

# REMINDER

Volume XVII

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Number 35



## *The Sevenfold Sin of Not Winning Souls*

by the late Dr. John R. Rice

*(continued from last week)*

### **III. The Sin of Not Following Jesus**

**Dr. John R. Rice**  
1895-1980

Those who do not win souls are guilty of not following Jesus. We sing, “*Trying to walk in the steps of the Saviour,*” and talk about following Jesus, but in Matthew 4:19 Jesus said to Peter and Andrew, “*Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.*” Those who followed Jesus turned out to be soul winners.

Aren't you glad God makes soul winners? If I were going to make them, I would pick men with real culture, training and personality. But then they would likely speak to the minds, not necessarily to the hearts. But Jesus makes soul winners, and, thank God, He can make a soul winner out of people not fit for much else in the world.

*“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”*

Isn't this a short, simple, easy way to get to be a soul winner? I follow Jesus, and He does something wonderful in my heart. It gets to where I love sinners as He does and want to go after them like He does. He puts His power on me to get people saved and makes me a soul winner.

If it is true that when you follow Jesus He makes you into a soul winner, it follows that if you are not a soul winner, you are not following Jesus.

“Brother Rice, I joined a church long ago.”

Yes, the churches are full of dead wood like you. Part of the curse of our churches is we have too many Christians of that kind. I would gladly have just one-tenth as many people, if they were all red-hot for God. Brother, we can't drag sinners over your dead carcass. But if you follow Jesus, He will make you into a soul winner.

Soul winning costs something. During one blessed revival, a woman said to me, “Brother Rice, religion is like the measles. It's catching.” I said, “You're right, but you can't give someone measles unless you have a fever.” We surely need people with fever. And if you follow Jesus, you will have it. He will make you into a good soul winner.

I started preaching before I knew I was called to preach or surrendered to preach. I was in Baylor University, studying to be a college English teacher, when a country pastor, Brother R. H. Gibson, wrote me a postcard asking me to lead singing for him in several one-week revivals. They ran from Friday evening through Thursday evening, with a baptismal service on Friday morning.

I liked to sing, and I wanted to win souls, so I went with him. We started under a brush arbor with a pump organ and sang the old-time songs. We had a wonderful meeting.

On Wednesday night, Brother Gibson said, “This is wonderful. It would not be right to close this meeting tomorrow night.”

I said, “No sir, I don't think you ought to quit now. New people are getting under conviction all the time.”

“You go to the next place and start that on Friday night, and I'll stay here and preach through Sunday afternoon. Then I'll come over there where you are.”

“What is that?” I asked. “I'm no preacher! I'm not called to preach.”

“That's all right. Just tell them you're not a preacher and you're not called to preach. But go ahead.”

I said, “I can't do it. I don't know how to preach.”

*(continued inside)*

He said, "Are you saved? Do you know how to tell somebody how to be saved?"

"Yes. But I can't preach."

"Haven't you been speaking some for the Red Cross and raising money for the boys in the army?"

"Well...yes."

"Weren't you in the Connally Debate in Baylor University and president of your literary society?"

"Yes. I won a scholarship in oratory."

"And you gave your high school commencement address, but you can't talk for Jesus! That's a funny kind of Christianity!"

That stumped me. He sent me on over there to start the meeting. I walked up and down the creek bottom all day. I didn't know much Bible. I was studying English; I could tell them about Shakespeare and Tennyson all right. I tried to remember all the Scriptures he had preached on and the things I knew. I preached, and when he got there, we were having people saved, and a revival had broken out. He went on with the revival, and everything went fine.

The next week he did the same thing, and I started the next meeting. It happened that way every week. The whole summer was nearly over before it dawned on me that he had planned it that way.

If you ran with R. H. Gibson, the first thing you knew, you'd be preaching.

And if you run with Jesus, you will be going after sinners. Your trouble is you are not following Jesus. If you were, He would make you into a soul winner.

God, put a burning in the heart of people and made them soul winners!

