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# The Borrowed Colt

*Dr. T. D. Worthington*



As the Easter season approaches, we will hear many lessons on what has been called the triumphal entry of our Lord. However, I would like to focus for a moment on one question. Why did Jesus leave the temple and go to Bethany? Now, please don't assume that His reasoning makes no real difference, because I think it does. Actually, it might have some rather strong implications for our lives.

Jesus is in a procession heading into the city. They are placing palm branches in His pathway, and He is riding on a borrowed colt. People are surrounding Him. They are shouting their hosannas. They are all excited as they roll out what we might call

the “*red carpet*.” Something big is happening. Jesus is an honored guest... *at least for a while*.

As Jesus rides into Jerusalem, He seems to head straight for the temple. Yet, He apparently only stays for a few minutes, and then He looks around and quickly departs. He does not preach or teach. He works no miracles. He just leaves and goes back to Bethany. This is a somewhat of a quiet and strange ending to an exciting day. Why did He even bother to go into the temple? Is He retreating? Was He frightened? In His humanity is He less confident than He was when He first entered the city? Did Jesus have

somewhere else He needed to be? Perhaps He just wanted some alone time? We've all needed solitude on occasion, especially when we are facing an emotional and trying time. We sometimes have to back up and try again. Could that be what His leaving the temple is all about?

We need to understand that Jesus actually came into Jerusalem on three separate days and each Gospel seems to focus more attention to one of those days. Mark tells us about His first visit to Jerusalem and His visit to Bethany in the evening. The next day He would return to Jerusalem for a second time. That's when He cursed the fig tree and cleansed the

temple (*Mark 11:12-19*). Then on His third visit, He offers His lesson on prayer and has a discourse with the religious leaders in the temple (*Mark 11:20-33*).

Mark is the only writer that says Jesus entered the temple on that first day after His triumphal entry, looked around, and left. So why did Jesus leave the temple and go to Bethany? The Gospel gives us one reason. Jesus left the temple because it was getting late; *“the eventide was come”* (*Mark 11:11*). So is that the answer? Is it just a matter of the lateness of the hour? Still I cannot help but wonder what was the rush? What might Jesus be late for? Since the triumphal entry is such an important event, there must be more here than casually meets the eye. Perhaps Mark gives us some additional insight as the disciples obtained the colt.

*“And if any man say unto you, Why do ye this? say ye that the Lord hath need of him; and straightway he will send him hither.”*

**Mark 11:3**

Was Jesus simply thinking about honoring a promise to the owner of the colt? That is something that only Mark tells us. All the writers agree that the colt was borrowed from its owner. But only Mark tells us that Jesus made a specific promise for its timely return. Jesus sent two disciples to borrow this colt and told them if anyone asked why they were taking the colt they were to say, *“The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.”* And that’s what they did.

Maybe while we search for deep theological meaning, the simple truth is that Jesus left so He could keep His promise. Maybe this is about Jesus

being true to Himself and keeping His word. What if this is about Jesus staying focused on fulfilling a simple promise in the midst of a week where He would fulfill many complex promises? What if this is about maintaining character in spite of the pressures the coming week holds for Him? What if returning the colt is a lesson for us as we enter into the Easter season? What insight might returning the colt have for us?

**First, it speaks of being true to our word.** If you say you’re going to do something, *you do it*. Even in tough and trying times, you meet your commitments and obligations. Perhaps you are too sick to meet them or maybe there are other hindrances; but to the extent possible nothing should keep you from meeting obligations. I’m sorry, but having a tough week doesn’t qualify. I waste many hours each week waiting for phone calls that don’t come, or appointments that don’t show up, or people who decide not to meet

obligations they have made. Excuses abound: I forgot, I got busy; I changed my mind, etc. Good grief!

**Second, it speaks of the responsibility of the borrower.** You return, in good shape—or *in better shape—if you can*, what you have borrowed. Borrow a car, fill it up with gas. Borrow a tool; return it cleaner and sharper than it was when you borrowed it. Borrow a book, a CD or a DVD; return it when you are finished.

**Third, it speaks of releasing things we don’t need anymore.** Are there things you need to release or let go of? We all have stuff we’ve carried around with us far too long. It’s no longer an asset nor does it enrich our lives. It’s just the baggage we carry that continues to weigh us down and impoverish our lives.

What do you need to release? Is it a grudge or resentment? Could it be





anger, fear, disappointment, envy, or regret? Maybe it's time to give up the baggage of having to be in control, having to be right, or needing constant approval or confirmation. These are things that serve you no purpose and should be released to God.

