

W O R D A T W O R K

Dear Friends:

Matthew 28:18-20 says, “Then Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.” Is there a distinct difference between a convert and a disciple? A convert acknowledges “a belief in” but has no obligation or compunction to conform to a code of conduct of which they are unaware. What is a disciple? The Greek word for disciple is **math-ayt-yoo-o**. It means to walk with one until his life is reproduced in you. It means to walk with one until you catch and imitate his actions in thought, word and deed.

How is it that we can be very very familiar with what God requires for salvation in Romans 10:11-13 and find ourselves in the midst of churches championing perversion under the guise of “civil rights”? That is *not* church but a gathering of political pimps masquerading as religion. We have whole segments of our culture who go to church on Sunday, while consistently promoting what the Bible says will absolutely destroy the land and bring a judgment on it. Why is the church in America so grossly totally impotent? There can be only one answer. We have settled for making converts but we have not gone on to make disciples.

Our initial conversion is to be followed by subsequent “conversions” as God’s word becomes reality. “...making disciples...” is the process mentioned in Romans 12:2 of de-conforming to the world and transforming so that we are reformed into the image of Jesus.

In Matthew 16:24 Peter said, “Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!” Would we say that Peter, at that point, was a convert or a disciple? There is no doubt about the fact that he was a convert. There can be no doubt about the fact that he was called a disciple. What was the problem? The problem was as a disciple, he had not been “converted” in his eschatology. Peter needed a “conversion.” Do those of us in the American church, who look for the rapture any day, - need a “conversion”?

Yours in Him,

Al Houghton

WORD AT WORK

VOLUME XXIV NUMBER VII
Converts or Disciples? I

THURSDAY, July 1

HAPPY CANADA DAY

Scripture: Romans 4:16-17

Romans 4:16-17 says, “Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all (as it is written, ‘I have made you a father of many nations’) in the presence of Him whom he believed, even God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;...” As we start this new series entitled “**Converts or Disciples ?**”, I wanted to share its origin. Last year I received a call from a good friend in the Seattle area who said the Lord had spoken to him that I had a message for the Northwest. He had already invited ministers to a conference and asked me to speak. I had already given the same dates to a church in Hawaii. My friend said, “Well, please pray about it because God said you had the word.” So I prayed about it. I didn’t have anything and then the Lord started giving me a series entitled “Converts or Disciples?” – our choice. It was really a message challenging the American church. The Pastor in Hawaii graciously agreed to re-schedule and I ministered the word in the Seattle area. It seems time to bring it forth in Bible study. It was called into being out of faith. It may be time for many long-standing promises to be called into being!

FRIDAY, July 2

Scripture: Revelation 2:1-4

In Revelation 2, Jesus is speaking to the church at Ephesus. He tells them, “‘I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary.’” Jesus had very good things to say to Ephesus. The Holy Spirit commends their work in a wonderful way. In verse 4, He begins to confront them about the one issue which is foundational for growth that has been overlooked. When I came to verse 4 the Lord re-translated stating what He had against the American church. The Lord said, “One thing I have against you, you have settled for making **converts** and have not gone on to make **disciples**.” So much of what was said to Ephesus could be said to a segment of the church in America. It is certainly impossible to say, “... you cannot bear those who are evil...” if you ordain homosexuals. But, by in large the church in America has a number of things for which it has done a very good job. There are many areas that need improvement. There is only one the Lord spoke to me about and therefore it will be the focus of this series. We have settled for making converts and not gone on to make disciples. What does that mean? And what does it mean for the future of the church in America? What does it mean for the future of the nation? Perhaps we are seeing the results lived out before us in these very days.

SATURDAY, July 3

Scripture: Matthew 28:18-20

Matthew 28:18-20 records the Great Commission, “Then Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.” Jesus said “...make disciples....” He didn’t say make converts. There is a very distinct difference. The Greek word for disciples is **math-ayt-yoo-o**. It means to walk with one until you catch and imitate his actions in thought, word and deed. What have we as leaders done to the American church? We have settled for making converts and sometimes their actions are not even those of converts. We do a marketing survey and figure out what people want and then we give it to them and call it “church”. That is *not* the Great Commission and never has been. The Great Commission only begins with getting people saved. It does not end there as the American church pretends!