- more next week

## *Eternal Security of the Believer*

by the late Dr. Harry A. Ironside

(continued from last week)

We're continuing our discussions of common questions raised by people who object to the Bible doctrine of Eternal Security:

### ❑ **Question 11: Hebrews 10:28-29 -**

Explain **Hebrews 10:28-29**: "**He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?**" People are troubled here, for they say, "Well, this man was surely a Christian, because it says that he was sanctified."

That does not necessarily prove that he was a Christian. The whole nation of Israel was sanctified by the blood of the covenant; in a certain sense the whole world has been sanctified by the blood of the cross. If it were not for that blood shed on

Calvary's cross the whole world would be doomed to eternal judgment, but because Jesus died for the entire world God says, "Now, I can deal with all men on the ground of the blood of the cross," and, as we often put it, the great question between God and man today is not primarily the sin question. Why? Because the blood of Christ answers for sin. What is the great question? It is the Son question: How are you treating God's Son who died to save you? Christ has died for all men, His blood is shed for the salvation of all men, and it will avail for every sinner in all the world if they trust Him. (See John 3:18-19.)

Here is this Hebrew who has followed along to a certain point, and now the question comes, "Will you confess this Christ as your one great sin offering no matter what it means?" And he answers, "No, I cannot do that. I am going back to the temple. There is a sin offering there, and I will not have to suffer as I may if I confess Jesus Christ."

But he cannot do that. God does not accept any more that "**there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins.**"

**"If we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins."**

**"There remaineth no other sacrifice for sins: is the true meaning. This sacrifice at the altar was commanded by God. He said,**

**"If you sin, you must bring a sacrifice, and I will accept you."**

**"The life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul" (Leviticus 17:11).**

"All right," this Jew says, "I have a sin offering." But he has met Jesus Christ or heard of Him as the great sin offering; he knows that God accepted Him and raise Him from the dead; he has all this knowledge, but having it all he is afraid to come out definitely and confess Christ as his Savior. He says, "I do not need this sin offering; I will go back and be content with the sin offering of the temple."

Before Jesus came, that was acceptable because it pointed to Him, but now He has come. If you reject Him, there remains no other offering. This passage, you see, has nothing to do with a real Christian turning from Christ, but with a man thoroughly instructed who refuses to accept Him. And how many people there are, not only among the Jews but in Christendom, who are refusing this sin offering.

### ❑ **Question 12: Luke 9:61-62 -**

The next passage brought up is **Luke 9:61-62**: "**And another also said, Lord, I will follow Thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.**"

What a terrible thing it would be if this were the way into

heaven! How many thousands of earnest Christian people there are who have allowed what they thought was their responsibility to their friends to keep them from fully following Christ. Suppose they went to heaven only on the ground of fully following Him.

You see, these Jews were looking for the kingdom, and many said, "I will follow Thee, but my friends have a claim on me."

"No, the Lord says, "I must come first. No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" That is the test of discipleship.

But it is necessary to distinguish between salvation by grace and reward for faithful discipleship. The rewards are connected with the kingdom. No matter how faithful I may be as a Christian, it does not give me any better place in heaven than if I were taken there the moment I was saved. Suppose the very instant you were converted you dropped dead--would you have gone to heaven? Yes, you would have gone there on the ground of God's delight in the work of His Son.

Suppose you were converted fifty years ago. There have been ups-and-downs in your life, but you have been saved all those years. Where would you go if you died suddenly? You would go to heaven. On what ground? On the ground of God's delight in the work of His Son. There is not a bit of change in fifty years. "But," you say, "I have been a wonderfully faithful Christian." Have you, indeed? I am surprised that you should think so. The more we serve Him, the more most of us feel how unfaithful we have been. But you insist, "I have been a very faithful Christian." Does that make you any more fit for heaven than you were the moment you trusted Jesus? You ask, "Does faithfulness as a disciple go for nothing?" It goes for a great deal, but it has no saving merit. You have a place in the Father's house on the ground of pure grace, but the Father's house is not the only thing before us. There is also the kingdom of God. "Then shall the righteous shine forth in the kingdom of their Father." And here there are different rewards according to the measure of faithfulness in this life.