**Fourth, it speaks about maintaining our true character.** Adversity can change us. If the change is good and if it conforms us more to the image of Christ, then the change can be positive. Yet, all too often adversity makes us bitter. It throws us out of balance and off-center. Perhaps this story reminds us to keep a check on our character, and if we find ourselves wavering from the person our Lord wants us to be, we need to get back in alignment. Maybe this lesson is a reminder to return to our center. What if it's about reclaiming our truest self so we could then move forward, not from the same old place, but from the newly recovered center? That's what Jesus did. He stayed true

to Himself through this difficult week, and so must we. So maybe returning the colt is ultimately about getting back to our true character—*our true self*—a reborn self of honor and integrity that God created in us when we became His?

What if it is about returning to and reclaiming those parts of ourselves that have been lost, ignored, forgotten, or denied? Are there are parts of ourselves and our lives to which we need to return? *“I used to be a loving husband, but I know I don't act that way much anymore.” “I used to be a loving and supportive wife, but I doubt my husband sees those qualities much anymore.” “I had determined to be a firm, but loving and tender parent, but my children rarely see that quality in me today.”* Is it time to put things back where they belong? What positive changes could be made if we returned to our true selves?

When we release the baggage that is dragging us down, we may very well find in its place something that was lost. There in that place of honest reckoning we might find our lost joy, hope, beauty, truth and honesty. We might also find justice, mercy, and forgiveness. What if we also found the dignity and holiness of life that God has for us? Coming back to ourselves would be like a new life, wouldn't it?

*So, return the colt.* That's what Jesus did. It's not so much just looking around at everything outside us but looking around at everything within us. Look at what promises need to be kept, what responsibilities need to be reclaimed, what baggage needs to be loosed, and what lost character needs to be regained.



*Dr. Worthington has been in the ministry over forty years and serves as President of Pathway Ministries.*



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## The Voice

*That one special voice.* Who will be the winner? Who has what it takes to make it? Who will the judges pick? Whether you watch them or not, you've probably heard of the reality talent shows that flood primetime on nightly television. Shows like *The Voice*, *American Idol*, and *America's Got Talent* showcase a variety of musicians, singers, comedians, and others with various skillsets looking for their opportunity for fame. They are hoping to have that one voice, that one unique talent which will stand out above the rest and take them to the top.

It seems as though everyone has a voice these days. The liberals sure make their voices known on subjects

such as abortion and immigration. The LGBT community doesn't hesitate at all to use the voice they have. We certainly never thought we'd see the day that so many socialist and even borderline-communist have such a powerful voice in our country.

As Christians, we have a voice, too. Though it often feels it's unheard and drowned out by the other voices in the world, our Lord has given us the potential power through Him to stand out above the rest. It's time for us to be heard. It's time for us to take our place on center stage and speak up for righteousness. We have Good News to share with those around us. Isn't it selfish to keep it to ourselves? More importantly, our Judge sits on a throne way above talent show judges like Simon Cowell, Blake Shelton, or Howie Mandel. There's a lot more at stake than a record deal or a chance to win a little cash. There's a lost and dying world that needs to see Jesus in us.

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## Artist Spotlight - Safe Haven

The Southern Gospel sound of *Safe Haven* has been around since 2014. Traveling wherever the Lord opens doors, the group's goal is to sing and testify of God's love, mercy, and grace. Thankful and humble for all He does for them, *Safe Haven* loves doing God's work.

In the past few years, *Safe Haven* has been able to release two albums: *Don't That Sound like Heaven* and *Closer to the Cross*. Now working with Appalachian Talent Promotions, the group is excited about the opportunities that lie ahead.

*"We would like to say thank you to all that have given us the opportunity to come and minister in their churches and at other events. Thank you to all of the radio stations that play our music. Thank you, GoMix Christian Radio, for all that you do for the groups here in the area... Come and see us if we are in your area and definitely pray for us as we continue to travel the highways and byways for our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. God bless, Leon, Wayne, Jerry, & Tim."*

More information about *Safe Haven*, including an event schedule, can be found at [www.safehavengospel.com](http://www.safehavengospel.com). You can also check them out on Facebook or give them a call at 919-366-6375.

