

# TRUTH & RIGHT

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 WELLSBURG  
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## ONE SOLITARY LIFE

“He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in still another village, where he worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty. Then for three years, he was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a house. He didn’t go to college. He never visited a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where he was born. He did none of the things one usually associates with greatness. He had no credentials but himself. He was only thirty-three when the tides of public opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. He was turned over to his enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While he was dying, his executioners gambled for his

clothing, the only property he had on earth. When he was dead, he was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend. Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today he is the central figure of the human race, and the leader of mankind’s progress. All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man on earth as much as that One Solitary Life.” (Author Unknown)

Surely we owe this Christ a debt that cannot be paid by material things. We can say a lot, but words mean little without individual allegiance and personal convictions. What does He mean to YOU as an individual? Following Christ means more than just acknowledging that He lived. It

means at least three things. First, it means one must Make A Choice. After Paul told king Agrippa that God, through the prophets, had foretold “that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles” Acts 26:23.

Agrippa was forced to make a choice. Paul asked, “King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe” (v.27). Agrippa’s choice was to say, “You almost persuade me to become a Christian” (v.28). Almost has never been sufficient. Pilate was faced with a similar dilemma when he allowed the people to crucify Christ. He was unwilling to choose Christ over popularity (Matt. 27:17-26).

Secondly, following Christ means one must Make A Change. Acts 11:26 “...And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.” From the day of Pentecost people could see in the disciples of Christ a change of life. By their conduct even the enemies could only say “...and they realized that they had been with Jesus” (Acts 4:13). Later, Paul wrote of this change to the Ephesian Christians, “But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in

Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct the old man, which grows corrupt, according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in righteousness and true holiness” (Eph.4:20-24).

Thirdly, to follow Christ means one must Accept A Challenge. Peter writes to the followers of Christ: “If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you ... On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people’s matters. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter” (1Peter 4:14-16). When challenged, Christians must not fear. “Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life” (Rev. 2:10). A choice, a change and a challenge! All three must be made and met in order to truly understand, follow, and serve the One Solitary Life. **Discover the 90/10 Principle.** The 90/10 Principle can change your life by changing the way you react to situations. What it means is: 10% of life is made up of what happens to you, but 90% of life is decided by how you react. This means we really have NO control over 10% of what happens to us. You cannot

control a red light. However, you can control your reaction. Do not let people fool you. YOU can control how you react. Let us use an example: You are having breakfast with your family. Your daughter knocks over a cup of coffee onto your business shirt. You have no control over what has just happened. What happens next will be determined by how you react. You curse. You harshly scold your daughter for knocking the cup over. She breaks down in tears. After scolding her, your turn to your wife and you criticize her for placing the cup too close to the edge of the table. A short verbal battle follows. You storm upstairs and change your shirt. Back downstairs, you find your daughter has been too busy crying to finish her breakfast and getting ready to go to school. She misses the bus. Your spouse must leave immediately for work. You rush to the car and drive your daughter to school. Because you are late, you drive 45 miles per hour in a 30 mph speed limit zone. After a 15-minute delay and a \$60.00 traffic fine, you arrive at school. Your daughter runs into the building without saying goodbye. After arriving at the office 20 minutes late, you realize you forgot your briefcase. Your day has started terrible and it continues to get worse and worse. You look forward to going home. When you arrive home, you find a small wedge in your relationship with your wife and daughter. Why? It was all because of how you reacted that morning at the breakfast table. What caused the bad day? Did the coffee cause it? Did your daughter cause it? Did the policeman cause it? Did you cause it? The answer is, you caused it. You had no control over what happened with the coffee. How you reacted in those 5 seconds is what caused your bad day. Here is

what could have and should have happened: Coffee splashes over you. Your daughter is about to cry. You gently say: "It is okay, honey, you just need to be more careful next time." Grabbing a towel you go upstairs and change your shirt. You grab your briefcase, and you come back down in time to look through the window and see your child getting on the bus. She turns and waves. You arrive 5 minutes early and cheerfully greet the staff. What a difference! There were two different scenarios. Both started the same. Both ended differently, but why? The difference was your reaction. You really have no control over 10% of what happens in your life (the coffee). The other 90% was determined by YOU--your reaction. Millions of people are suffering from undeserved stress, trials, problems and headaches. We all must understand and apply the 90/10 Principle. It can change your life! Enjoy it. It only takes willpower to give ourselves permission to make the change. Absolutely everything we do, give, say, or even think is like a boomerang. It will come back to us. If we want to receive, we must first learn to give. This reminds me of the Golden Rule that Jesus gave to the world: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." - Author Unknown

# People, Places, and Things of the **BIBLE**



## *Church at Laodicea*

**Turkish** Archaeologists have uncovered majestic column heads from a First Temple-era palace at Jerusalem's Armon Hanatziv promenade, with the remnants of the ancient building going on public display for the first time on Thursday. The owner of the lavish Jerusalem mansion — which would have enjoyed a monumental view of the Old City and the Temple — remains a mystery, but archaeologists were able to date the finds back to the era of the Judean kings, due to the proto-Aeolic features of the soft limestone architecture. The finds include three complete medium-sized limestone “capitals” and items from lavish window frames, the Israel Antiquities Authority said Thursday. The column head design will appear strikingly familiar to Israelis — it adorns the five-shekel coin of the modern State of Israel in tribute to the First Temple era. “This is a very exciting discovery,” said Yaakov Billig, of the Israel Antiquities Authority. “This is a first-time discovery of scaled-down models of the giant proto-Aeolian capitals, of the kind found thus far in the Kingdoms of Judah and Israel, where they were incorporated above the royal palace gates. The level of workmanship on these capitals is the best seen preservation of the items is rare.” Experts believe the residence was built between the reigns of Kings Hezekiah and Josiah, after the Assyrian siege on the city was lifted. Residents of Jerusalem then ventured outside the walled City of David and expanded the city, said Billig. “This find, alongside the palace that was found in the past at Ramat Rachel and the administrative center found on the slopes of Arnona attest to a revival of the city and leaving the walled areas of the First Temple after the siege.”