SUNDAY, July 4

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

Scripture: Romans 10:9-10

Romans 10:9-10 says, “...that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.” If all we do is make converts and never teach the **absolutes of Scripture**, our flock is left to blow in the wind on national issues. Whether or not to approve homosexual marriage is a momentous decision which legislates destruction on the land. Filling a land with iniquity has the consequence of no longer being able to protect it with your military. Most converts don’t know enough Bible to understand the spiritual impact of certain public policy decisions. Discipleship should impart those truths. The fruit of making converts and not going on to make disciples is that we continue as a nation to elect politicians and support Parties which absolutely promote the wholesale national destruction and devastation. A discipleship failure enables people to unknowingly spit in God’s face - demanding judgment on the land! If five-fold ministry would obey God, Christians would be voting with a clear conscience on biblical principle. Why is our nation teetering on the precipice of major destruction? Because our churches are full of **converts** and not **disciples**. We’re looking at the fruit of gutless and spineless preachers. The men and women who will give account are the ones who stood in the pulpits of the land offering mush and milk-toast when they should have fed meat. I would not want to walk into eternity and be in their shoes.

MONDAY, July 5

Scripture: Romans 10:11-13

In Romans 10:11-13 we are given God’s prescription for salvation, “For the Scripture says, ‘Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.’ For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For ‘whoever calls upon the name of the LORD shall be saved.’” How is it that we can be very very familiar with what God requires for salvation, and find ourselves in the midst of a people who champion perversion under the guise of “civil rights”? That is *not* church but a gathering of political pimps masquerading as religion. We have whole segments of our culture who go to church on Sunday and yet consistently promote what God calls an abomination and what the Bible says will absolutely destroy the land and bring a judgment on it, because the people who statutorily protect such things fill it with iniquity and we can no longer protect it. Why is the church in America so grossly totally impotent? There can be only one answer. We have settled for making **converts** but we have not gone on to make **disciples**. The American church consists of many converts, the majority of which don’t know their right hand from their left concerning biblical principle because they haven’t been taught. That is criminal! But we are looking at the fruit of it. It is playing out in our land. Isn’t it time we made some changes and began the long difficult road of **personal discipleship**? Its not enough to have major evangelistic crusades every year, because God didn’t just say make converts. He said

“...make disciples...” Are we going to continue our past historical pattern or make the changes that are necessary to save and deliver a nation?

TUESDAY, July 6

Scripture: Romans 12:1

Romans 12:1 says, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.” It is our “reasonable worship.” True worship is presenting ourselves and allowing God to shape us and form us into the vessels that are needed to make a contribution in our generation. Five-fold ministry (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers) has the job of preparing the church for this challenge. If we are not in that preparational process, this verse says we have not released “...reasonable worship.” What are we going to do about the future of our land? It starts with **discipleship !**

WEDNESDAY, July 7

Scripture: Romans 12:2

Romans 12:2 says, “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Our initial conversion is to be followed by subsequent conversions as God’s word becomes reality. “...making disciples...” is the process mentioned in verse 2 of de-conforming to the world and transforming so that we are reformed into the image of Jesus. The Greek word that is used here is **met-an-or-fo-o**. It is the process by which worms become butterflies and it is a continual process of discipleship. Are we doing it? Are we walking in it? Are we embracing it for the future generations?