### Upcoming Appearances:

Sunday, April 7 – Alert PH Church, Alert, NC

Sunday, May 5 – Riverside FWBC, Princeton, NC

Thursday, May 30 – Ron's Barn, Coats, NC

Saturday, June 1 – Camp Clearwater, White Lake, NC

Sunday, June 2 – Altamahaw Baptist Church, Elon, NC

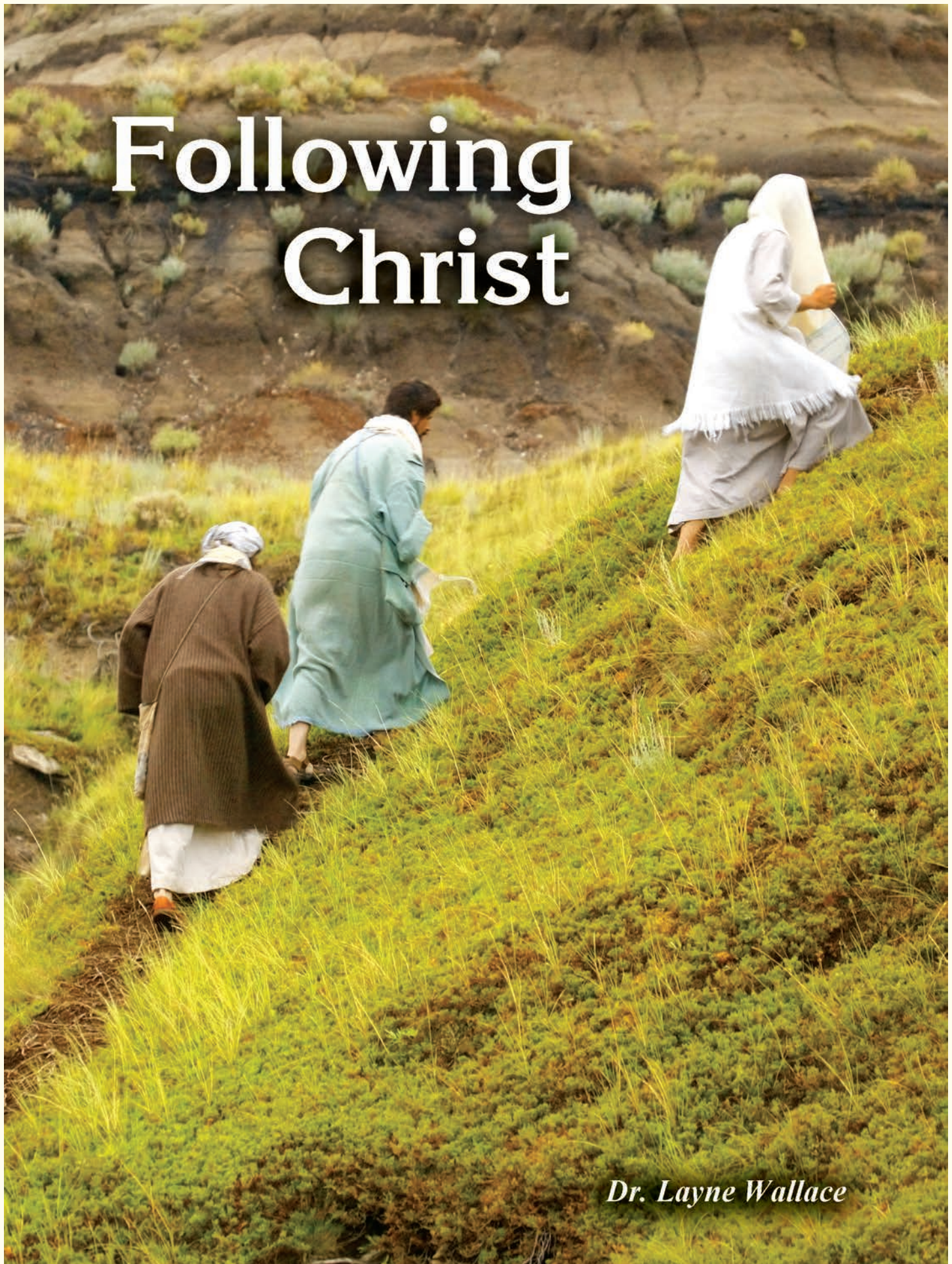
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# Following Christ

*Dr. Layne Wallace*



What exactly does it mean to be a Christian? To answer the question, it is helpful to understand the origin of the term. The term “Christian” was not the original word used to describe a follower of Jesus. In fact, the earliest followers of Jesus struggled to decide what to call themselves. Early in the book of Acts, they were called people of the “way.” That name, however, did not stick. It was not until opponents of Jesus’ followers insulted the earliest followers of Jesus that our faith was named.