Here was one to whom the Lord said, "I want you to follow Me to Africa or India," and he said, "O Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. I have an old father here and cannot bear to leave him as long as he lives. After he is dead, I am willing to follow Thee." And the Lord says, "Let the dead bury their dead." Of course, if he had the responsibility of providing for his father, that would be a different thing. Because that man has not the faith and courage to make that break, does he cease to be a Christian? He may stay at home, he may be of great value and great use, but when he comes to the judgment seat of Christ there is a reward he might have had that he will not have, because he did not go the whole way with the Lord Jesus Christ. If going the whole way entitled men to heaven, none of us would ever get there. But as we go the whole way, as far as we understand, He is going to reward us. If people could learn to see the difference between salvation by grace and reward for service, this question would settle itself. From this point on, most of these objections really have to do with this very fact.

### ❑ *Question 13: Hebrews 3:12-14 -*

The next passage is *Hebrews 3:12-14*: "**Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end.**"

That is one of the "if" verses. Another one is found in *I Corinthians 15:1-2*: "**Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.**" Another one is found in *Colossians 1:21-23*: "And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath He reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in His sight: if ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister." I might add others to these, but here are three "ifs."

What does the Spirit of God mean by bringing these "ifs" in? In every one of these instances He is addressing bodies of people. I stand here to address you as a body of people. If I were to ask everybody who professes to be a Christian to stand, I suppose nearly everybody would rise. Would that prove that you are all Christians? It would show that you profess to be Christians. What would prove that you really are? "If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel." You profess to have received the gospel; you are saved if you keep in memory what has been preached unto you. If you do not, it just shows that there is no reality.

The faith here is not the faith by which you are saved, it is not the faith by which you believe; but it is that which you believe. Jude says, "Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3). That is the body of Christian doctrine, and, if a real Christian, you will stand for that Christian doctrine to the end; but if not, you may become a Mormon, or a Christian Scientist, or a theosophist, or something like that. Then you simply show there is no reality. It is a very easy thing to say, "I am saved"; it is another thing to prove it.

*- more next week*



**READ YOUR  
BIBLE DAILY**

***NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK***

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Caryn Quinnelly  
 Cradle Roll 2: Kayla Avey  
 6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Piper Quinnelly  
 Cradle Roll 2: Ryan Quinnelly  
 Wed. Evening Service ---- Cradle Roll 1: LeAnna White  
 Cradle Roll 2: Seth White

***AND THE PEOPLE CAME...***

*Week of August 28, 2011*

Sunday School ----- 21  
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 46  
 Sunday Evening Service ----- 24  
 Wed. Eve., 08/31/11 Service ----- 25

***AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...***

*Week of August 28, 2010*

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 930.00  
 Insurance Fund ----- \$ 5.00  
**Total Received for Week of 08/28/11: \$ 935.00**

***Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed to operate the church EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00***

***INSURANCE FUND REPORT FOR AUGUST:***

Monthly Requirement ----- \$ 273.08  
 Amount Received during August thusfar ----- \$ 96.00  
**Amount still needed by Sept. 5, 2011: - \$ 177.08**

***LISTEN TO -***



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***WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED***

1. ***Admit that you are a sinner.***
2. ***Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.***
3. ***Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.***
4. ***You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).***
5. ***By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.***

***Please Remember To Be Faithful to Give!***



As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go *up*. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithe (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start *today* - **OK?** Thank you.

***Church Directory***

Todd W. White ----- Pastor  
 Mickie Shatwell ----- Pianist  
 Dickie Eberle ----- Greeter, Custodian  
 Larry Mathews, Caryn Quinnelly, Todd W. White ----- S.S. Teachers  
 Larry & Mary Byars, Brian & Charity Crawford,  
 Dwayne English, Lou & Vicki Martin, Don Diehl ----- Outreach  
 Flowers ----- Hannah and Shirley White