

you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

You see, water that is lukewarm will make a disgusting drink to consume because it does not give any satisfaction to the one drinking it. The church in Laodicea had become very lukewarm and had become a distasteful taste before Christ. The believers there did not take a stand for anything; they had become indifferent toward Christ which led to idleness in the church and in their lives. As Christians, by neglecting to do anything for Christ, the church had become hardened and self-centered; thus it was destroying itself.

Needless to say there is nothing more disgusting than a half-hearted Christian who is a Christian by name only. If you don't believe me just see how those around you feel about a "double standard person." As Christians, we need to make up our minds and our hearts to "Follow Jesus with all of our Heart, Soul, and Mind." Let us not settle for some half-hearted attitude and

only follow Jesus when we want Him to save our skin or to do us a favor. As Christians, or followers, we are to follow Jesus with all of our hearts; with the full confidence that someday we will be in Heaven with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, in the presence of God and those who have gone on before us. Let us always be ready to follow Jesus no matter what the cost in this world may be.

Romans 8:35-39 - 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 12:25 He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.

By Bill Davis

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Faithful Sayings

Olsen Park Church of Christ

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Services

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.
10:20 a.m.
6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

Elders:

Ken Ford
Charles Kelley
Pat Ledbetter

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Bill Davis
Neil Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Fred Perez

Evangelist:

Kyle Pope

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They Forsook All

"The Dust Bowl" was a name given to areas of the U.S. that suffered ecological devastation in the 1930's and again in the mid- 1950's. The problem began during World War 1, when the high price of wheat and the needs of Allied troops encouraged farmers to grow more wheat by plowing and seeding areas in the prairie states such as, Kansas, Texas, Oklahoma, and new Mexico, which were formerly used only for grazing. After years of adequate yields, livestock were returned to graze the unprotected land. In 1934 strong winds blew the unprotected soil into huge clouds, and in the succeeding years, from December to May, the dust storms recurred. Crops and good pasture land were ruined by these harsh storms, which also proved to be a severe health hazard to those in these areas. The severity of these dust storms caused pov-

erty and the uprooting of people by the thousands. Many had to leave their homes to start over in a different town or state. In other words, they left all they had to start over.

Have any of us today ever had to gather our belongings and leave for a new town or a different state to start all over again? Have we ever had to make a choice to forsake all we have and just go? For some of us it would be very easy to just start over in life. But for others it would be very hard to leave all - our jobs, our family, and the security we now have where we live. The question is: if God were to tell us to forsake all we have and follow Him , would we do it today as Christians?

Now the words "forsake" and "forsook" mean to:

1. abandon: to withdraw companionship, protection, or support from anybody.

2. give up: to give up, renounce, or sacrifice something that gives pleasure.

Would we give up the world, our families, and our pleasures of this life to follow the words of His son, Jesus? Would we give up our comfortable lifestyle to go and preach the Word to a world lost in Sin? Those with an unwavering faith in God would have a willing heart to start over again in life to follow God, because they know that this world is not our home and their hope is anchored in God's promise of eternal life for all who obey Him by faith. However, those who are weak in the faith would be very hesitant to start over to serve God, because they would have a hard time letting go of this world and its pleasures.

In Matthew 4:18 we can read about four fishermen who, when Jesus said, "Follow Me," left all they had and followed Jesus. No questions asked, they just left all and followed Jesus. Now in our little world today, to leave one's job or occupation and find another is not a problem. Today all we have to do is read the paper or look on the internet to find a job that we think we will enjoy working. Back in the days of Jesus this was not to be, because usually when a man had a job he got it through his dad by the teaching of his dad's trade. Peter, Andrew, James, and John were fishermen by trade, a trade they most likely got from their fathers because that is what their father did for a living. A person did not just give up a job, get on the internet and look for a new job. They kept what they had because that was probably all they knew how to do to make a living.

Matthew 4:18-22- And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon

called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." They immediately left their nets and followed Him. Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

Also, in Matthew 9:9 we can read about another who just left everything to follow Jesus. That man was Levi (Matthew, the tax collector.)

Matthew 9:9 As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." So Matthew arose and followed Jesus.

Now back in Matthew's day being a tax collector was a very lucrative job. You see, Matthew was a Jew who was appointed by the Romans to be the area's tax collector. He was to collect taxes from the Jewish citizens, as well from the local merchants who did business in that area. During those days, much like today, a tax collector was not very well liked. One of the reasons is that people don't like to pay taxes. Also, in those days, tax collectors were to take a commission on the taxes that they collected. Most of the people were overcharged and the tax collectors would then keep the profit for themselves. Thus, the tax collectors were hated by the Jews because of their reputation of cheating the people and supporting the Roman government.

For Peter, Andrew, James, John, and Mat-

thew to leave their means to make a living and follow Jesus was a leap of Faith. These men did not ask Jesus how many teaching degrees he had, or what college he graduated from, or how many languages he could speak. They knew who Jesus was; and they were willing to leave all they had and follow Jesus when he said "Follow Me." As Christians today are we willing to follow Jesus when we become a Christian? Are we willing to forsake the world in the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of our life? Are we willing to forsake the traditions of men? Are we willing to leave our families to follow Jesus by becoming a Christian, when they oppose us by rejecting us or showing their anger toward us?

Matthew 10:34-39 - "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.' He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

You see, when a person becomes a Christian his commitment before God will separate friends, family, and loved ones. By saying this, Jesus did not encourage disobedience to our parents or desire to cause conflict in our

homes. Rather, Jesus was saying that being a Christian, or follower, demands a strong firm decision on our part concerning where our loyalty stands. This is not to say that conflicts among family and friends will not inevitably arise out of our loyalty toward God. However, as we take the name of Christ and follow Him, our values will be different from those of the world around us today. (II Cor.5:17; Col.3:1-17; IPet.4:1-4) Our morals, our love for mankind, our goals, and our lifestyles will separate us from those around us. One needs to remember that the name Christian means to be "Christ-like," that is to say that other need to see Christ in our daily lives and in the way we act and talk.

I hate to say it, but a lot of Christians today in this country live a double life. On Sunday, they sing the most beautiful songs and say the best prayers. But on Monday through Saturday, if you did not know they were a Christian, you would not even dream they went to church. They are hot on Sunday only and cold the rest of the week. Revelation 3:15 has a lot to say about lukewarm Christians.

Rev. 3:15-22 - "I know your works, that you are neither cold or hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'- and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked- I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that