Unbelievers in Antioch likely gave believers in Jesus the name “Christian,” meaning “little Christ,” as a term of derision. In any case, the word “Christian” appears only three times in the Bible and serves as a replacement for a term already in use.

The word the Bible most frequently uses to describe those who follow Jesus and the word that “Christian” replaced is “disciple.” “Disciple” and its derivatives appear in the New Testament 271 times. The term could just as easily be translated student or apprentice. By using the term “disciple,” the writers of Scripture indicate that those who would follow Jesus are to be Jesus’ apprentices. Followers of Jesus are to be those who learn from Jesus and put His teachings into practice. So, what exactly does it mean to be a Christian? It means to be a disciple of Jesus.

discipleship. When the practice of discipleship is divorced from the Christian life, there is an inevitable result: the loss of the spiritual blessings promised to believers in Christ.

So, I encourage you. Do not allow your faith to become stagnant. Do not allow the practices of discipleship to be missing in your life. If you do, you run the risk of losing many of the gifts God has promised for those who would follow Jesus Christ.

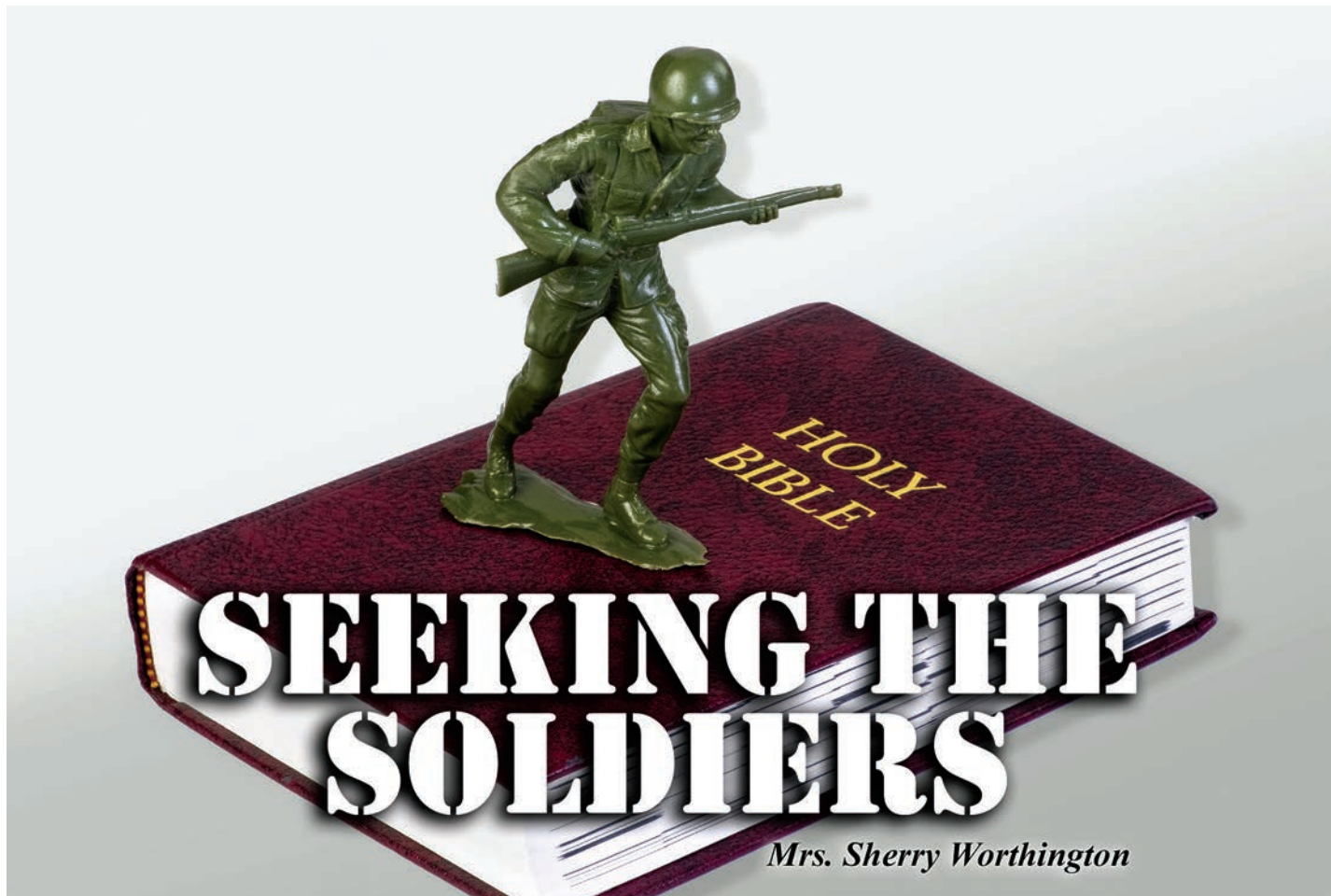


*Dr. Layne Wallace is Senior Pastor of Rosemary Baptist Church in Roanoke Rapids, NC. More information can be found at [www.rosemarybaptist.com](http://www.rosemarybaptist.com).*

Discipleship is not just for the “super-Christians.” It is not reserved only for the Billy Grahams or other great evangelists of the world. It is not just the pastor, or the Sunday School teacher, or the deacon chair who are to be disciples of Jesus. No, every believer is a disciple. The Bible does not imagine a person who claims to be Christian who is not engaged in discipleship. Learning to be like Jesus and putting His teachings into practice is not an optional extra for the believer. It is the practical outcome of belief.

Unfortunately, being a Christian can become divorced from the practice of

A promotional graphic for the GoMix Skill on Alexa. The background is dark with a blue circular glow. The text is white and bold. It reads: "Getting The GoMix Skill On Your Alexa... Two Easy Ways To Get GoMix: 1. Say, 'Alexa, enable the Go Mix Christian Radio Skill.' OR 2. Visit the Skills section of your Alexa Smartphone App and search for Go Mix Christian Radio. After you have enabled the skill, listen to us by simply saying, 'Alexa, play Go Mix Christian Radio.'"



Is there a term for the person who constantly searches through the guide on the television set looking through hundreds of channels? I tried to find one, but all I found was the terms “channel surfing” or “channel flipping.” Well, that is definitely not me. Those terms describe the person who flips between channels because they want to watch more than one channel at one time. I have trouble finding one. I don’t watch a lot of television, but there are a few shows I enjoy. Many times I become frustrated because there is nothing on I feel is worth watching.