THURSDAY, July 8

Scripture: Matthew 18:1-3

In Matthew 18:1-3 we are told, “At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, ‘Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?’ And Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.’” What is interesting about this passage is that it shows us Jesus’ thinking concerning the issue of **discipling**. He has told them that their names are already written in the Lamb’s book of Life, which in our terminology would mean – they are “in”, they are “saved”, they are “born again”, but they still needed a “conversion”. “...unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.” Since they had already confessed to Jesus believing to be Messiah, then their names were written in the Lamb’s book of Life. Therefore the “conversion” Jesus was talking about was obviously not “salvation.” What was the “conversion” then? ***It had to be a “conversion” of character through biblical principle.*** Nobody can say “I love God” and go vote for somebody who wants to establish homosexual marriage or “civil unions”! To do such a thing, one would qualify as spiritually brain dead or just plain moronic! Its like Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde. Only a fool would shoot himself in the foot, yet people who claim to know Christ seem to do it consistently. Jesus makes one thing clear. Just because they have recognized Him as Messiah doesn’t mean they still don’t have a tremendous amount of growth ahead of them.

FRIDAY, July 9

Scripture: Matthew 16:13

Matthew 16:13 says, “When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, ‘Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?’” Jesus begins the process by which He is going to nail the twelve and impose upon them another level of “conversion”. This time the target is going to be their eschatology. He poses a question they have to answer. Our culture is posing a question for the church, which has to be

answered. Certain issues demand a response from every believer when they go to the polls transcending political affiliation. If being a Democrat means supporting perversion – stop being a Democrat. If being a Republican means voting for perversion – stop being a Republican. By allowing believers to remain basic **converts**, we deliver them to deception making a contribution to the demonic realm. Both Priests and Parishioner will have to give an account for it in eternity. Eternity is too late to say, “Sorry Lord, I didn’t really understand the issues.” At that point it is “loss of reward time.” **Discipleship** is a front-burner issue. Why has the church backed off from discipleship? Are we afraid of losing people, or afraid of offending them and losing their support? Its time we got more afraid of offending God than offending man! There is a reason why American churches are full of converts and *not* full of disciples. The reasons lay right at the feet of those of us in ministry. What shall we then say?

SATURDAY, July 10

Scripture: Matthew 16:14-16

Matthew 16:14-16 says, “So they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ And Simon Peter answered and said, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’” Isn’t it interesting how Peter gets the exact revelation and is able then to speak it forth. That was an “atta boy” moment for Peter, who did very well. But Jesus was after something else. The disciples were being set up. Jesus was pursuing this line because He was setting them up for the kill, for the transformation, for the metamorphosis. Are we, in the church of North America, being set up by God in what we are facing in America and Canada? Are we being set up? The greatest test of discipleship in my lifetime is upon the church. Perhaps we need to make sure that our **discipleship** is where it should be.

SUNDAY, July 11

Scripture: Matthew 16:20-22

Verses 20-22 say, “Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ. From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, ‘Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!’” Would we say that Peter, at this point, was a convert or a disciple? There is no doubt about the fact that he was a convert. There can be no doubt about the fact that he was called a disciple. What was the problem? The problem was as a disciple, he had not been “converted” in his eschatology. Peter had one mindset concerning the Messiah. He was coming to transform the government and make the Jewish nation the leaders of the world. Peter needed a “conversion.” Do those of us in the American church who look for the rapture any day – need a “conversion”? What if persecution is coming? If Gay Marriage, by Judicial fiat, is allowed to stand in America, three to five years down the line, there will be discrimination suits against churches in order to appropriate the property and ministers will consistently be fined or jailed for simply preaching God’s word. But – why are we even here? Because we have settled for making **converts** and have not gone on to make **disciples**. Peter was a believer in Jesus who needed a “conversion” in his thinking. He needed a new level of discipleship.

MONDAY, July 12

Scripture: Matthew 16:23

Verse 23 says, “But He turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.’” I wonder how many of us in the church-world today act more like Satan than we do like Jesus? I wonder how many of us because of the things we do, say, stand for, and especially vote for, become an offense to God because we are “...**not mindful** of the things of God...” To the degree we are **not mindful**, it is 100% a discipleship failure! A failure to help people understand that a vote for abortion is a vote to destroy the land and bring judgment on our own souls - is a discipleship failure. A vote to support leaders who advocate “civil union” is a vote to destroy the land and we will give an account to Jesus for it! Are we **converts** or are we **disciples**? Are we converts needing “conversion”? Perhaps the problem in this area

is idolatry. Have we made Political Parties our idols demanding worship? Do we lift our hands in worship every time we go to the polls? How will we ever explain that to JESUS?

