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#### PathPointe Magazine

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*“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”*

**I Corinthians 10:31**

Once again on the first Monday in September we will be observing Labor Day. Unlike most of our Holidays Labor Day seems to have no special secular or religious rituals, except perhaps for shopping and barbecuing. For most people, it simply marks the end of summer.

The first Labor Day was celebrated in 1882 in New York City. The founders were looking for a means of unifying union workers and a reduction in work time. Tradesmen would celebrate their contributions of labor, often displaying the tools of their craft in a Labor Day parade. For preachers it was time for a good sermon about hard work and maybe

some pointers about picking up your cross. It was a time to reconnect the things we do the rest of the week with what we do on Sunday. You see, many people have trouble believing that the labor they do outside the church is really that important to the Lord. Earning a living often seems far removed from the holy and sacred.

Unlike past generations, most folks haven't been taught or trained to see their labor as holy, to see their everyday efforts as important to God, to imagine that they are God's partners in doing God's work in the world. And, quite frankly, perhaps the church must take a fair amount of responsibility for this. We may take time to honor nursery workers or Sunday school teachers, we may honor missionaries and Christian school teachers, but we don't seem to get around to honoring the plumbers,

waiters, house sitters, and the guy who runs the coffee shop. How many of us recognize the work of nurses, house wives, or the retired? How many of us regularly pray for those who volunteer, not just in church, but in a variety of our service agencies that our communities depend on? We may honor our military and maybe our law enforcement officers, and this is good, but it is not good enough.

We rarely nurture the imagination of our people to believe that God is at work in them and through them for the sake of the world God loves so much. No wonder people can't figure out how what they do really matters, at least in terms of the faith. Equally troubling, they can't figure out how their faith makes a real difference in all the other stuff they do. When your faith is divorced from what you do the other six days of the week,

then we have to wonder how much longer you'll keep showing up on Sunday morning.

We've been trained somewhere to think that when Jesus talks about ***"taking up the cross,"*** he's referring to some major spiritual travail. Or at least significant suffering or sacrifice, on behalf of the faith. But what if it's simpler than that? What if bearing the cross does not have as much to do with our daily anguish and suffering as it does with what we do on a day by day basis as a consequence of our relationship with Jesus Christ?

If this is true, then when we are instructed to take up our cross, we are being instructed to have our life shaped by our commitment to Christ in whatever we do. Electricians, students, secretaries, parents and plumbers, all of us, when we offer our time, talent, and labor to God, are bearing our cross by allowing the whole of their lives to be shaped by their commitment to Christ. I am afraid it is rare for the average Christian to hear a message saying that what they do at home, at work, while volunteering or being a good friend matters to God and makes a real difference in the world.

So, let me ask you, ***"Which is more spiritual; to preach the Bible or to wash dishes at home; to teach a Bible Study group, or to cook meals?"*** If you say that preaching is more spiritual than washing the dishes, then you are a victim of wrong thinking. Paul said,

***"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."***

**I Corinthians 10:31**

So, my answer is that washing dishes is as spiritual as preaching the Word, if you do it for the glory of God. Cooking meals is as spiritual as teaching a Bible study, if you do it for the glory of God. Hence, instead of a line dividing the sacred and secular, I'd like you to think in terms of a circle. Draw a circle around everything you do, whether you eat or drink or whatever you do. Everything you do inside that circle, do it for the glory of God, and you are already living in a circle of the spiritual. The significance of work therefore is that it is a spiritual duty.



All honorable work is a spiritual duty if you do it for the glory of God. Are you a driver? Are you a helper? Are you a secretary? Are you a cook? Are you a banker? Are you a businessperson? Are you a manager? Are you a grocery bagger? Regardless of your honorable career choice, if you do it for the glory of God, that is a spiritual work.

And because your work is spiritual, your work is therefore important before God. Don't ever think that what you do is useless. Your work is valuable and important in the sight of God. It is important because you do it for the glory of God. It is important also because what you do in your work place either helps or hinders the glory of God. God has called every believer

to be a witness of the Gospel. You are therefore a messenger of the Gospel. You are an ambassador for Christ. Therefore, how you work will either help or hinder the message of Christ. How you work will either make people praise God or blaspheme God. How you work will make people speak good or bad about the character of a Christian.

So, what motivates you to work? Perhaps it is money? Most people work to gratify their needs and wants. Christians also need to work to supply the needs of our family. But Christians also work for the glory of God. We work to advance the kingdom. We work to see people come to trust Christ. Thus, we don't want to do anything that will bring reproach to our Lord.

