



DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

Imitators of Christ ... by Gareth

2 Corinthians 5 vs 17- 20 ... Ambassadors for Christ – Imitators of Christ

- We heard last week from brother Antish that we are mirrors or reflectors of Christ. If you look in the mirror what do you see? You will see an identical portrait or picture to the one that is looking into the mirror.
- The word of God calls us to be imitators of Christ - *Eph 5v1 (NIV)*
- The apostle Paul in *1Cor.11 v 1*: "*Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ*" (KJV). But what does that really mean or what is really involved?
- In order for us to do as the apostle Paul did we must be connected to Christ. John 15 vs 4-5, Jesus said that he is the vine we are the branches without him we can do nothing, in order for the branch to act like the vine it must be connected to it.
- In *Acts 4 v 13*, we read "it was perceived that Peter & John had been with Jesus What a testimony, let us look at this in more detail.
- So what did Peter and John receive from being with Jesus? The writer of the book of Acts clearly sees the change. Boldness to speak like Peter, as in the book of Acts chapter 4, Peter always had the natural ability to speak, *Mark 14v29*: "*All shall be offended, yet I will not*" however in the book of Acts he was speaking as moved by the Spirit of God. (The contrast of speaking in the natural verses speaking in the Spirit).
- Imitate Christ *Gal 2v20*: "*It is no longer I that live, but Christ that lives in me.*" (NIV). That's the key; to be connected to Jesus means we have His love, His power, His compassion, His holiness at our disposal.
- When a branch is connected to a tree it will receive all that it needs to flourish. Living like Christ in church, living like Christ in public, living like Christ in private.
- If a man or woman is living like Christ in their home then that home will be a place of contentment for those who dwell there. Outward show or public show is not what imitates Christ.
- A Good man or woman rather a godly man or woman will improve his or her household. It will be a better place because of them. Rowland Hill once said he would not believe a man to be a true Christian if his wife and children were not the better for it. Home is where the real test is.
- Imitate Jesus in secret. When no eye can see you except God. Remember how Jesus' life was constantly sustained by fresh inspiration from the Holy Spirit. Take care of your secret life; let it be such that you will not be ashamed on the last great day. Your inner life is written in the book of God, and it shall one day be open before you.
- Go away with this one thought my brethren, that you test yourselves by Christ. If you are like Christ, you are of Christ and shall be with Christ.

WEEKLY EVENTS/NOTICES

Events /Notices

- ▶ **LATE NIGHT PRAYER** will be on **Saturday 27th August 2016 from 08pm to 11:30 pm.** You are all invited to join us to spend time devotionally in prayers for yourselves, your families and others. We invite you to express your hearts concerns before God as the Spirit might lead you in all freedom.

Extra Services

If you have children with you, these are the facilities provided:

- ▶ *Crèche and Pre-school Praise*

Our crèche is based on the floor above the Meeting Room with baby changing facilities and toys to keep your young child occupied if they do not settle during the meeting. Parents are to attend to their children at all times. There is a short and simple pre-school Bible lesson during the sermon for 2-5 year olds in the Crèche (as arranged).

- ▶ *Sunday School*

Our Sunday School is open to children of school going age and operates during the sermon in the Sunday School room on the top floor. Our teachers have a Bible story and songs prepared for your child(ren), teaching them the need for Salvation and Christian living.

Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD (Psalm 34:11)

- ▶ *Tea and Coffee*

After the Sunday morning service, tea, coffee and light refreshments are available on the top floor in the Hospitality Room. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. (Hebrews 13:2).