TUESDAY, July 13

Scripture: Matthew 16:24

Verse 24 declares elementary discipleship 101 when Jesus says, “Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.’” **Converts** have a definite **phro-ney-o** attitude or mindset. The attitude is, “I can do whatever seems good.” Voting for whatever seems good, because of the Political Party we grew up in, may cost us severely in eternity. It is time to disciple the people of God and speak the straight truth whether it is liked or whether it isn’t. We’ve had a whole generation of leaders who have promulgated a theology of political abandonment and have totally left believers undisciplined, uninstructed and with no foundation for biblical decision making. **It is CRIMINAL!** And the fruit of it is right in front of us. We best not make this mistake with the next generation or we’ll all be changing our passports and looking for another nation in which to live, which has freedom of religion.

WEDNESDAY, July 14

Scripture: Matthew 16:25

Verse 25 says, “For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.” What can a convert do that a disciple can’t? A **convert** almost always follows his flesh. But a **disciple** has to submit his actions to God through His word. Disciples **know** they have to let God choose. They have to bow the knee to biblical principle. When it comes to politics the issue has nothing to do with the “Parties” because oftentimes both candidates are incapable in their position of being supported biblically. The only ballot option in that case is to abstain. Which is more important to hear “Well done good and faithful servant” or the “Party line”? Isn’t it time we got delivered from the idol of Political Parties and started the true process of **biblical discipleship** where the **issues** determine our votes.

THURSDAY, July 15

Scripture: Matthew 16:24-26

Verse 26 says, “For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” The issues of discipleship ultimately impact eternity. We have made such an emphasis on the formula for salvation, in Romans chapter 10, that we have neglected the discipleship that bears on eternity. Jesus made it very clear, discipleship has a part to play in our growth and development achieving eternity. Is our name written in the Lamb’s book of Life when we make Jesus LORD? Absolutely! All judgment and future reward depends on our growth in discipleship. We certainly don’t want to suffer tremendous loss before the judgment seat of Christ. The only way I know for that to happen is to actively seek and grow as a disciple, submitting our decisions to the word of God!

FRIDAY, July 16

Scripture: Matthew 16:27

Verse 27 says, “For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.” Our works are the fruit of how we view and think about things, as determined by the application or lack of application of God’s word. A convert can easily readily usually do works for which he will have total loss of reward, because there has been no consistent discipling input in God’s word to change his thinking. If we decide for the sake of growth that we won’t tackle any tough discipleship issues from the pulpit, then where do we leave our people concerning the return of Jesus and total loss of reward, because their works can’t match God’s word? If there are going to be Ananias and Sapphiras in church in the days ahead, you can just about bet on the fact the majority of them will come right out of the pulpits.

SATURDAY, July 17

Scripture: John 21:18a

John 21:18a says, “Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished;...” *There* is the essence of a **convert**. You can be a convert and “...walk where you wish...” You can be a convert and go wherever you want to. You can be a convert and do whatever feels good. Jesus did not tell us to make converts. He told us to “...make **disciples**...” If we are converts we can *give* where we wish, *go* where we want to go to church, *show up* when we feel like it, just *do whatever* we want to do when we want to do it because “we” are the center of the universe. That is not true of one who is disciplined. A true disciple has a far different walk. Which will we choose? Will we choose the easier life of a convert or the much more rigorous disciplined life of a disciple?