Yet there is the ultimate motivation for working with all your heart today. You do your best in your jobs. You honor your bosses. You follow the rules, because you work for the Lord, and not for men only. Paul wrote,

***"Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh . . . fearing God. And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not unto men."***

**Colossians 3:22-23**

You work for God's reward, and not just men's reward. You also work knowing that God will judge you someday for your work. That's the Labor Day Prime Directive.



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



# Questions and Answers

*Mrs. Sherry Worthington*

Do you know how many questions a four year old asks in a day? According to a recent study, they ask an average of over four hundred questions in a day. Astounding! I knew they asked many questions, but I honestly did not realize it was that many.

The strange thing about a four year old is they are usually thinking of the next question before you answer the last one. This can be cute or annoying, depending on if it is question three or question 399. It does make you wonder. Does the child want to know answers, or does he just want to keep

asking questions? Have you ever wondered if they are trying to see if you know the answers? Maybe, their little minds are going so fast they just can't slow down to process the information. I do know that we need to foster that curiosity in a positive direction.

As children get older, we need to try to teach them how to look up the answers to their questions. Perhaps as teachers in school or at home, this would be a valuable lesson. We will not always be around, and as I am sure you know, we don't always know the

answers. I think children sometimes delight when they give you a question you can't answer. I do not have a problem with saying, "I am not sure. Let's look it up!"

Some teenagers and adults have a tendency to keep asking the same question to different people until they get someone who agrees with them. They will ask fifteen people and get the same answer. They finally ask a "friend" that tells them what they want to hear, and they go out and do something stupid. It is very frustrating for counselors to see that their counsel

was ignored for guidance that was not Scriptural.

I guess the question one must ask is *“Are all people seeking answers?”* Obviously not! Many people use questions as a means not to do what God has called them to do. It may be they reject the call to Salvation because they don’t have all of the answers yet. We put God on trial because we do not understand why He allowed something to happen. I am not saying we can’t ask God why. I am saying we must be content with *“Wait and see.”* We may not see until we get to Heaven.



What happens when God doesn’t answer our questions the way we want Him to? What happens when our questions about God come up with no answer? Many times people will ask, *“Why did God allow this to happen?”* I cannot tell you why He has chosen in His sovereignty to allow bad things to happen on this earth. Sin and our free will to do as we please is the cause of most of our problems. Many times people make choices and want to know why God does not snap His fingers and fix their mess. We also need to remember that Satan gets some credit because Adam did give him the title deed to the earth.

Many times I would like to take a bolt of lightning and get rid of a few problems down here. Good thing I am not God. God is merciful and He loves us very much. When we don’t get the answers to our questions, we have to trust Him. When we take our babies to the doctor and they have to

get shots, don’t you know they are looking at us and asking, *“Why are you letting them do this to me? You are supposed to protect me.”* As tears flow down the parent’s face, she is thinking how she wishes she could get her baby to understand everything that is happening is for his good.

Is God any different? He loves us with perfect love. He knows what is going on in our lives down here. He knows that the vaccines of life are coming our direction. Sometimes we make bad decisions, and we get a shot we did not need. Other times the vaccine we received could help us grow and be strong. One struggle will prepare us for a bigger struggle. Just like a parent holding their child for a shot, God holds us through our struggles, too.

We want our children to trust us when they have questions about what we are doing in their lives. We want them to believe in us as parents that we would never do anything to hurt

them. Should we not give God the same courtesy? Should we not give God the same trust?

When we have questions about God’s decisions in our lives or in other people’s lives, we must have faith in Him. There will be lots of questions that we can go to His Word and answer. But, for the questions we cannot answer, have the faith of a child. I do not think a child’s love and faith in us depends on our ability to answer 400 questions in a day. Neither should our faith and trust in God rest on our knowing the answers to all of our questions. We must trust Him!



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

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## Someone To Bless

I wonder what our world would be like if each of us would find somebody to be good to every day. What would our neighborhood be like? What would our work place be like if we made it a priority to brighten somebody else's day? Scripture teaches, *"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."*

**Galatians 6:10**

That means we need to be on the lookout. We need to be proactive. We need to have the mindset of, *"Who can I bless today?"* You can't just sit back and wait for the

need to come to you. You have to go after it.

The Scripture says in **Matthew 24:12** that in the last days the love of many will grow cold. That simply means people will be so busy that they'll be so focused on their own needs. They'll be so caught up in their drive for success that they won't take time to make a difference.