I guess I am picky about the shows I watch. Of course, there is the obvious. I won’t watch shows that have vulgar scenes or filthy language in them. I also do not like scary movies or shows. When I was a child, I used to hide behind the chair

in our living room if I was afraid. I don’t like shows when things jump out at me. I had nightmares when I watched anything remotely scary. The true stories were the worst. Do you know I still remember scenes from a movie when I was in my early teens? It was about a young girl with multiple personalities who was abused by her mother. The scenes are engrained in my mind.

I also like the shows to have some type of plot to them. Some of the programs that are on now seem so stupid to me. They don’t have a purpose, and many of them make the parents look like complete idiots. For that matter, a great many make all people look stupid. *Maybe they are prophetic.*

When I watch TV shows, I look for several things. First of all, I usually

watch TV at night with my husband, so it needs to be something we both enjoy. Sometimes we just enjoy a movie together, but most of the time it is for the purpose of “winding down” after a long day. I enjoy watching TV when it helps me relax or when I can learn something. One area I have always needed to learn more about is history. Some of the shows that explain the value of items and how they relate to our past intrigue me. I also learn things from the true stories and documentaries. Many of those do not relax me, but they are necessary for my growth.

Movies and documentaries about the sinking of the Titanic, the Twin Towers, or any other national disasters bring me to tears. All I can think about is the people who may have entered eternity without Christ that day. I have to wonder if anyone

tried to win them to the Lord. It also reminds me that I need to do more to win the lost into God's family. How can I just go about my life as usual when people around me are headed for hell? These programs do not make me relax, but they serve a great purpose.

War stories are also heart wrenching to me. So many people suffered and died in the different wars of our country. Those soldiers gave their life for the freedom and values of America. First and foremost, I wonder if they knew my Jesus. I pray they did, but statistically there are many soldiers in hell today. I wonder if someone tried to tell them about Jesus and His love before it was too late.

These same soldiers died for a country that has become so undeserving of their sacrifice. If they could see America now, would they regret their actions? I love my country, but I fear the level of evil that prevails in our land. I am afraid the average American citizen has a lot of blood on his hands. The fact is most people are guilty of not fighting for the ideals these men died for and for being complacent with the sin that runs rampant in our land. We are accountable!

