when he said:

“We ought to obey GOD rather than men.”

The issue is not “can we obey” but “will we obey”. My prayer is that we will choose to obey JESUS and to follow Him alone, and that we will be counted worthy to stand among the redeemed on that day. Not because we were perfect, not because we were good church members, not because we were religious – no! But because we had hearts that believed JESUS and desired to follow Him, even when everyone else around us chose to obey man. We will then find ourselves in the best place in all of eternity – in His love.

“If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.” (John 15:10)

Are you abiding in His love, as a direct result of your obedience to His word? If not, simply turn to Him, repent of your man-pleasing behavior and set your will to follow Him. He will meet you more than half way! Praise GOD!! And JESUS said to all those who had ears to hear – **“Follow Me”!**

GOD BLESS

Tom

