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God Is Just A Prayer Away



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WLW	6:30 A.M.	700 DIAL	CINCINNATI, OHIO
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WRVA	9:30 P.M.	1140 DIAL	RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
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Issue 1

THOU WOULDST NOT

In the last appearance of Jesus to some of the disciples after the resurrection Jesus told Peter that while he was young he girded himself and walked wherever thou wouldst. But when thou shall be old another shall gird thee and carry thee where thou wouldst not. This He spake signifying by what manner of death he should glorify God.

Peter had said before the crucifixion that he would lay down his life for Jesus. The Lord told him that he would deny Him three times before the cock crowed twice and he did deny three times. Now after the resurrection the Lord tells him he will get his wish. You will be given another opportunity to make good your promise. The Lord gives him his desire back again. You will stretch forth thy hands and another shall gird thee and carry thee whether thou wouldst not.

Peter would be given the opportunity to die on a cross. Now when the time comes he would rather not do it. Human nature rebels against such a sacrifice. Thou wouldst not.

But there were a lot of things that happened to Peter along the way to his cross where it could be said that he wouldst not. The first time he wouldst not was in Acts four when he and John were put in jail and called unlearned and ignorant men. Certainly in Acts five he wouldst not when he and all the apostles were beaten, and threatened never to preach and teach again. Then again his

most definitely wouldst not was when he was jailed after the beheading of his friend the Apostle James. There are a lot of things that Christians who profess that they love the Lord are asked to do that they wouldst not, and most Christians don't do what they wouldst not. It is also true for us no matter what kind of death we may experience. It is always true, I wouldst not.

As a Christian you look forward to going to Heaven, but if the Lord says you can have your wish when you die of a heart attack. At that time you will say, I wouldst not. You as a Christian want to go to heaven when you die, so you get a terminal cancer. Do you rejoice at the prospect of going to heaven or do you say Lord, I wouldst not? Your nature rebels against death in any form, so you call every Church you can think of and get them to pray for your recovery because, I wouldst not.

A woman had terminal cancer told me that she did not want to die because of Ceil and the children, and then after a pause added, but that is not really the reason. The real reason I am not ready to leave this world is because I just don't want to die. What she meant was, I wouldst not. Then she expanded more on the thought when she said, "We all want to go to Heaven, but none of us want to die to get there." Whatever the way death comes I wouldst not. I asked one lady if she was ready to die and she said,

"Yes, but I am in no hurry." I wouldst not.

I heard of a teacher in Sunday School who asked the class if they wanted to go to Heaven and every child in the class raised its hand except one. The teacher said, "Don't you want to go to Heaven when you die?" The kid said, "Yes I want to go when I die, but I thought you were getting up a load to go right now." I wouldst not.

Seeing that this day will come when I wouldst not, what shall we do until then? The answer of Jesus is the same for us as it was for Peter. Follow thou Me! Peter by these words would be able to live the rest of his life like Jesus under the shadow of the cross. He knew that from now on sometime later he would die on the cross. That cross was always there every day of his life, that cross was always on his mind. Shortly before he died he reminds us in his second epistle, "The putting off of my tabernacle cometh swiftly upon me as our the Lord Jesus Christ signified unto me." Tradition says that he was crucified upside down not feeling worthy to die in an upright position as the Lord. Had Peter known the song he could have joined us in singing: *THE WORLD BEHIND ME, THE CROSS BEFORE ME. THE WORLD BEHIND ME, THE CROSS BEFORE ME, THE WORLD BEHIND ME, THE CROSS BEFORE ME. NO TURNING BACK, NO TURNING BACK.*

THE BIG BIBLE THUMPER

The officers and servants of the High Priest had kindled a fire of coals for it was cold and they were warming themselves and Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

We know of course how Peter felt. When we follow Jesus we also want to follow Him in comfort. We don't want to be cold. Then too, the hour of worship must not conflict with any other activity. Serving the Lord must be done at our convenience is the name of the game.

While he was standing with them warming himself he was noticed by others around the fireside. They could not miss him. An Apostle of the Lord Jesus right there standing before a fireside of the worst enemies of Jesus. There are also some places where a Christian can go where one might wonder, whose side is he on? The scripture says the Lord knoweth them that are His and it is also true the Devil knoweth them that are his. Art thou also one of this man's disciples?

