

Christ

Life

MINISTRIES

REPORT

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2005 VOLUME 3

Wanted: Men of God!

A Vision for Revived Male Leadership

Years ago a businessman read a book titled, *Men of God*. He was so impressed with it that he wrote the Chicago publisher and ordered 125 copies. The publisher wrote back, "We are completely out of *Men of God*. Try Grand Rapids."

Chicago said they had no Men of God!

Today we are not completely out of Godly men, but there is room for plenty more. The Psalmist prayed, "*Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth.*"

The deficit of Godly men was a great burden to David as he cried out to the Lord. There are at least seventy-two references to the phrase "man of God" in the Bible. Moses was called a "man of God." So were Elijah, David, and others. What was it about these men that earned them the title "man of God"? What does a man of God look like? What is a man of God?

Paul, when addressing Timothy, said, "*But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.*

Fight the good fight of faith" (1 Tim. 6:11-12). These three verbs; *flee*, *follow*, and *fight* give us insight into what it takes to qualify as a man of God.

A Man of God Flees

This word flee means *run away from* or *escape*. When Sarah dealt harshly with Hagar, she fled from her. There are many things from which a Man of God must flee.

The preceding verses in chapter 6 list several things from which a man of God must flee. The man of God must flee doctrinal *Compromise* – this is referring to those who "consent not to wholesome words . . . and the doctrine" (v. 3). That man of steel, John the Baptist, dared to apply God's moral code to Herod when he said, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." Think about it, he applied the moral law to a governmental leader, while today scores of pastors will not apply the Word to church members! Far better to be Savior-Sensitive than

compromise God's Truth!

A man of God also flees *Conceit* – our text says "he is proud" (v.4). Pride is a plague which is more deadly than any disease. Pride of race, pride of face, and pride of grace all stem from an exaggerated opinion of one's self. Fearing his life, Jacob fled from his brother Esau, even so the man of God sprints from the very first hint of pride.

A man of God bolts from *Confusion* – an apt description of the confused is given, "Knowing nothing . . . doting about questions" (v. 4). God's men do not spend their time debating over needless controversies. Endless speculation and strife gendering issues for the sake of argument are flatly rejected by the man of God. He is determined to know nothing except Christ and Him crucified.

If you would be a man of God you must steer clear of *Contention* – Paul here speaks about "Perverse disputings" (v. 5). These *disputings*

continued...



Personal Word

Organizations make big money by analyzing the Christian culture of our day. It seems to me the greater need is to see what could and should be, rather than merely catalog what is.

Since we have grown up in a “wimp” spiritual culture, it is difficult for us to imagine something better or anything different. This is where faith comes in. We must look through the eyes of faith and visualize the day where men of God are the norm in Bible-believing churches. Improvement will not happen by accident. It will be the result of intentional emphasis and action taken on our part TODAY. Act we should and act we must, because the entire Christian enterprise is dependent on it.

The mold of mediocrity can be broken. A better day awaits. Better marketing techniques are what many churches want, but God is looking for better men!

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The Christ Life Report is the official publication of Christ Life Ministries, Inc. CLM is a 501-c-3 non-profit organization. It exists exclusively for furthering revival and evangelism in local churches.

The major emphasis of this ministry are four-fold: crusades, publications, Prayer Advances, and The Report. Evangelist Harold Vaughan is the founder of CLM.

Christ Life Ministries is a faith ministry. All contributions are tax-deductible.

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represent a misemployment of time and energy in meddlesome quarreling. Time is too precious to waste in profitless contentions.

Anyone who would aspire to be a man of God must run from *Corruption* – here it speaks of those with “corrupt minds” (v. 5). Corrupt means rotten, decayed, or ruined. Joseph fled when his Master’s wife tried to seduce him. He did not try to reason with her, convert her, or help her – HE RAN! Had he remained, he would have been ruined.

The war on the Saints takes place largely between the ears. Corrupt thinking precedes corrupt living. Having a propensity for fleshly sin by nature, the Man of God must erect and maintain mental safeguards. The moral road kill strewn from one end to the other on the Information Highway bears crucial witness to the necessity for avoiding corruption. Our constitution as men makes us vulnerable to sin. Better to avoid the crash than attempt to clean up the mess!

Another foe from which the man of God must escape is *Covetousness* – Paul speaks about the “love of money . . . which . . . some coveted after” (v.10). Whatever controls a man is his god. This is why the Bible says, “Covetousness is idolatry.” Wicked discontentment and longing for more usher in the idol of covetousness. No one can serve two masters. No wonder John concludes his letter by saying, “Little children, keep yourselves from idols” (1 John 5:21).