Sometimes it's easy for us to get so caught up in our own little world that we're focused only on ourselves, but we weren't created to live selfishly. We were created to make a difference in the lives of others. **John Bunyan**, author of the classic *Pilgrim's Progress* said, *"You have not lived today until you have done something for someone that cannot pay you back."*

Don't miss the miracle of the moment. It doesn't take a lot of time or a lot of money. It just takes

somebody that cares, somebody that's willing to make a difference. Where we are in life very well may be the direct result of someone's unseen sacrifice.

That's how **GoMix Christian Radio** has been built and sustained over these past 21 years. It has been through folks just like you and I seeking ways to be a blessing to others. The **GoMix Fall Share-A-Thon** is coming in October. Please begin to pray about the role our Lord might have you to play in touching others with the message of hope.

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## Integrity

In the summer of 1805, a group of Indian chiefs and warriors met in council at Buffalo Creek, New York, to hear a sermon by a representative of the Boston Missionary Society. After the sermon, a response was given by **Red Jacket**, one of the leading chiefs.

The chief said:

***“Brother, we are told that you have been preaching to the white people in this place. These people are our neighbors. We are acquainted with them. We will wait a little while and see what effect your preaching has upon them. If we find it does them good, makes them honest and less disposed to cheat Indians, we will then consider again of what you have said.”***

What if everyone waited to see what effect Christianity has on us before they decided to accept it? How many people would accept Christ based on them observing the difference it has made in our lives? Every day people are watching our every move to see what kind of difference our faith makes in our lives. As believers, people are watching us whether we like it or not.

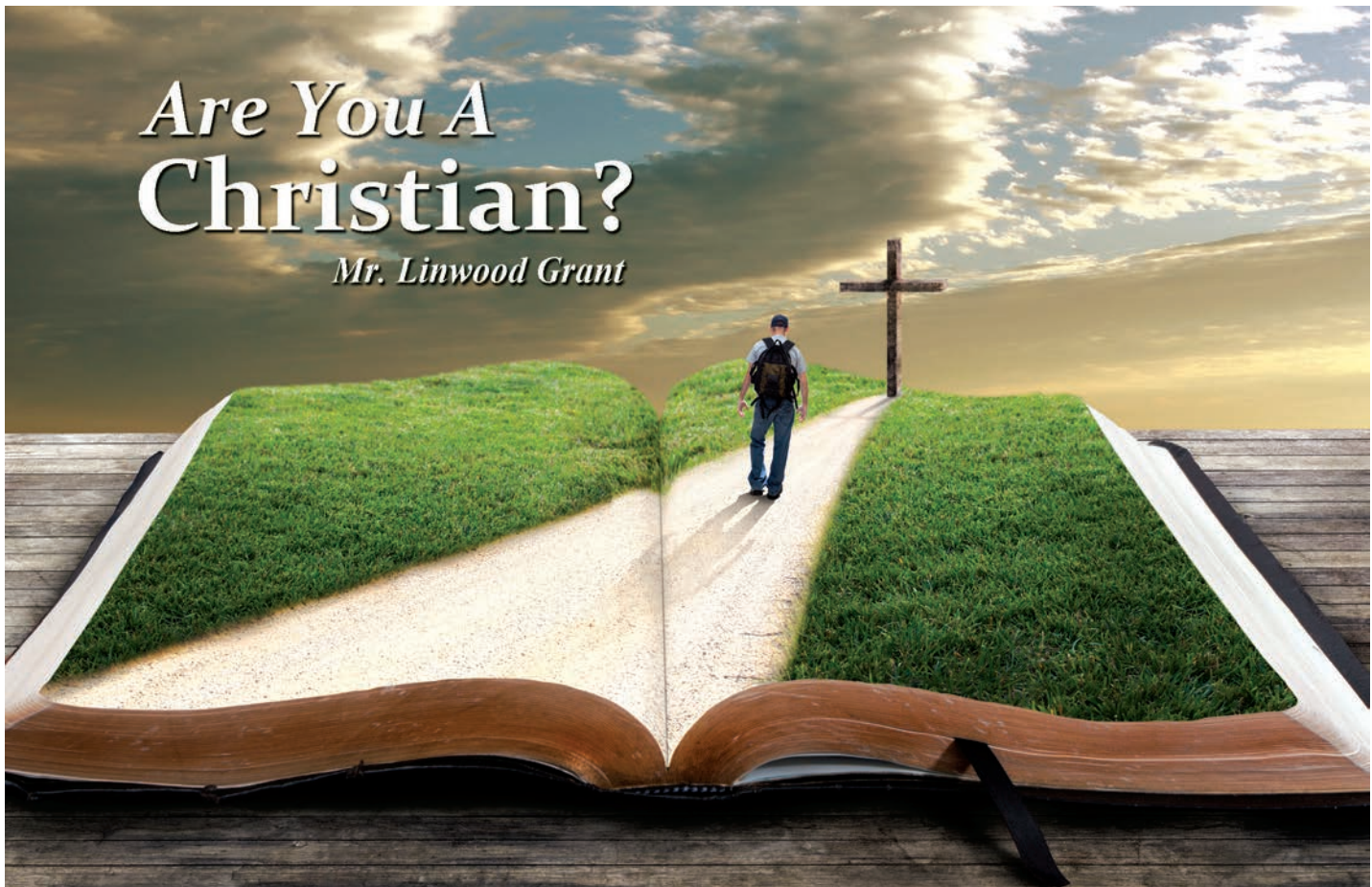
What do they watch? Like Chief Red Jacket, they watch to see if our behavior matches our belief, if our

