

Jesus Christ, Our Example

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Email: info@mountsunset.com

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Now, Romans the 6th chapter, let us read:

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

God forbid. How shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

Know ye not, that so many as--of us as were baptized unto Jesus Christ were baptized unto his death?

Therefore we are buried with him in baptism unto death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.

And if I should take a text tonight for about twenty minutes, I would say this: "Identification, Identified With Christ."

You know, there is in the country today so many dissatisfied people. **And it's amazing when you get around and find out so much dissatisfaction. People hardly know what they want to do.** They come down the road at about seventy and eighty miles an hour in a thirty mile zone, slide the brakes, and turn around the corner, and start up with such speed, till they burn their tires half off to go a city block to set and talk awhile. Seems like people don't know what they do want.

Some of them get so disturbed until they go down to the drugstore and purchase for themselves a bottle of arsenic, or sulfuric acid, or something, and commit suicide. They find them laying dead. Some will turn their gas jets on in the room or set in their automobiles with the pipe for the carbon monoxide gas, trying to get away from life. **Some of them will climb up to the bridge, and write a little note and stick it on their coat, and lay it down, and plunge themselves to death in the river,** jumping off of mountains, high towers. And some will take a pistol, and put it up to their head, and actually blow their brains out. They're just dissatisfied.

The hospitals are full of dissatisfied people. The insane institutions are overrun. Dissatisfied, they don't know what they do want. There seemed to be something that they're reaching after, but they just never come to it.

And also, we find that homes, which is the backbone of the nation and of the church, we find homes broke up, and divorce courts just overrun with divorces. Juvenile delinquency of--of mothers leaving their little children with baby-setters and--and taking off out to work and somewhere when their husbands got good jobs, but they're just not satisfied to be a mother and stay at home. They're not satisfied to dress like ladies; they--they want to dress like men. Men wants to be like women. And they--they just--there just seems to be something wrong somewhere. And people are reaching for something and can't find it. **That's a pitiful condition to be into.**

They've looked everywhere to find something to make themselves an example. We take the women of our days; they'll watch television until they see a certain movie star; or she'll come out dressed in a certain way, **and all the women will want to dress like her or act like her, make her example.** Some pretty girls just in the bloom of life will try to pattern themselves and try to make some movie star an example that they should go by; and finally **they find themselves wound up in a cage of sin that they can't get out of.** What a pity. Seeing them come into the meeting, tears running down their cheeks... But they're hunting for something.

We take men. Men, you catch them on the street or in their business. **The old man wants to be a teenager.** He'll cut his hair off on the flattop and make a--a ducktail in the back. He wants to be a teenager. **The teenager wants to be like one of these rock-and-roll kings.** Where do they wind up? In sin and disgrace.

Man seems to be unsatisfied. He's running everywhere. They'll take on--listen to the radio for jokes and things that these jokesters pull. **And they'll go out and try to mimic or--or act like those people.**

You take the little boy on the street, how I know it, and he's got to be a Paladin, or a Hopalong Cassidy, or... And the commercial world gets ahold of that and makes millions of dollars out of it. They got to be a Roy Rogers, or a--a Mr. Dillon, or--or some television program outfit. **They're trying to impersonate that person.** They've set them up as an example. They've taken them for their--their standard of life. And what do they find at the end of the road? Those **little fellows turn out to be gangsters and robbers.** The women turn out to be prostitutes, and--and street-walking, and--and delinquent people. Men turn out to be gamblers and lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. **Churches try to impersonate the other church, the big church.**

Would just seem to see there's no satisfaction among the people. What do they--what makes them do it? It's for a cause; it's a nature. God gave them that nature. **They've got a nature that makes them want to have something to identify themselves with.** They must have something that they want to be like, an objective in life. They want to be a movie star, or a cowboy, or--or something on that idea.

I was hearing on the radio coming home, where some great Italian man at Denver was trying to play a Hopalong Cassidy, something with a loaded gun; instead of that he's going to be a Chester the rest of his life; he shot his kneecap off. There you are.

But they are trying to find something to identify themselves with. And the reason they are doing it, is because that there's something in them that God made them that. **But God made them an Example to be identified with, and that was when He made Jesus Christ to become your Saviour. That's the Example.** That's what people wants--should want, to be identified with Jesus, to be like Him.

If all the little boys that wants to be Hopalong Cassidy or--or some of these others, or the little girls, the Annie Oakleys and so forth; if they only wanted to be like Jesus as much as they want to be like that, the Sunday schools would be running over everywhere. If the women that wants to be like some movie star, would want to be like Jesus, the church... Why, they'd never have to take up an offering. Certainly.

God made a man to desire to have an example, and God gave him an Example. That Example is Jesus Christ, to be identified with Him.

Now, if we would be more like Him, then there wouldn't be so many big shots in the world; there wouldn't be any hungry children in the world; there wouldn't be any whiskey, or drinking, or gambling. God gave us an Example to be like, but we refuse to be it. Now, that's what's the matter with the world. **They got the desire; God has give them that; but they've turned it the wrong way.** It's time to return back, and get on the right road, and get facing Calvary. Nature proves it.