Sometimes the Christian denies Jesus on the basis of what people around him may think. This is denial of Christ by pretension. Peter was a follower of Jesus, but he pretended not to be. There is a lot of pretense in the church. Some like to be religious, but not too religious. Many would rather be horse whipped than to have people think they are religious fanatics. No one is ashamed to be a sports fanatic, but please do not think of them as a fanatic over their faith. The world is being conditioned by evolution and politics that any one who believes the Bible to be the inspired word of God is rather stupid. That puts us in good company. The same arrogant, supercilious people said the same thing about Peter and John when they said they were unlearned and ignorant men. If people ever suspect that you are faithful attending services and an avid reader of the word of God, you will be referred to as a red necked Bible thumper. The Apostle Paul referred to these critics in the first chapter of Romans when he said. Professing themselves to be wise they became fools for they exchanged the truth of God for a lie and worshiped the creature rather than the Creator.

Actually Bible Thumper is a good term. The Lord Jesus Christ is the greatest Bible Thumper I know. Paul tells us in his sermon on Mars Hill that the Lord has appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness by that Man whom He hath ordained forasmuch as He

hath given assurance unto all the earth in that He hath raised Him from the dead. God the Father has appointed Jesus to judge the human race. Then Jesus in John chapter twelve tells us how He will judge the world. He said, The word which I spake unto them the same shall judge them in the last day. On the Day of Judgment there is going to be a lot of Bible thumping and Jesus will do all of the thumping.

On the Day of Judgment the Bible is the book by which Jesus will judge. What a Bible thumper Jesus will be when He reads the verse that says holy men spake from of old as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. THUMP! Then think of the thumping some will get when Jesus reminds the unrepentant that he said, in Luke 13,3, "Except you repent you shall all like wise perish." THUMP! And then consider that two verses later in Luke 13,5 He will thump the unrepentant with the same words again, "Except ye repent ye shall all like wise perish." THUMP! That was a double thump. THUMP, THUMP! Oh what a Bible thumper Jesus will be when He reminds the indifferent nominal church member that His word warned them to neglect not the assembling of yourselves as the manner of some is. THUMP! Then think what a Bible thumper Jesus will be when He reminds them that Peter on the day of Pentecost did not say bow your head and ask Jesus to come into your heart, THUMP, but he actually did say, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." THUMP! It is good for the Christian to remember the statement in Hebrews ten. The Lord shall judge His people; it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. THUMP! Art thou also one of this man's disciples?

The COMING of the PHARISEES and SADUCEES

The Pharisees and Sadducees came...they came trying Him by asking Him to show them a sign from Heaven. People are always asking for signs. Every time we have a cold day in the summer time, or a hot day in the winter time, someone will call and ask where does it say in the Bible that the days will come when you will not be able to tell winter

from summer except by the leaves on the calendar. Every time a leader in the Mideast sneezes this is looked upon as a sign predicted somewhere in the Bible. Jesus told them that the people who look for the signs are evil. His words were, "An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign and no sign shall be given unto it, but the sign of Jonah."

They had asked for a sign from heaven as Moses gave them bread out of heaven to eat. Jesus told them in John chapter six that Moses did not give them bread out of heaven and they ate and died. He was the true bread that had come down out of heaven, and he that eateth this bread shall live forever.

If people insists on a sign there are several that can't be missed. How about the existence of the Lord's Day? This is a sign that Jesus arose from the dead. How about the existence of the New Testament? That is a sign that Jesus came once and will come again. What about the sign of the existence of the Lord's Supper? That is a sign that Jesus died on the cross and that He is coming again. What about the sign of the existence of the Church? What more of a sign could we want than that? What about the sign of His effect on humanity? Edward Gibbon in his Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire has a chapter on the rise of Christianity. One of the reasons was the godly life of the saints. People of that day saw some of the most godless reprobates come into the Church and become transformed into the greatest saints and that made an impression on the ancient world. These are signs that can't be missed. But suffice it to say these signs are not enough. People who look for signs will never be satisfied. It is with relief that I read in this story and He left them and departed. The Pharisees and the Sadducees came . . .

THE COMING OF THE DISCIPLES

Next in line is the coming of the Apostles to the other side of the lake. As they discussed this problem, Jesus told them to take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees. They thought He was talking about forgetting bread. Jesus reprimanded them for their lack of faith by reminding them of the feeding of the five thousand and the four thousand. The Apostles had no trouble believing that the Lord could feed five thousand men besides a few women and children, they had no trouble believing that He could feed four thousand men besides that He could feed twelve men and no women and children. He said, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees

and the Sadducees." Then they got the message. It was the teaching of these people that they were being warned about. We have preachers today whose beliefs are similar to the Sadducees. The Sadducees subtracted from the word of God and the Pharisees added to God's word. Take heed and beware.

