



Kérugma[®] Bulletin

P O Box 1367
KUILS RIVER
7579
Tel: (021) 903-1901
Fax: (021) 906-2637
E-mail: kerugma@icon.co.za

A Newsletter to the Conquerors in Christ

Volume 1:B

JULY 1999

"And a certain scribe came and said to Him, 'Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.' And Jesus said to him, 'The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.'"

THE SON OF MAN HAS NOWHERE TO LAY HIS HEAD

- Ignatius A. le Roux

"Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go." These words surely sound genuine. It is so easy to say this to the Lord. Yet, when one looks at the Lord's reaction to this, you might want to think twice before you also utter it. His answer was clear: "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."

With these words the Lord Jesus gives us an indication of the type of life He led. More than that, He thereby tells the person who so gladly wants to follow Him, what to expect. Surely he will share the life of the One he follows. A disciple, the Lord taught us, is not above his teacher. Whatever befalls the teacher, will also befall the disciple (Matt. 10:24; John 15:20).

The Lord Jesus was born in a stable and grew up in a poor home. Thus He also lacked the basic necessities of life. He could not offer anyone who followed Him anything. Anyone who wanted to follow Him, had to be aware of that before he put the hand to the plough. You see, Jesus practised that which He preached properly. When, in the Sermon on the Mount, he mentioned how his heavenly Father cared for the birds of the air and the lilies of the field (Matt. 6:25-29), He Himself had no place of his own. He did not have any fixed property, home or even a tent.

John MacArthur comments about this:

"After the dispute about Jesus' healing of the blind man, "everyone went to his home," John tells us: "But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives" (John 7:53-8:1). Whereas others went home to spend the night, Jesus spent it alone under the stars, in prayer with His Father. We are told of His often spending time in the home of Peter in Capernaum and of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus in Bethany, but we are never told of His spending even an hour in His own house, because He had none."¹

Of course this does not mean that the followers of Jesus may not have possessions. Both the wealthy (1 Tim 6:17-19) and the poor (Rom 15:26)

may, if possible, own houses and other possessions. Even those whom the Lord calls to sacrifice all additional forms of income (2 Tim. 2:4) in order to be employed full-time in His service, may have the necessary possessions. This is if the Lord so ordains it. According to indications in the Bible, Peter and John for example had their own homes. Then there are those called to be full-time in the service of the Lord (Rom. 10:14-15), but they do not own anything and they have no set income. Their hope for everything they and their families need, as well as for the ministry in which they work, is on Him alone. What do they live from? This question can be answered by looking at the answer of another question:

WHAT DID JESUS LIVE FROM ?

Except for a few indications from Scripture, we do not exactly know the answer to this question. One indication that we do have though, is that some served Him with their **belongings**. We read in Luke 8:1-3 that Jesus

...began going about from one city and village to another, proclaiming and preaching the kingdom of God; and the twelve were with Him, and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses; Mary who was called Magdalene and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna and many others who **were contributing to their support out of their private means**.

Is that not what all who have possessions should do? You see, it does not matter if we own something or not, what counts is our attitude towards money and material things. We brought nothing into this world and it is clear that we will take nothing with us (1 Tim. 6:7). But what we do

¹MacArthur, J.F. THE MACARTHUR NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY - MATTHEW 8-5, Moody Press, Chicago, 1987.

with that which we handle during our lifetime is what matters. Are we busy gathering treasures here on earth for ourselves? Then everything will perish with us. We are going to lose everything, the moment we die. If, however, we are busy seeking the kingdom of God and his righteousness, yes, his will, then treasures are accumulating for us in heaven by themselves. These are treasures with an eternal value (Matt. 6:19-34). The question is not if we have anything and how much, but if that which we own is available to the Lord.

When one receives the gift of eternal life at your rebirth, a whole different perspective opens in your life. Is your life already governed by this perspective? It is the attitude that you know you are merely "aliens and strangers" (1 Pet. 2:11,12) in this world. Our citizenship is in heaven (Phil. 3:20-21). Those who live with this attitude, are people who, when they buy something, buy "as though they did not possess; and those who use the world, as though they did not make full use of it; for the form of this world is passing away" (1 Cor. 7:30-31).

What is important, is what God's will is. John puts it like this: "And the world is passing away and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever" (See 1 John 2:15-17).

Are we actively searching for God's will in everything we do - even every item that we buy? The Lord Jesus answered the scribe by saying that He is in a worse position than the foxes of the field or the birds of the air. One lesson that we learn from these animals is **contentment**. They are content with what they have. And in a certain sense this is the message that comes to us in these words:

"The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."

The instruction under which we stand is clear:

"And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content" (1 Tim. 6:8).

Coupled with that, we read this truth:

"But **godliness** actually is a means of great gain, when accompanied by **contentment**" (1 Tim. 6:6).