The Man of God Follows

Jesus called His disciples by saying, “Come follow me.” A disciple is one who follows [*pursues*] His Master. Later Christ said, “Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.” Heb 12:14 says “Follow peace . . . and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.”

Note carefully the qualities the Man of God is to pursue: *righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness*. *Righteousness* is a call to right living. The outer life must be consistent with our standing in Christ. *Godliness* means we must move toward the right likeness (God-likeness). Next he calls the man of God to follow *Faith*, which is right believing. Faith is the only way man can properly relate to God. Saving faith is the initial act which launches the Christian into a lifelong quest. Following *faith* is the only antidote against unbelief. The man who seeks *love* is pursuing right relations. God is love and the man who dwells in Him loves his neighbor. *Patience* is that character quality that describes a right spirit. Cheerful endurance in times of testing is a goal worthy of pursuit. Another mandatory quality for the man of God is *Meekness* which refers to the right attitude. Humility is the foundation of all virtue.

Who alone is the embodiment of *righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and meekness*? The call to follow these is really a call to go after the one Who personifies these qualities – the Lamb of God! A Man of God diligently pursues Christ and grows in likeness to His Master!

The Man of God Fights

Near the end of his life Paul said, “*I have fought a good fight . . . I have kept the faith.*” He then admonishes, “*Fight the good fight of faith.*” Here *fight* means to strive as when competing for a prize. The summons to fight assumes there is opposition and obstacles to overcome. The Christian soldier is ordered into combat – not a gentle calm. Our calling is not to lie around basking in peaceful conditions – our duty demands we enter the battle. For the Christian, this world is an arena, not an armchair. The man of God is immersed in a continual conflict because the world is a hostile environment to all who live godly in Christ Jesus.

D.L. Moody said, “The reason why so many Christians fail is this – they underestimate the strength of the enemy.” Our opponent is a brilliant strategist. Satan may be crafty, powerful, and experienced, yet he is a defeated foe. “Defeated” does not mean he has disappeared! The sentence has been pronounced, but it is up to the believer to wield the weaponry to vanquish the enemy.

The Adversary meets us on many fronts, not the least of which is our mind. An arsenal of mighty weapons is at our disposal. But weapons are no good unless you utilize them. “*The children of Ephraim, being armed, and carrying bows, turned back in the day of battle*” (Ps. 78:9). The Ephraimites refused to fight! To be effective, weapons must be employed. There can be no winning without warfare and no victory without vigilance. The Man of God must elect to FIGHT!

The *helmet of salvation* and the *shield of faith* are provided especially for these mental assaults. Faith is the key to

quenching the fiery darts of the devil. Since we are not wrestling with flesh and blood, we cannot utilize carnal means. We must fight the good fight with faith.

J.C. Ryle said, “Where there is grace there will be conflict.” *The flesh lusts against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh.* We are not working for victory, but *from* victory. You must choose to believe God when He says, “They that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts” (Gal. 5:24). The answer to victory over the flesh is not dedication, but death. A man of God must reckon (account it to be so) himself *dead* to sin and *alive* to God. You do not reckon your self dead in order to become dead. You reckon yourself dead because you are!

The fight of faith boils down to a battle against unbelief! It is not enough to believe in the weapons – you must believe the God who has supplied the weapons. 1 John 5:4 states, “This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.” Spurgeon said, “Mind how you pray. Make real business of it. Let it never be a dead formality. Plead the promise in a truthful, business-like way. Ask for what you want, because the Lord has promised it. Believe that you have the blessing, and go forth to your work in full assurance of it. Go from your knees singing, because the promise is fulfilled: thus will your prayer be answered. The strength [not length] of your prayer...wins...God; and the strength of prayer lies in your faith in the promise which you pleaded before the Lord.”

WE NEED MEN OF GOD! Our nation and churches have been without strong male leadership for decades. This is contrary to God’s design. In the beginning God first created the man,

and from that man He created woman. At the Fall there was an *inversion* of God’s order when Eve took the lead in disobedience while Adam coalesced. After the Fall there came a *diversion* from God’s plan as His design and function were reversed. Now we have digressed to the *perversion* stage. Do not doubt that the scarcity of godly men has contributed to the moral freefall in our culture.

It’s about time we placed the emphasis in the right place. Jesus said, “Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.” Notice He did not say “Fishers of *decisions.*” He said, “Fishers of men.” I recognize “men” may be used in a generic sense, but the point is you get what you go after. Fishing for men is not “catch and release;” you keep what you catch!

It takes a crucified man to preach the crucified life, and it takes a man of God to produce men of God! A godly man will do more to inspire, instruct, and ignite others than anything else. Personal godliness will replicate itself in others.

You can be a Man of God. Your destiny is predetermined. All the provisions are available to any who would dare to reach out and lay hold on them by faith.