SUNDAY, July 18

Scripture: John 21:18b

Jesus said, “...when you were young you acted like a convert, you walked wherever you wished;...” “...but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish.” What do we say to discipleship? **Discipleship** means being willing to go where God wants us even if it costs us our life. This is what the early church modeled. Peter modeled it. Paul modeled it. Many of the twelve did also. Our question becomes are we going to rise to the level of previous generations in our commitment, in our dedication and in our discipleship? If we don’t, we may well lose the great harvest that God wants to give us.

MONDAY, July 19

Scripture: John 21:19

In verse 19 Jesus went on to say, “This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, ‘Follow Me.’” Jesus made it clear that **true discipleship** was the fruit of following Him. Anything less was not acceptable. “Follow Me” is the consummate call to discipleship where the end result is we are not our own. We recognize we’ve been bought with a price and we have fully yielded ourselves to the One who bought us for His purposes. Jesus said another will “carry you” where you do not wish to go. Will we let God carry us where we do not wish to go?

TUESDAY, July 20

Scripture: Second Peter 3:10

Second Peter 3:10 says, “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.” When we look at the “Left Behind” series, we have to ask ourselves why has it sold 62 million plus copies and rising? What are the elements other than a biblical foundation, good fiction, decent writing and a good story? What makes it so appealing? The appeal would much more fit converts than it would disciples. The appeal to converts is that the rapture, when it comes, enables them to escape persecution. This is a **cross-less** message. There is no price paid in persecution except for the ones that are “left behind.” The believers who are raptured miss all the persecution. You certainly couldn’t preach that to the church in Egypt. You couldn’t preach it to the church in China. The church in China wouldn’t buy it. The church in Islamic countries wouldn’t buy it. There are only a couple of cultures you could sell it to. **Cross-less Christianity** has great sales value. It appeals to **converts**. Disciples see through it and are not moved by the fiction. It’s a great series. Its entertaining reading. Its doing a good work. I’m personally for it as an evangelistic tool. I’m not against it. But let’s understand we’re buying fiction. The appeal is to converts. How many millions will get their end-time theology out of those books? Will they be prepared if they have to face a decision to renounce Christ or die? Will they be prepared for persecution? Some of them might, allowing for faith accidents. But look at the reason why it is so popular. There

is a discernment that is developed for disciples in the end-times that converts just don't have. Where do we stand on the issue of discipleship? Jesus had to confront Peter, James and John over the issue of what they believed about the end-times. It actually made them hostile to God's work and purpose. We do not want to find ourselves in that place but the church is getting encouragement occupying that place.

WEDNESDAY, July 21

Scripture: Second Peter 3:11-12

Verses 11 and 12 say, "Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of person ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?" The question is, how can we hasten the return of the Lord? Is it possible to hasten the return of the Lord? This passage says it absolutely is. Then the issue becomes, if it is possible to hasten the return how do we do that? Certainly one of the primary issues comes as a matter of elementary **discipleship**. The early church did not have a problem with this issue because they were born and birthed in the midst of persecution. Commitment, dedication and all the essential elements of foundational Christianity were settled at their conversion and baptism, just as they are now in countries like China and Islamic nations when people are born again. They understand *immediately* what the potential price is. The potential price for them is martyrdom. Those issues are settled up front. It is part of the "conversion" package because of the trauma the church faces in those respective nations. The Western nations don't have that trauma – yet – and the churches all reflect it. Some of the chief things the Islamic terrorists object to, out of American culture, are the result of a church full of converts who are obviously not impacted by biblical principle whenever they go to the poles. Homosexual marriage is *not* an issue in an Islamic country. Pornography is *not* free speech in an Islamic country. Our forefathers gave us a free nation and if we don't catch-up in **discipleship** we could easily lose it to the judgment of God!

What are we going to do concerning the issue of **discipleship** ?