Do we have this characteristic which is described by the word **contentment**? In the original Greek the word means to satisfy or please yourself. You have, as it were, an inner ability to motivate yourself to be happy and satisfied with the circumstances in which you may find yourself. It is not a characteristic that man possesses by himself. According to 1 Timothy 6:6 it is accompanied by the concept of godliness. This word in the Greek means to be focussed on God in the sense that your visible lifestyle lines up with God's standard and requirements. Your conduct reflects the inner strength that the indwelling Holy

Spirit works in your life day by day. He is the One who is renewing your inner man day by day (2 Cor. 4:16). It is therefore only possible for a child of God in whom the Holy Spirit does this renewal daily, to order his life according to the will of God. As you do this, you receive the strength to orientate yourself to be satisfied with what you have as well as the circumstances you find yourself in. Sometimes it can be good and pleasant circumstances, but often also very desperate ones.

Peter therefore instructs the Christian slaves of his day to:

...be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable (1 Pet. 2:18).

He then explains that we are called, also, like the Lord Jesus Christ, to often suffer unjustly:

For this finds favour, if for the sake of conscience toward God a man bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly ... For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps (1 Pet. 2:19,21).

When the Lord Jesus therefore tells us to follow Him, but to take into account that the Son of Man Himself did not have a place to lay his head, we must be prepared for a road of total self-denial.

What is interesting, is that the meaning of the word "contentment" also imply that it has the power to inspire others around you. It is almost contagious. Where you are obedient to the Lord Jesus and may come under all sorts of spiritual and physical persecution and financial strain, there your life becomes the source through which the Holy Spirit inspires others. Even if you do not sense anything of it, the Holy Spirit works from within your life through to others. Also where you follow in the footsteps of the Lord Jesus and sometimes experience blessing and prosperity, the indwelling Holy Spirit protects you from temptations such as the love of money and haughtiness. The fruit of contentment will also speak to others in such a case. It can be an inspiration to them to also follow the Lord or they might reject you.

Have you ever made the following promise to the Lord Jesus?

"Teacher, I will follow You wherever you go."

How does one follow the Lord today wherever He goes? By speaking to Him daily, but also in every situation. Pray daily to Him by surrendering yourself every morning to Him and by saying you want to do only his will that day. As the day passes and you find yourself in a situation where you need to make a decision, quietly in your heart ask the Lord what He would have done had He been in

Kérugma Bulletin

The **Kérugma Bulletin** is a spiritual publication which is handed out and distributed by **Kérugma Productions**.

EDITORIAL STAFF

Naas and Marina le Roux, PO Box 1367, KUILS RIVER 7579, Tel 021-903 1901, Fax 021-906 2637.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Send your name and address to us and ask that the **Bulletin** be sent to you. It is distributed free of charge in order to reach as many people as possible. Donations for the printing and postage will be highly appreciated.

© **All rights are reserved.** The **Kérugma Bulletin** is printed in such a format that photo-copies can be made and thus be distributed further. The copy right of all articles is however reserved. Were any item to be reused anywhere, the necessary permission must be obtained in writing from the editor and the necessary acknowledgement must please be given to the **Kérugma Bulletin**.

Kérugma Productions

The word *kérugma* is Greek for "the message which is preached or proclaimed".

Kérugma Productions is a faith undertaking that strives after proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ by means of high quality media productions. As a faith venture, **Kérugma** is dependant upon the Lord solely for all its financial needs. We trust that He who started the work, will also maintain it through the freewill offerings of his children. Therefore we trust that everyone who is blessed by the videos, this **Bulletin** or any of the other products, will faithfully send that which the Lord lays on his or her heart in obedience to the Word of God (1Cor.9:11). In order to reach the wider church with its products, **Kérugma Productions**, like many producers of spiritual books, remains neutral as far as denomination is concerned. Therefore no specific church or denomination has a share in this ministry by way of carrying it financially, for example. We feel at liberty to state it this way, as our videos and other products are not sold in order to finance our ministry. Our basis for distributing products at **Kérugma** is to ask a price that only covers the cost of the product itself. In the case of videos, for example, we ask for the video cassette itself, the container, cover and labels on the video and for the cost of copying it. For producing the material on the video cassette, which amounts to several thousands of rands per minute of the total viewing time of the end product, we rely on freewill offerings received from the Lord's children. Our longing is that the videos end up in every home in our country and beyond. To succeed in this, we need the financial and prayer support of everyone who wants to help us proclaiming the gospel in this manner.

your shoes. Do that for which He gives you peace. If you do not know immediately what the Lord Jesus is saying, remember 1 Peter 2:21 says that He left us an example to follow in His steps. Think about his life and do what you think He would have done under your circumstances. By doing that you will gradually learn to walk more and more in the footsteps of the Lord Jesus. He is our Good Shepherd who walks ahead of his sheep to lead them to green pastures. Peter explains that we were formerly like straying sheep, but because He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross,

we can now live to righteousness (1 Pet. 2:24-5). Apart from prayer we also have His word out of which we can learn what His will for us is. When, for example, we should suffer unjustly and are insulted, we have in 1 Peter 2:22-23 his example for our behaviour:

[He] who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously ...