walk matches our talk, if our character matches our confession, if what we claim to believe on Sunday is put into practice the rest of the week. In a word, they watch to see if we have integrity.

Integrity comes from the same root word as “integer.” A person of integrity is whole. People with integrity have nothing to hide and nothing to fear. Their lives are open books.

Without a doubt, Jesus is the supreme model of integrity. His life so proved his purity and excellent character that his enemies could only make up lies about Him. There was no basis for guilt, no evidence of fault, found in Jesus.

Our integrity is put to the test every day in virtually every situation. We are being watched closely to see how we will respond. The choice of our walk matching our talk, our behavior matching our beliefs, our character matching our confession, is left to us. What will we do? My prayer is that we may all walk through our earthly pilgrimage as prime examples of Christian integrity.



# Are You A Christian?

Mr. Linwood Grant

Let's begin with a definition of the word Christian. A Christian is a follower of Jesus Christ. It saddens me when I hear or read about people who call themselves Christians, yet they do not believe what the Bible teaches. Jesus says in **John 14:15**, *"If ye love me, keep my commandments."*

There are people who go to church on a regular basis and believe that abortion is okay because it is not specifically mentioned in the New Testament or because Jesus did not specifically say it was wrong. The same people will most likely say that homosexuality and gay marriage are okay because Jesus did not specifically say they are wrong. The same ones are beginning to say that transgenderism is okay for the same reason. Many of the same people do not support the nation of Israel because they say we are in the Church Age (*the time from Pentecost to the Rapture*) and Israel is not part of God's plan. Let's see what Jesus said about these things.

First, as Christians we need to decide who Jesus is. **John 10:30** says, *"I and my Father are one."* **John 14:9** says, *"Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so*

*long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?"*

These and many more Bible verses make it clear that Jesus Christ is God Almighty; the creator of heaven and earth and the One prophesied about in the Old Testament.

Now as Christians, we should know what Jesus says about abortion. **Psalms 100:3** says, *"Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture."* **Exodus 23:7** says, *"Keep thee far from a false matter; and the innocent and righteous slay thou not: for I will not justify the wicked."*

Now to homosexuality. **Leviticus 18:22** says, *"Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination."* **Romans 1:26** says, *"For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:"*



Now to transgenderism. In **Genesis 1:27**, the Bible tells us, *“So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”*

Now to the support of Israel. We read in **Genesis 12:3**, *“And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”* God is very clear on this. Those who support Israel will be blessed. Those who do not support Israel will be cursed. I believe our nation has been blessed tremendously because we have supported Israel, but times are changing.

**II Timothy 3:16** says, *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:”* This simply means that God guided the entire process of writing the Bible, the Old and New Testament, over 1500 years by 40 authors.

Why is **II Timothy 3:16** important? Because Jesus (*our God and Creator*) directed men to write the entire Bible. Just because Jesus does not specifically mention the sins of abortion, homosexuality, transgenderism, and not supporting Israel in the New Testament, He does in the Old Testament.

In summary, let’s get back to the original question; who is a Christian? If you claim Christianity as your own and love the Lord, you will keep His commandments (**John 14:15**). A person that truly desires to be like Christ will follow His commands. If you believe the sins mentioned earlier are okay, you may want to question your relationship with Christ.

*Mr. Linwood Grant is a retired Lenoir County Principle, a member of Trinity FWB Church in La Grange, and also serves as a member Gideons International.*

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## What Are You Giving Voice To?