THURSDAY, July 22

Scripture: Second Peter 3:13

Verse 13 says, "Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells." When our forefathers set up the United States of America they took biblical principle and encoded it statutorily in our laws. Doing so for the purpose of preserving the land from the judgment of God! In the last fifty years, the secularization of America, and the lack of discipleship in the church, have brought us to the place where we are now. Do we have a church that is ready to pay the price to birth a new heavens and a new earth, because it does not come without a very steep price. What does it cost? What can we expect? Are we preparing a generation to pay the price to birth a new heavens and a new earth? If we are not – we are missing part of our generational call and we will stand before God in eternity at the Judgment Seat of Christ and give an account for what we missed. Surely it is time to embrace significant **discipleship** and pass on to the next generation something far different than was passed on to us.

FRIDAY, July 23

Scripture: Genesis 15:13-16

In Genesis 15:13-16 we discover the principle that governs prophetic transition in Scripture. It is the principle of **FULLNESS**. Verses 14-16 say, "And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace you shall be buried at a good old age. But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete/full." The Israelites were not allowed to possess other nations' land until those nations had filled it with iniquity. Once the iniquity of the land was **FULL**, the peoples who originally possessed it lost their divine lease and the land would literally "vomit them out." They would lose their ability to defend it, even if it was a good land full of milk and honey. This principle goes all the way into the New Testament and we need to realize that if we're

going to possess a new heavens and a new earth the old one has to be filled with iniquity to make that transition. What will it cost us to get a new heavens and a new earth?

SATURDAY, July 24

Scripture: Leviticus 20

Leviticus 20 outlines four areas which fill a land with iniquity so that you lose your ability to defend it, in verses 1-24. In verses 1-5 we have the issue of the sacrifice of innocent blood. Through abortion we have already managed to exceed what Hitler did in World War II, times three. Over 45 million children have been terminated through Roe v Wade. The second area is in verses 6-8. Witchcraft and dial a demon psychic networks and all the perversion that goes with spiritualism. Verse 9 identifies a rebellion that is most familiar from participants in the drug culture. You may find other things that fit, but it seems to me that rebellion is most prominent fruit from the drug culture. Verses 10-21 deal with the current area we are facing and that is homosexual marriage and all forms of sexual sin. Verses 22-24 make it clear that if the nation statutorily protects homosexual marriage, then we fill the land with iniquity and it vomits us out. We lose our ability to defend it. November's national election is a very important discipleship test for the church. Where will the church stand? Will the church stand as a **disciple** and vote as a **disciple**? Or will the church act as a **convert** and go wherever they please? This election may well be the major test for the church as to the issue of discipleship.

SUNDAY, July 25

Scripture: Matthew 23:25-28

In Matthew 23:25-28 Jesus rebuked His generation's spiritual leaders saying to them that they had reached "**FULLNESS**". Verse 25 says, "'Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are **FULL** of extortion and self-indulgence.'" Verse 27 says, "'Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are **FULL** of dead men's bones and all uncleanness.'" Verse 28 says, "'Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are **FULL** of hypocrisy and lawlessness.'" What happened to the religious system of Jesus' day that it became **FULL** of iniquity? The end result was the religious system vomited out its inhabitants and a new covenant was established.. In 70 AD the whole land was destroyed because they lost their ability to defend it. Surely it is **TIME TO REALIZE** where we are headed as a nation.

MONDAY, July 26

Scripture: Matthew 23:32-36

In verse 32 Jesus says, "'Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers' guilt.'" He goes on to talk about them murdering the messengers that are sent. They did fill the cup of iniquity by murdering Him, the very God they claimed to represent. God established a new covenant in which He made out of Jew and Gentile **ONE NEW MAN**. Are we discipling toward **ONE NEW MAN** or moving to aide and abet filling the land with iniquity? .

TUESDAY, July 27

Scripture: Revelation 19:1-2

In Revelation 19:1-2 we find this, "After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, 'Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power to the Lord our God! For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her.'" The book of Revelation begins to show us what the price of a new heavens and a new earth is and what it takes to fill the old one with iniquity. It is the pattern that brought the transition out of the Old Covenant into the New. The church in the Old Covenant had to be filled with iniquity in order to get a New one. To get a new heavens and a new earth, the old heavens and earth have to be filled with

iniquity and its filled by the rejection and murder of those who represent God and stand for Him. Jesus is the Pattern. Are we discipling a generation to make that stand? Or are we discipling them with **cross-less cost-less Christianity**? Are we like **converts** who embrace any message where no price is involved, because God comes and takes us all out before we have to face persecution? Are we acting like **disciples** or **converts**?