Are you a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ? Then always remember this example and ask Him to grant you His power by His Holy Spirit to also enable you to do this. He is our High Priest who, out of His position on the throne at the right hand of his Father, gives us the power to follow his footsteps in our situation today.

A SCRIBE FOLLOWS JESUS

Generally speaking, the New Testament paints a negative picture of the scribes. On one occasion, namely in Matthew 13:52, Jesus makes a positive comment about one. It is true that the scribes were influential figures amongst the people. When the Lord Jesus says to this man that He did not have a place to lay his head, He puts His finger right there where it matters. To follow Jesus would have cost his status in society, the esteem of his family, his income and maybe his house. What does it cost you to follow the Lord Jesus? Have you ever thought about how important these various issues are for you? Your position at work; the respect of your family; your belongings; and who is in control of your salary? Do you handle that just the way you like or is the Lord Jesus in control of your salary? Maybe it is easy to say: "Lord I will follow you just where you lead me", but are we really busy doing it? Do we really live according to that we know He says in His word. Do we furthermore do, in every situation, that which we know in our hearts that He instructed us to do by His Spirit? Do we obey His voice? When someone comes up in our thoughts, do we pray for the person or do we ignore the leading of the Holy Spirit. When He quietly instructs us deep in our spirit to do something for someone, to give or to send, do we obey or do we argue away the whispering within of his voice?

"Teacher, I will follow You wherever You lead"

Let us surrender ourselves unconditionally to the Lord so that He can lead us. Yes, let us be true followers of the Lord Jesus Christ – people who please Him in everything and live in a true relationship with Him.



THE NEW PROPHETS

A VERY SPECIAL BOOK BY BILL RANGLES

Pastor Bill Randles has touched on a subject of great importance today. The re-emergence of the Latter Rain Movement with its aberrant theology and careless eschatology is deceiving many within the ranks of Pentecostalism and Charismatism. When this doctrine first emerged in the 1940's it was rightly challenged by the mainstream Pentecostal denominations. Today it is finding greater acceptance among those denominations' pastors, and has made great inroads among their national leadership. The deception never really died, it went underground to await the day when sound doctrine would be of little concern among the leadership in the churches. This book should help the uninformed as well as those already aware of this deception to understand the threat posed by today's self proclaimed "apostles" and "prophets".

VIDEOS AND BOOKS BY BILL RANGLES

WHY DO YOU CALL ME GOOD?

Bill Randles dismantles today's so called "evangelical" approach to proclaim everyone that reacts to an altar call, merely "a member of the family of God", without recognizing God's precepts in this regard. Expounding Scripture from Jesus' reaction to the question of the Rich Young Ruler concerning inheriting eternal life (Mark 10:18), Bill points out that there is more to becoming a disciple of Jesus than what is being heard from many pulpits today.

Bill Randles tells how he as a preacher of the gospel previously filled his church by proclaiming the "popular" message. He later came to a rude awakening: the realization that this was the reason for the occurrence of many false conversions.

You will want to view this video more than once and to share it with others. The video is filled with inserts of many of the phenomena such as the Toronto Blessing, etc. (R65.00)

Bill Randles is a pastor of a church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, USA. His books **WEIGHED AND FOUND WANTING - Putting the Toronto Blessing in Context** (R56.95), **MAKING WAR IN THE HEAVENLIES** (R49.95) and **THE NEW PROPHETS** (R49.95) are also obtainable through Kérugma Productions.

The above prices include VAT

THE COMING OF THE LORD

Jesus' disciples questioned Him concerning the time and sign of His second coming and the end of this age (Matt. 24). His answer to their question forms the basis of Bill Randles message on this video.

As he expounds the different aspects of Jesus' answer, it becomes clear that we do not only live very near to THE COMING OF THE LORD, but that many of the current phenomena within the church are part of Satan's preparation of the world wide church of the end time. In the video you will see many inserts of these phenomena, as Bill speaks about the unification of faiths, the Toronto "Blessing" etc.

Bill relates in this video how he and many of his friends once were really expecting the Lord's return, but how many lost their focus and became lukewarm. Maybe the message on this video is just what you need. (R65.00)

SOMETHING TO PRAY FOR

At the time that we started editing the two above mentioned videos of Bill Randles, a big company in the video industry decided to lend a demonstration model of a new digital edit station to us in order for us to see if it can do the work the Lord called us to do. We had to teach ourselves from the 544 pages on-line manual. This took a very long time and through the grace of God we succeeded to do a video as demonstration on it as well as a two and a half minute introduction on **Kérugma Productions**. This all led to the privilege of demonstrating this unit at a two days show in Cape Town. The introduction on **Kérugma** can be seen on each of the videos of Bill Randles. We were also privileged to edit the beginning part of the video **WHY DO YOU CALL ME GOOD?** on another edit suite of the same company. If you see it, you will get an idea of the possibilities of making Christian videos on a system such as this. Will you please pray with us that the Lord will provide us with such a machine. We are presently negotiating the purchase of the smallest "native DV" digital edit suite on the market.