*Dr. Glenn Mills*

*“And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment: For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole. But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour.”*

**Matthew 9:20-22**

Great things happen when we fill our mouth with faith. When we say the right things, Jesus responds. A life of defeat starts with words of defeat. Negative situations reinforced by negative words bring more negative results. Godly words can change negative situations or circumstances. When we voice our faith, we bless our future. Many things are voice activated. Through modern

technology, people can use their voice to start their cars, turn on lights and appliances, activate phone services, and much, much more.

Faith words also cause things to come to us. God spoke creation into existence. God also gave us the power of creative voice. This gift allows us to call, by faith: favor, increase, direction, healing, deliverance, and breakthrough. Stop for a moment and ask yourself what things are you currently speaking over your life, family, health, marriage, and finances. If we don't like what we see, we can change it by changing our words. Victim words often bring a victim life. Victory words often bring a victorious life. If we give voice to weakness, then our weakness will only grow worse. If we speak faith over our weakness, then strength begins to replace it.

Whatever we are currently saying is giving voice to our future. We are going to face many situations, circumstances, crises, emotions, temptations, and trials, but what we say and do determine their outcome. Sometimes we just have to preach to ourselves. It's not just enough to think or even believe in faith, we must speak God's Word in faith over our lives daily.

It does not matter if others hear you, so long as Satan hears you. God will honor His Word if we will believe it and speak it. We need to be speaking Scriptures like **Philippians 4:19**, *“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Now unto God and our Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”*

There is strength in proclaiming **Philippians 4:13**, *“I can do all*



*things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”* There is position in **Romans 8:37**, *“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.”* The more we make the Word personal and speak it out, the more we can release it to work in our lives.

You know the Word is for somebody, but do you know it is for YOU? Are you convinced that God wants to bless and favor you? Everything His Word says is available to you, but you must believe it and proclaim it over your life. His promises, protection, provision, promotion, and power are all available to those who know Jesus and speak forth His Word. The Bible plainly says in **Hebrews 10:23**, *“Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)”*

Listen closely to what you are giving voice to. Whatever you may be facing or even desiring to happen, find out what God’s Word says about it,

and then speak His truth over your situation. God loves for His children to hold Him at His Word. It shows we trust Him and have faith in Him. You can have the kind of day the world throws at you or you can speak God’s Word over your day and expect great things to happen. The power of your future is in your heart to believe and your mouth to speak.



*Dr. Glenn Mills is a full-time Evangelist with the Open Arms Evangelistic Ministry. He can be heard each weekday morning on GoMix.*

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# And Finally...



## My Favorite Book...

My favorite book is one that is not heard of much. It's called *The Birds' Christmas Carol*. It is a sweet story of a child born on Christmas and named Carol because of the Christmas carolers. She is born with a damaged heart that limits the activities she can participate in. She watches from her window as the poor children of the neighborhood play and have fun on the streets below. They like her because she is always kind to them. Her wish for her last Christmas is that she be allowed to have her street friends spend Christmas with her. As a result, the poor children are allowed to come up to her room and celebrate. So much is contained in this lovely book that you just have to read it for yourself. It was first read to me by my Bible School teacher when I was in the eighth grade. Since then, I have read it every Christmas and encouraged others to do the same!

**G. A.**

My favorite book is an old one by Charlotte Bronte. Originally published in London under the pen name of "Currer Bell" in 1847, the book is called *Jane Eyre* and is considered a classic. Though it's not your typical story of a beautiful heroine and a handsome gentleman, it is filled with duty and responsibility, mystery, love, honor, and intrigue. Parts of it can be a little hard to read as most old books are, but it's definitely worth it.

**H. L.**

*Journey to the Center of the Earth* is probably one of my favorite books. While the science isn't exactly up to date with modern theory, the story is gloriously scientific, and I've got a soft spot for epic journeys of discovery. I also enjoy a story that isn't about some heroic struggle against a set antagonist for a change.

**T. E.**

My love for biographies began when as a young teenager I checked out of the local public library biographies of baseball heroes Mickey Mantle, Yogi Berra, Ted Williams, and Stan Musial. When I became an adult, I began to read biographies of Christian men and women and they continue to encourage me daily (even by just seeing them on my bookshelf). They are testimonies of God's faithfulness to build His church. They are witnesses to the truth that God gifts His church with pastors and teachers. My favorite of these biographies is about Charles Spurgeon. It's called *Spurgeon: Prince of Preachers by Lewis Drummond*. It's one of the first Christian biographies I ever read. I couldn't put it down until I had read its approximately 1,000 pages!

**S. W.**

## "Thankfulness"

We'd like your help for an upcoming edition of "And Finally..."

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The deadline for submission is September 30, 2019.

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