WEDNESDAY, July 28

Scripture: Revelation 17:4-6

Verse 4 says, “The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication.” And verse 6 says, “And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.” Fullness of iniquity in the earth cannot happen without the blood of the Church whose witness is rejected. That is happening in a number of countries right now. It is not happening in many Western countries, but if it comes will we have prepared a generation? Will our children act like disciples? Will they stand as Jesus stood unto the death? Will they stand as the early church stood, unto death? Or are they just **converts** who have never been given the intestinal fortitude to stand because we would rather build a big church than we would speak the full truth of God’s word? When the Communists took over China, the biggest problem in the church was betrayal of each other. Many saved their own life by betraying others. Are we building true covenant relationships?

THURSDAY, July 29

Scripture: Revelation 6:9-11

Revelation 6:11 says, “And a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was full/completed. (**play-or-o**)” What does it take to fill the old heavens and the earth so we can get a new one? It takes the witness of the church. Perhaps it is at this point we should look at what the real message of **911** is. There is certainly a very strong element in the message of **911** that is a rebuke to the church. How is it that the followers of a demonized hate-filled religion have been disciplined to the point of martyrdom so that they can bring destruction to one of the leading nations in the world? Why have the deceived and demonized been better at discipleship than the church? Why can’t we match what the demonized have done? Are the followers of the **TRUE GOD** as committed as the followers of the counterfeit? Why has a false religion produced disciples that are beyond what the **TRUE** has produced? What are we missing?

FRIDAY, July 30

Scripture: Second Kings 6:8-12

In Second Kings 6:8-12 we find Syria making war with Israel. Syria was very upset because every time they set a trap, Elisha alerted the king and Israel avoided the trap. The king of Syria believed there was a spy in their midst and finally one of his servants said, “...None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom.” Where is this anointing in the church today which could have averted **911**? Are we behind spiritually? Do we have some spiritual ground to possess? Will God allow us to move into this dimension and save more lives finally gaining a greater harvest? God has the answer and it is in the anointing. The question is, are we willing to pay the price to possess it?

SATURDAY, July 31

Scripture: Romans 11:12-14, 25-27

In Romans 11:12-14 we are told of the Jews, “Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness! For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save

some of them.” Paul realized that the church had to move in such authority as to provoke the Jew to jealousy to break the bands holding the disobedient and contrary. We have a dramatic anointing to possess. **FULLNESS** not only governs the harvest of cities and nations, it also governs the harvest of the Jews, and we in the church have to birth not only that anointing, but also pay the price to get a new heavens and new earth. Are we **discipling** people into the realization of what the price the Church will have to walk out involves? Or are we selling them a **cross-less Christianity**? What will it take to provoke the Jew to jealousy? Surely it will be dramatic! Verses 25-27 say, “For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that hardening in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: ‘The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.’” Once again we see that the issue governing the harvest and birthing a new heavens and new earth, *is* **FULLNESS**. Are we going to walk it out? Are we willing to pay the price? What kind of fullness of anointing is it going to take to graft a Jew back in? It certainly will be dramatic and awesome. But have we relegated the end-times to those who are left *after* the rapture? It’s a great belief for **converts** – but – **disciples** just can’t accept it. Where do we stand?

Are we **converts** or are we becoming **true disciples**?

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**Precept on precept
And line upon line
True growth demands change
One step at a time**

**Each line takes you higher
Each precept more deep
A transforming unfolds
As God’s ways you keep**

**Thus precept on precept
And line after line
Discipling happens
One truth at a time**

Jayne Houghton