



Justapreacher Ministries

Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. - 2 Timothy 4:2

Jan/Feb/March 2011

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The following article is taken with permission from a correspondence Jim recently had via email.

Brother Jim,

I've been reading and studying some Scripture lately that worries and scares me to death:

1. Any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple (Luke 14:33)

2. If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own life, he cannot be my disciple. (Luke 14:25)

3. Make every effort to enter through the narrow gate because many, I tell you, will try to enter in and will not be able to. (Luke 13:23)

4. Anyone who loves his father...["spouse" also?...]more than me is not worthy of me, and everyone who does take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. (Matthew 10:37)

5. Narrow is the road that leads to life and only a few find it. (Matthew 7:14)

I agree with you that these are serious and scary verses of scripture. If you look closely, you will also notice that they were all spoken by Jesus Himself. The one thing that has helped me try to interpret what Jesus was saying has been to look at the whole of scrip-

ture to see how to interpret His words here. As you know, salvation comes only by faith in Jesus alone, and not by anything we do. (Ephesians 2:8-9) (Romans 10:8-13) So, what was Jesus saying? Well, the key is to look at to whom He is speaking. Remember, Jesus came to a nation that had put their faith in their ancestry and a religious system. He was speaking truth, but so as to awaken them from their comfortable stupor. They thought they were okay with God, but they were far from Him. (Matthew 15:8-9) Jesus' words were spoken to shock them into dealing with the truth of who He was. Once they came to know who He was, and what the Truth was, the Truth would set them FREE. (John 8:31-32) Scripture goes on to say that it is *God* who works in and through those who come into a saving relationship with Jesus through faith. (Philippians 2:13) (Philippians 1:6) (Jude 24-25) So in summation, these words of Jesus are true and scary, but impossible for us to do apart from Him. (John 15:5) My prayer for you is that your faith in Jesus is not resting one bit in what

you do or don't do, or whether you are doing it well enough. My prayer for you is that you will rest completely in what Jesus has promised He will do in the lives of those that are His. All we need to do to be one of His children is to simply believe that He is who He is, and in what He has done, and trust Him to accomplish His plan for us in His time. That is total faith. That is giving up everything. That is hating our lives. That is entering through the narrow gate (Jesus). That is loving Jesus more than anyone else. That is the road that leads to life. Be one that finds it and looks completely to Jesus. Stop over-examining your efforts. Scripture teaches us to examine ourselves in 2 Corinthians 13:5. In this verse we are to examine ourselves to see whether Jesus is in us or not. Once we know that He is, we trust Him to finish His saving work in our lives. I hope this helps you my friend.

In Christ's Overwhelming Love,
Jim

Calendar

January

9: FBC Palm Bay, FL
FBC Merritt Island (Deacon Training)

16: FBC Indialantic, FL
23: Island Community Church, Merritt Island, FL

February

6: FBC Merritt Island (Deacon Training)
13: FBC Indialantic, FL
27: FBC Merritt Island, FL

March

13: FBC Indialantic, FL
20-23: Cedar Hills Baptist Church, Jacksonville, FL

Thank you!

to those of you who have contributed to

Justapreacher Ministries

If you would like to help support the ministry, please send your tax-deductible gift to:

Justapreacher Ministries
P.O. Box 372236
Satellite Beach, FL 32937

on Jim's website.

So far it appears that Jim will be speaking at both venues each Tuesday through the rest of January and February.

If you would like Jim to speak at your church or group, he would be glad to do so. Please contact him to set it up!

Come Join Us

Jim speaks regularly in the Brevard County area at a men's business lunch and a Bible study, both on Tuesday.

The men's business lunch is called Men in Motion and is held every Tuesday at noon at Central Baptist Church in Melbourne, FL. Lunch is served for \$5, and

Jim (or another minister if Jim is out of town) brings a 20 minute message from God's word.

Tuesday evenings at 7pm (when Jim is in town) he is teaching through the book of Hebrews at the clubhouse of the Somerset Condominiums: 2075 N. Hwy A1A, Indialantic, FL 32903. These studies are also available

Tune in to 106.3 FM Melbourne, FL, Mon.-Sat. at noon to listen to Jim's 5-minute radio show, "Challenge for Today".



Or visit our website, justapreacherministries.org and click on "Challenge for Today".