The Sadducees were the liberals of that day. They did not believe in the resurrection or in the Old Testament's scriptures except for the first five books. We have them with us today. Take heed and beware. Beware of the Pharisees also. The Pharisees were basically good people. They sprang up during the period between the Old Testament and the time of the Lord. They wanted to bring people back to the standards of God's laws, but they went to the extreme of making their opinions binding on others as matters of faith. Take heed and beware they are still here.

I went to a revival one time and as I was eating with the preacher he asked me if I had noticed the Church on the way to his house that was called the non-hand-shaking Church. I said that I had not seen it. He said they did not believe in shaking hands in the Church service. The Bible speaks of greeting one another with a holy kiss in several places and since that is a specific kind of greeting, no other greeting is permitted in their service. They may shake hands outside and on the street or even at home. They point out that there are a lot of things you do at home that should not be done in Church. Take heed and beware. (Excerpted from "The Five Comings" sermon from Matthew chapter sixteen)

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS



Dear Sir,

I listen to your teachings on Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation. I shall be thankful if you send me your monthly newsletter.

Yours in Christ Gerald from India

A listener writes: "ED SCARES ME INTO BEING GOOD."

Daniel from Columbus, OH

Dear Brother Bousman:

Greetings in His grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Kindly accept our appreciation for the kindness demonstrated to us. We received the preaching materials (Ed's

books and Bible Study materials) and the Bibles sent. We also received the cassette tapes. We are pleased to inform you about our plan to return home to Liberia hopefully in the next two years. We have organized ourselves into a team for a ministry known as Church Growth and Enrichment Ministry for Church of Christ. All the materials we received are very helpful to us, especially for minister's usage. We wish you God's blessings for your work.

James K. Minister of Buduburam
Church of Christ in Ghana, W Africa

Dear Sir,

Calvary greeting to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Also I thank God for giving your ministry the grace to reach out into unbelievers both inside and outside your country. Sir the purpose of writing you is that I need your spiritual assistance that would enable me growing in love of Christ. I need a Bible so as to get myself vast with the word of God.

Thanks D. Amole, Nigeria, W Africa

Dear in Christ,

Greetings of love in Jesus holy name. Thank you for your commitment to preaching the word to us through Radio Africa. How grateful am I to the Lord and to you for receiving your inspired programme, GOD IS JUST A PRAYER AWAY. Meanwhile kindly please send me and my fellowship few Bibles. May our dear Lord keep on using you in this way. Yours Faithfully

Solomon from Accra Ghana

Dear Bousman,

It is more reaffirming to be listening to the gospel you're preaching on Radio Africa here in RSA. This is a blessing from God for us here, one really blessing to our family. Wish you the best in all things all the time. I will continue to listen to your program in order to grow.

Yours in the Lord Mac from
Rustenburg, South Africa

Dear Brother Ed and Sister Naomi,

Greetings in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We praise and thank God in Jesus Christ for every one of you in the GIJAPA ministry. Thank you for investing yourselves and your resources to glorify God by reaching out to those living in doom and darkness as well as nourishing and edifying those called out by God. We pray that God will continuously supply your every need and that your reward and joy exceed more than man can ever imagine. It is our joy to pray for you every sin-

gle day and to hear you preach with courage and boldness even while many professing Christians play to the galleries of worldliness. Please keep up the preaching of the narrow way of the true gospel so that those merrily speeding on the broad highway to eternal damnation may be alerted of what lies ahead. (The tragedy of a life without God for all eternity.) Thank you once again for the Bible lessons, sermon tapes, newsletters and GIJAPA broadcast over Sri Lanka Broadcasting. They are a great resource; we appreciate your sacrificial giving that we and others may be blessed. May the Lord richly bless you and the Churches of Christ.

Sincerely Errol & Janice from India

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your help through Old Testament and New Testament teachings. May the Lord almighty bless you and your supporters. I once again thank you because through this course I had learned a lot. I am very happy about the certificate of completion you send to me. I hope things will be well and one day you will visit me in Ghana. May the Lord be with you.

