

# TRUTH & RIGHT

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## Here Am I, Send Me!

I came across a news report a while back that truly had me smiling, ironically, since it was in the context of the government shutdown mess a few years ago. It was about a man named Chris Cox who decided to lend a hand watching out for the monuments and memorials in D.C. that had become virtually unguarded and unprotected to potential vandalism. While he was keeping watch, he happened to notice many trash cans overflowing and debris scattered around, so he decided to empty the trash cans and clean up the mess. While he was cleaning up he came across a tree which had fallen obstructing a handicapped accessible

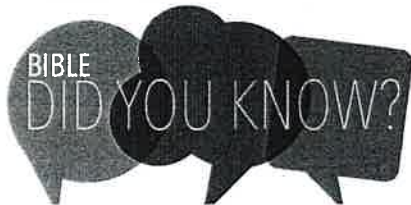
pathway, and decided to get his chainsaw and clear it out. He was pushing a lawnmower cutting the grass near the Lincoln Memorial when park police noticed him working and asked him to leave. Reading the story, I couldn't help but smile, and think how in the midst of all the frustration, arguing, accusing, and name-calling, someone decided to focus on stepping up to fill in the gaps which needed attention and do something positive and helpful. I found myself smiling at another story which was especially touching considering the more serious nature of what was needed. *"The Pentagon confirmed it will not be able*

*to pay benefits to the families of troops killed in combat until the shutdown is over. Five families of soldiers killed over the weekend in Afghanistan were denied money that would help them with burial costs, housing and other bills...Meanwhile, a private foundation is stepping forward to provide those families with an advance grant until the government funding resumes."* These stories I kept reading of individuals stepping up to help where they can be of useful service reminds me of the beauty of the serving spirit Christ teaches us to develop in the Kingdom. *"Calling them to Himself, Jesus said to them, 'You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great men exercise authority over them. But it is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all. For even the Son of*

*Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many,'" (Mk. 10:42-45).* Too often we are hindered from reflecting this quality to its fullest by thoughts like, "That's not my job..." or "Somebody else will take care of it..." Jesus corrected a lawyer who defiantly asked, *"And who is my neighbor?"* in an attempt at self-justification for restricting neighborly service within the bounds of carefully marked areas of jurisdiction with a parable about a Samaritan who filled in the gap of neglect by attending to a poor suffering victim of violent theft. *"'Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' hands?' And he said, 'The one who showed mercy toward him.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Go and do the same,'" (Lk. 10:36-37).* I love the "Here am I...send me" attitude of David when he was sent to bring food to his brothers and their commander who were supposedly in battle

with the Phillistines. When he noticed the huge gap needing filled of someone actually fighting against the warrior Goliath instead of simply staring at him in fear, he didn't use the "I'm just the cheese boy" excuse to exempt him from any sense of responsibility (1 Sam. 17:17-19). Even when his oldest brother, Eliab, tried to remind him he belonged in the field with the sheep and when Saul pointed out a battlefield was no place for a boy when Goliath was a seasoned warrior, David couldn't help but think somebody had to shut the mouth of the uncircumcised Philistine. Since no one else seemed to be willing to defend the honor of the living God, David figured, "Here am I...send me!" Chris Cox figured, "Hey, I may not be 'Authorized Personnel', but the grass needs mowed and the trash needs emptied and I've got just the tools to take care of it." When asked by a reporter why he would feel a sense of responsibility to spring into action where

others might simply notice it needs done and merely pass by, Chris responded, "Our President once said, '*Ask not what your country can do for you, but what can you do for your country.*' As a civilian, you don't get a lot of opportunities to serve your country." We have an example of our Lord Jesus springing into action performing a service that truly was not His job to do but reserved specifically for a gentile servant when He washed the disciples' feet (Jn. 13:1-11). It was in this moment that Jesus, who existed in the form of God, was not *exchanged* for the form of a servant, but was *revealed* in the form of a servant (Philip. 2:6-8). "*If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet,*" (Jn. 13:14).  
 – Daniel Ruegg



***Michael the angel is way too strong for Satan! "And there was war in heaven...The dragon and his angels waged war, and they were not strong enough," Rev. 12:7, 8***



# MONTHLY CHALLENGE

**DIRECTIONS:** Each first Sunday of the month, we will have challenges that you should attempt to complete by the end of the month. If we all, as members, complete these challenges, our church will grow in spirit and in number.

## 1) CREATE A PROSPECTIVE CHRISTIAN LIST

*Mark 16:15 "And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.'"*

Write down names of anyone you think might be open to contact and hand it to the elders, and provide contact information (e-mail, address, phone number, etc.), if available. Some of these interested people might be:

- a) church members' spouses who may not belong to our church
- b) people who have visited in the last 18 months
- c) people who have demonstrated any interest in our congregation
- d) parents of children who attend Sunday School
- e) people you work with or go to school with
- f) people at businesses you deal with on a day-to-day basis
- g) someone new to the neighborhood/new to work or school
- h) teammates

## 2) USING YOUR BIBLE IN THE WORLD

Share the following verses with someone who does not attend this congregation at least twice this month:

### *Matthew 6:25-34*

**25** "For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? **26** Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? **27** And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life? **28** And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, **29** yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. **30** But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith! **31** Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' **32** For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. **33** But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

**34** "So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.