The soldiers that fought at "D Day" didn't turn tail and run when the odds were against them. There were around 4,000 deaths in the allied forces on June 6, 1944. These soldiers knew that there was a great chance they would die that day, but they moved forward. Why did they take that chance? Why did they risk not ever seeing their families again? Why did they risk it all? They believed in what they were fighting for.

We may be speaking German today if the soldiers behaved like most Christians do. Our country would be a totally different place, if American soldiers had said, *"I'm tired of fighting. I want to go back to my comfortable home with my wife and kids. I want to go back to eating three hot meals a day and my safe job. I am tired of being shot at and wondering if I am going to die today."* I am sure many may have had those thoughts, but they knew they were fighting for the greater good. They felt freedom was worth fighting for.



Is it worth fighting for the Kingdom? Are the soldiers of God's army retreating? Why don't we take chances and risks? I guess the sacrifices just aren't worth it. Many times the soldiers in God's army don't even know how to use their swords. Bible study is at an all-time low. If we don't know our Bible, how can we be confident witnesses for Christ? Besides the fact we don't know the Scripture, many of us are afraid to witness and have nothing new to share about what God is doing in our lives today. Statistically, only 52% of evangelicals shared their faith

with at least one person last year. We aren't serious about snatching lost souls out of the clutches of Satan. He is laughing at us.

Our charitable giving is down, too! According to a Gallop poll, giving to religious organizations is down 12 percent in America since 2005. Those figures include those who give to all "religious" charities as well. As far as tithing goes, less than 12% of born again Christians tithe, and only 23% of those are under the age of 40. What does the future hold for Christian ministries?

I could continue to discuss so many areas Christians should be fighting for. It is sad to see the lack of zeal or determination to fight for the truths of our Bibles. It is difficult to find people willing to work in Christian service, much less full-time Christian service. Most people want to be in the stands instead of on the playing field. There are so many ways we can serve. There isn't any legitimate reason for each Christian *not* to serve in some capacity. We have some elderly people in our church who are serious prayer warriors. They pray for me every day. What greater service is there?

Isn't it time for you to arm yourself to further the Kingdom? It is time for born-again Christians everywhere to stop retreating and march forward. We must learn to use our swords and fight for the future of our families, churches, and America. We must all search and find out what God wants us to do in His army. It is never too late to start! Do it today!



*Mrs. Worthington has five children and eleven grandchildren. She serves as Principal of Pathway Christian Academy in Goldsboro.*

# And Finally...



## Tell A Joke...

### The Poor Preacher:

After the church service, seven year old Brian said to the preacher, *“When I grow up, I’m going to give you some money.”*

*“Well, thank you,”* the preacher replied, *“but why?”*

*“Because my daddy says that you’re one of the poorest preachers we’ve ever had.”*

### The Head Hog:

Fred called a church and asked to speak to the Head Hog of the Trough. *“How rude!”* the secretary said. *“I’ll have you know we would never, ever refer to our pastor as a hog!”*

*“Okay,”* said Fred, *“then just take a message. Tell him I’ve come into a bit of money, so I was calling to make a \$10,000 donation to your church.”*

Without thinking twice, the secretary replied, *“Well hold the phone, dearie! I think I see that big pig coming down the hall right now.”*

### The Visitor:

*“There will be a meeting of the Board immediately after the service,”* announced the pastor.

After the close of the service, the Church Board gathered at the back of the auditorium for the announced meeting. They soon realized there was a stranger in their midst, a visitor who had never attended their church before.

*“My friend,”* said the pastor, *“Didn’t you understand that this is a meeting of the Board?”*

*“Yes,”* said the visitor, *“and after today’s sermon, I suppose I’m just about as bored as anyone else who came to this meeting.”*

### Lesson Learned:

Mildred, the church gossip and self-appointed arbiter of the church’s morals, kept sticking her nose in the other members’ private lives. Church members were unappreciative of her activities, but feared her enough to maintain their silence. She made a mistake, however, when she accused George, a new member, of being an alcoholic after she saw his pickup truck parked in front of the town’s only bar one afternoon. She commented to George and others that everyone seeing it there would know what he was doing. George, a man of few words, stared at her for a moment and just walked away. He didn’t explain, defend, or deny; he said nothing. Later that evening, George quietly parked his pickup in front of Mildred’s house... and left it there all night!

## “Fishing Week”

We’d like your help for an upcoming edition of “And Finally...”

Fishing Week is the first week of June! Write to us in 150 words or less and tell us about your favorite fishing spot or trip. The deadline for submission is  
April 30, 2019.

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