Benjamin from Accra

Dear Sir,

Calvary greetings to you in the name of the Lord, may his peace and grace be with you. Sir, I heard your programme on Radio Africa through my cousin and it had a great impact in my spiritual life on Monday that is why I hereby request for Christian aid materials including Bible and other materials that can help me spiritually.

Yours in Christ Adewumi
from Nigeria, W Africa

To Ed Bousman Evangelistic Association

Let grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord be to you! I am sending you back lessons 26-30 of Studies of the Bible for correction. I think I have completed the first part of the Bible course. This course has helped me a lot in my spiritual development and understandings. I am a member of the whole Evangelical Church of Eritrea. For several months I took Salvation Education here in Asmara in my own mother language Tigrinya. I witness you, that the Bible course you have given me supported me much and my wife and my son. We are baptized and took the bread and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise be to God we are now real members of the Lord's Church. I admire you for you are reflecting Christ's

nature, helping us freely. You are serving us freely with your knowledge, materials, time and mind. Now at this moment I have prayed for you, God to grant you with the fruit of the spirit abundantly. God bless you.

Okubai from Eritrea, East Africa

Dear Ed,

O what love, what proof of God's great love for mankind when he sent Jesus in John 3:16. We must never say, I am not loved or no one cares for us like no one never has or never will. We hear your programme altogether with my wife and my four children over Radio Africa, "God Is Just A Prayer Away" on Monday 7 PM. Your programme have already touched our life and changed it totally. We cannot do without listening to your programmed and we are formerly Moslem but you have changed our life. Now we are born again Christian, and the only problem we have is no Holy Bibles. Please send Bibles for me, my wife and four children. Yours newly in Christ Monday from Lagos State, Nigeria, W Africa

Dear Ed:

May I wish you and yours a joyous and a blessed Christmas? Enclosed please find a small gift for the work of the GIJAPA broadcast.

I recall that when I was a boy my parents would invite my Uncle Paul, my Dad's bachelor brother, to visit us from Iowa each Christmas, so Paul wouldn't be alone at that Season.

My Uncle Paul was a hunter and a champion fisherman and he could capti-

vate me for hours on end with tales of the north woods and hours spent on remote lakes in search of "the one that got away". You can imagine that a youngster like me just loved those stories.

When Paul would visit, we would sit in front of our Zenith radio at the dining table and try to pull in far away 50,000 watt radio stations and listen to the various preachers giving the Gospel message to their nationwide radio congregations. Some of it was pretty solid preaching.

Today, there is none of that to be found on the A.M. radio dial--except for Ed Bousman and "God Is Just A Prayer Away." You bring back fond memories of those 'good old days' when the Gospel was still preached by straight shooters who spoke right to the heart of the matter. Sadly, most of those voices are now silenced on this earth, and the so-called "religious programs" on the radio band today just don't seem to "get it."

You do, of course. Which makes the GIJAPA program valuable and important. I believe that folks out there in radioland still need to hear the Gospel . . . and you are still there on the job sending it out to them. God Bless You,

Sincerely,

Stephen - Elm Grove, WI

Dear Friends,

Greetings in Jesus name. I am Benny S. from South India. I am 20 years old boy. I am very happy to receive your Bible and Bible course. Thank you very much for your love gift. Also I have received "Facts Concerning the New Testament Church" by P.H. Welshimer. It helps to well understand New Testament

and baptism. I would be very grateful if you can send me more literature and/or booklets, which you feel, can help me in growing and preparing myself for the work, which is ahead of me "To Serve Him." Kindly pray for me currently I am studying BSL (Phy) final year. I had a cheerful chance to take your Bible course. It helped me learn more about Christ and Christian living. Here with I am sending completed courses. Kindly pray for my two brothers--Daniel and Samuel, and my lovely mother's good health and long life.

Love Benny from INDIA

Dear Bro Ed,

Enclosed is a small gift for Bibles. We wish you and yours a Merry Christmas. We listen to you every Sunday morning. May God bless you.

In Christian Love

John & Family from Milton, KY

A NEW LEAF

*He came to my desk with a quivering lip,
I'm done," he said "Dear Teacher,
I want a new leaf, I've spoiled the old one."
I took the old leaf, stained and blotted
And gave him anew one all unspotted.
And into his sad eyes, I smiled,
"do better now, my child."*

*I came to the throne of grace,
The year was done and I said, "Dear
Father,
I want a New year, I've spoiled the old
one."
He took the old year, stained and blotted,
And gave me a new one all unspotted.
And into my tired eyes he smiled,*

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