

WHO WILL PAY THE BILLS?

I am surprised by very little any more that my brethren attempt and try to justify. Some brethren plead for us to have various marathons, walk-a-thons, wash-a-thons, bazaars and such to help finance the Lord's work. There seems to be a growing fad for some brethren to gain financial support from unbelievers in order to perform works of benevolence and evangelism. One wonders just who really gets the glory for such work. Does the Lord? He would if His people *"give their own selves to the Lord"* (II Corinthians 8:5), and then would *"give of their own accord...out of the abundance of their joy"* (II Corinthians 8:2,3). In this way they would be doing *"all in the name of the Lord Jesus"* (Colossians 3:17), and this upon the first day of the week as Paul gave order (I Corinthians 16:1,2). However, this is not the pattern we are seeing in some places. Rather, we are seeing the Lord's people falling for the hype and gimmickry of sectarianism. We believe that it is those "taking a walk" who receive the glory, not our Lord!

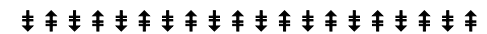
Have they given themselves first to the Lord? We think not. Not that we question their sincerity nor earnestness, but we do question their judgment in this method of raising money for the Lord's work. For one to "give themselves to the Lord" necessarily demands that they give themselves *to* Him for obedience (Romans 6:16). But obedience must be rendered to His will (Romans 12:2). The will of God is silent regarding "seeking sponsors" to pay so much per mile for the saints to "take a hike." Nor does it speak of bazaars, car washes nor any of the other myriad of "tricks for treats!"

I read of some teens who were "taking steps to end world hunger." While on their

trek they came across one who, after hearing more about their venture, "wrote out a check on the spot" (a quote). Too bad this one did not hear what he needed in order to save his soul from Hell. Incidentally, helping to feed those who are hungry in order to teach them the gospel is one thing, but "taking steps" to "end" something that Jesus said would always be here seems to me to be an exercise in futility. How many souls are being fed along with the stomachs?

Who will pay the bill? If King David would not offer to God that which cost him nothing (II Samuel 24:24), how can some believe that God will be glorified and pleased with something which cost **them** nothing? Letting unbelievers pay for the Lord's work is not only unscriptural, it is a slap in the face of God and shows a lack of faith and commitment on the part of those involved to give to their own works!

Brethren, *"Let each man do according as he hath purposed in his heart: not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver"* (II Corinthians 9:7). After all, *"God is able to make all grace abound unto you"* (II Corinthians 9:8). In this way we will not have to ask the unbelievers and disobedient to pay the bill for the Lord's work!



THE CHRIST OF GOD

Many are the verses that speak of the Christ. Jesus is not only the Son, but God incarnate. Christ is that anointed one of God, the Messiah that was given for the benefit of man.

God, in order to reconcile man unto himself (II Corinthians 5:20) had to enjoin himself to the human experience. We read of Jesus being a partaker of humanity

(Hebrews 2:14), and that He was made like His brethren in all things (Hebrews 2:17). Now perhaps the first verse of Hebrews three is a little clearer, *"Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, even Jesus" (Hebrews 3:1)*. As Christ partook of humanity, we also are privileged to partake of divinity. Note what Peter wrote, *"whereby he hath granted unto us his precious and exceeding great promises; that through these YE MAY BECOME PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE, having escaped from the corruption that is in that world by lust" (II Peter 1:4)*.

God called His Son to inherit humanity so that humanity might inherit Godliness. Peter says we partake of **"the"** divine nature. How awesome this should be for every child of God! What doors this should open; what thought of praise; what honor and privilege this should inspire!

"Consider Him, Jesus" is the clarion call from the Scriptures inviting investigation from the skeptic, assurance to the poor in spirit, strength for the faithful and encouragement for the weak (Hebrews 3:1; 12:3). The Greek grammar tells us this means to "observe fully." Consider Jesus in all you do; in all you say; in all you think, plan or attempt. He is the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27); the author captain and perfecter of our faith...the Christ of God!

Consider Jesus. This injunction ought always to instill in us love, gratitude and desire to serve the One who called us by His own glory and virtue (II Peter 1:3). Every faithful child of God ought always to remember this phrase in regard to his/her daily walk with the Master.

RAGER ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

SUNDAY MORNING	BIBLE STUDY	9:30 A.M.
	WORSHIP	10:30 A.M.
SUNDAY EVENING	WORSHIP	6:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY	BIBLE STUDY	7:30 P.M.
Preachers:	Robin W. Haley	614-751-1082
	James Grayson	614-409-0941

October 4, 2009

Weekly Budget: \$1360.00

Wednesday's Wisdom:

"If it had not been for the Lord, we would be lost; we have escaped by His help!"
 Zach Haley

Remember in prayer: Howie Bell's mom. The doctors sent her home. It seems there is nothing much more they can do for her.

Also, Steve Anticoli strained his back. Pray for a quick recovery for him.

Saturday, October 10: is the next Hocking Hills Hike with the brethren from Pomeroy. We will meet at the Cantwell Cliffs parking area, off US33, down SR 374 (follow the signs). Then we will lunch at the Rock House picnic area.

Sunday, October 11 is fellowship meal and men's business meeting.