Sir, your past is under the Blood. Your future is in God’s hands. What you do NOW is up to you. Do you want to use your brief stay on planet Earth to the maximum? Do you aspire to be a man of God? Do you long to influence men for Christ? Then use the roadmap God has given us: FLEE, FOLLOW, and FIGHT the good fight of faith. I am believing God for a better day. What about you? “All things are possible to him that believeth.”

– Harold Vaughan

Couple's Advance in Williamsburg

Don't miss Williamsburg this fall! This will be our first Couple's Advance in this prime setting. Dr. Jim Binney will be the featured speaker. It will be a great time for you and your spouse to get away together.

View the details at our web site
or call for a free brochure.

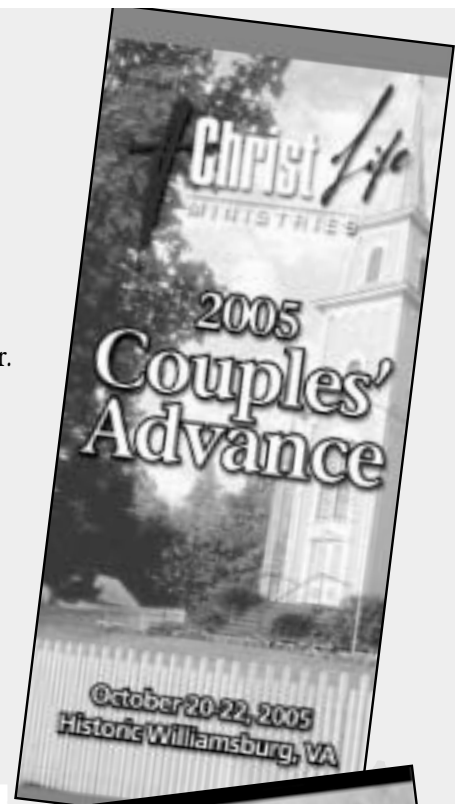
Be Somebody for God!

The men and women who have most fully illustrated Christ in their character and have most powerfully affected the world for Him, have been those who have spent so much time with Him as to make it a notable feature of their lives. Over a period of time they come to the place where they become like Him and, consequently, they reflect His Glory.

To be little with God is to be little for God. To be much with God is to be much for God. (E.M. Bounds)

Inspiration, Instruction, Inspection, and Ignition is the theme for the Men's Advance February 2-4, 2006. Get your new year started on the right track. Church groups can be housed together. Come and acquire the fire!

Check out the brochure at www.christlifemin.org
or request one TODAY.



Men's Prayer Advance



Feedback

I want to thank you for preaching at our Men's Retreat. This was our first Retreat, and I was thrilled that we were able to get you to preach for us. We are still a relatively new church, and we really need to see our men strengthened. I am thrilled that there are still men like you willing to give their lives to get the gospel message out. The Lord used you in a great way during these days, especially in the lives of several new converts that made the trip with us. Thank you for being obedient to the Lord and letting Him use you for His glory.

— Pastor Tony Bazen
Promised Land Baptist Church, N.C.

I just wanted to send you off a short note of thank-you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to minister at our Men's Retreat here at Tri-State. Several pastors have remarked how challenged they were by your messages which spoke directly to our hearts. I believe that many times we try to dig and dig into the Word (which I think is good), but we end up throwing dirt on the basics as we dig, covering up things that are needed for our very foundation. You brought forth the Word in a way that has challenged me as well as many other men.

— Joe Racite
Tri-State Bible Camp, N.J.

Great Time at Student Prayer Advances!

Teens and college age young people came together for a great time at Ambassador Baptist College for our third Student Prayer Advance South. The following weekend, August 4-6, people came from as far as Iowa for the S.P.A. in Chester, VA.

Having a college track proved to be a great idea. The breakout sessions were pertinent and very helpful for this unique age group.

Pastor Rusty Smith, Dr. Ron Comfort, Evangelist Alton Beal, Pastor Bob Barton, and Shelley Hendry all did a marvelous job in ministering the Word at Ambassador! At the Virginia S.P.A., Evangelist Tom Palmer, Evangelist Billy Ingram, Matt Vanderwalker, and Pete Hipple did a fantastic job. Young people still respond to straight-forward preaching!

The messages from both Advances are available on compact discs from our office. You may contact us for information on obtaining these sermons.



Student Prayer Advance Virginia



Male Chorus



Ladies' Chorus

Attention Ladies

Mark your calendar for the Ladies' Advance March 16-18, 2006. We are bringing in an Irishman to preach the Word. If you like strong Bible preaching, then don't miss this unique event for women. Brochures will be available soon.