Now, if people of this day with that great desire and great ambitions to be like somebody for an example, if they took Christ as their Example, then we would have--we could fire every police there was in the nation. Everybody would be meek and humble; everybody would be kind and have brotherly love one for the other; there would never be a divorce case ever pled in our country. There would never be any sickness; we could even dismiss hospitals, if everybody tried to make Jesus Christ their Example. We wouldn't have need for nothing else.

So that nature is in the man, but he puts it on the wrong thing. He makes some man... And you know the Bible said that we are cursed when we make flesh our stay? When you try to make flesh your stay or put your trust in flesh, the Bible said you are cursed. How well I know; it's so easy to do it.

Here's what causes a lot of it: is our newsstands full of vulgar magazines; our homes are full of pin-up pictures; our news screens are never censored, they're wide open, can crack any kind of jokes or--or do things that's terrible. There's no cleanness among us anymore. I know you think I'm awful hard on that, but it--somebody's got to be hard on it. It's just got to be done.

When I was a little boy, I read the book of Tarzan and the Apes. Mama had an old fur rug that Mrs. Wathen had give her, laid before the dresser. I cut that thing up, and made me a Tarzan suit, and slept in a tree for a week. I wanted to be Tarzan. Then when I read the book of the Lone Star Ranger, I rode a broomstick out, being a hobby horse, trying to be the Lone Star Ranger.

It's no more than what people will do; **it's what you read, the music you listen to. Go into a restaurant, and this old rock-and-roll... No wonder people are going crazy. That's enough to drive a human being crazy.**

But, oh, I'll be thankful all through eternity to one day I read about Jesus. That satisfied me. I want to be like Him. That's my desire, to be able to turn the other cheek or go the second mile, to be able to forgive when the odds is all against you, hold nothing against anybody, though they're mistreating you rightfully--or wrongfully for your right doing, but still love them. That's the way I want to be. I want to be that kind of a person. I want to be able that when I'm railed upon I would rail not back. That's the kind of a Example that God gave us in Jesus Christ. We ought to be identified with Him. We are...

"How do you become identified with Him?" You'd say, "Brother Branham, now, to get... You have to dress like the Hollywood stars and do these other things."

But how do you become identified with Jesus Christ? First, you repent of what you already have done. And then, you're identified with Him here in the pool. No doubt but what many will be identified with Him in a few minutes. In the pool you are identified with Him in baptism, for if we are buried in Christ we are identified to His death, burial, and resurrection. That's why we are baptized. We go down into the water, come back up to witness that we believe in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And if we be planted in His likeness in His death, God gave us a promise: we'll be like Him in the resurrection.

Identify yourself with some movie queen and see where you'll be. Identify yourself with some cowboy or some teenager and see where you'll be. **But I challenge you tonight; identify yourself with Jesus Christ in His death and His resurrection and see where you'll be at the resurrection.** "For if we suffer with Him, we shall reign with Him." God has given us the promise. And my whole desire is to be like Him. Take me, oh Lord, and mold me, and make me, shape me over again. And like the prophet that went down to the potter's house, break me up and remold me.

In the Old Testament when a man want to be identified at the house of God, he took the most innocent thing he could find: a lamb. And he knowed the lamb was free from sin, 'cause it knowed no sin. And he went, and took the lamb, and put his hand upon its head, and confessed his sin; and by faith he transferred his sins on the lamb, and the innocence of the lamb back on him. And then the lamb died because it was a sinner. And the man lived by an act of faith of obeying what God said. But what did he do? He went right back out of the temple with the same desire he had when he come in, because when that blood cell is broken (which the life starts in one blood cell)... And when that blood cell was broken, the life of the lamb would not coincide or come back into the human life, because it was an animal life. The

man went out with the same desire he had; so therefore, he committed sins continually all the time again.

But there come a time when God made us an Example. And He gave us the Lord Jesus. And when a sinner puts his hands upon His precious head and confesses his sins, and his sins is transformed--or--or transferred from the sinner to Jesus and the innocence of Jesus is transferred by the Holy Ghost back into that person; he's a new creature in Christ Jesus. That's where I want to be identified. The Bible said, "He knowing no sin, was made sin for us." The reason He suffered was for our sins. And it's no more than what is right, no more than our duties to look at these things and see that these desires that we have that God put in us, to create in us, to make us to want to be like Him.

And now, if you can see it by faith, before the real desire ever strikes you, come forward, be identified with Him in baptism. And then, as you're planted in the likeness of His death, you shall also share in His likeness in the resurrection. For when He come from the grave, He was the same Jesus that went into the grave. And if we be in Christ (how do we get in? By Holy Spirit baptism.), at that day we'll come forth and share in His resurrection.

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Son of Man Missions
P. O. Box 1010,
Eppindust,
Cape 7475
South Africa
Email : hbeckett@mweb.co.za