



F.Y.C.

For Your Consideration

God Is So Loving

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.”

John 3:16

His grace is so sufficient . . .

“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us.”

Ephesians 1:7-8

His salvation is so great . . .

“obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.”

1 Peter 1:9

His word is so powerful . . .

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

Romans 1:16

His desire for you is so earnest . . .

“who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth”

1 Timothy 2:4

His concern is so personal . . .

“Are not five sparrows sold for two cents? And yet not one of them is forgotten before God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear; you are of more value than many sparrows.”

Luke 12:6-7

His cleansing is so complete . . .

“But if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

1 John 1:7

His invitation is so warm . . .

“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls”

Matthew 11:28-29

The Race of a Lifetime

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:1-2

The art of running has come a long way over the centuries. Better training techniques and equipment have been perfected. Improved gear and shoes have lowered times dramatically. The physical, emotional and psychological aspects of coaching have become very sophisticated. All of this has aided athletes in their performance. Yet, with all the help, the individual must run the race to win.

There has been much progress made in helping people gain knowledge of God's word (the handbook for running the Race of a Lifetime). First, there was the printing press with moveable type, which made mass production of the Bible feasible. Next came typesetting machines and high speed printing presses that lowered the cost of Bibles to the point where even the poorest soul could afford a copy of the Holy Scriptures. Countless books have been written to aid in the study of the Bible. Numerous classes have been held, and are being held, to help the individual gain the knowledge of God's Word.

Living for Christ is a whole lot like running. Bible, books, and training classes are only aids which help us prepare for the Race of a Lifetime. Nothing can take the place of individual participation. While teams may win track meets, it is the individual who wins the race. This is also true in the Race of a Lifetime. There is no prize awarded to those who are members of a church

full of winners. No individual can claim credit for what "we" did unless he or she was an active participant.

In every race there are rules which must be complied with. It's same in the Race of a Lifetime. When one competes as an Christian, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules. 2 Timothy 2:5

The Race of a Lifetime is won or lost individually. This is not so say we can't or shouldn't help one another. But each person is

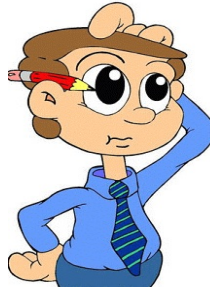


responsible for working out their own salvation. The blame for failure cannot be placed on others no more than a coach can be blamed for a runner's poor performance. Pathetic performance on the track, or in the Lord's church, can usually be chalked up to one or more of the following: (1) inadequate training, (2) little dedication, (3) lack of desire, (4) lack of self-discipline, (5) becoming encumbered with the things of this world, (6) quitting before finishing, and such like. Our performance in this Race of a Lifetime is determined by our willingness to do whatever it takes to be a winner. Therefore, with the Lord's help, run in such a way so as to gain the prize!

Be a winner in The Race of a Lifetime!

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. And everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27



Ponder This

Antique Chairs and Old Bibles

A warning sign that motorists must heed. Ignoring it can lead to serious consequences.

Do Not! Why Not?

When confronted with “do not” the usual response is “why not?” Good question. Yes, why not?

HERE'S THE ANSWER

Disobeying restrictions exposes one to serious problems that are frequently coupled with permanent consequences. Eve was told “Do not eat” of a particular tree in the Garden of Eden. She did, and the rest is history.

WHY NOT ACT HASTILY?

Do not go out hastily to argue your case; Otherwise, what will you do in the end, when your neighbor humiliates you.

Proverbs 25:8

WHY NOT ASSOCIATE?

Do not associate with a man given to anger; Or go with a hot-tempered man, or you will learn his ways And find a snare for yourself.

Proverbs 22:24-25

WHY NOT ANSWER?

Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you will also be like him.

Proverbs 26:4

WHY NOT ADD?

Do not add to His words or He will reprove you, and you will be proved a liar.

Proverbs 30:6

Someone once said the reason many antique chairs are uncomfortable is because all the comfortable chairs wore out long ago. Well, that may or may not be true, but old Bibles that have survived the years in good condition certainly didn't get much use.

Bibles that are used wear out. Even Bibles of excellent craftsmanship deteriorate when used frequently. What better sight than to see someone with a Bible showing signs of heavy use.

Better to have a Bible with the pages falling out than to have one with the pages still stuck together. An unused Bible may last a lifetime, but what good is a book that is seldom read?

Many other signs therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

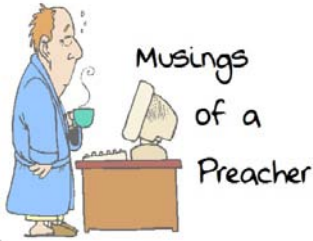
John 20:30-31

For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Romans 15:4

Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so.

Acts 17:11



His Name Was Art

He grew up in a rough neighborhood and associated with gang members. His home life was far from ideal.

He met a young girl whose family worshiped where I preached. He started coming to services with them. After some time he obeyed the Gospel.

He was admonished to stay away from his old friends and he did so for a while. But on one occasion he was with an old friend and they committed a crime. He was sentenced to a year in prison.

I visited him often and stressed that when he was released he needed to stay far away from such friends.

After his release, he seemed to be doing better. That is, until I received a phone call telling me that he had been killed while robbing a gas station with an old friend. How tragic!

Why am I writing this? To graphically impress on the minds of young people these truths:

Bad friends will influence you.

Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."
1 Corinthians 15:33

New ways of living must replace old ways, or you will revert to the old ways.

"When the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and not finding any, it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when it comes, it finds it swept and put in order. Then it goes and takes along seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first."

Luke 11:24-26

A Very Important Two-letter Word

It's found in each of the following Scriptures. What is it?

Jesus therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine."

John 8:31

Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:1-2

What use is it, my brethren, if a man says he has faith, but he has no works? Can that faith save him?

James 2:14

And as they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?" And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch; and he baptized him.

Acts 8:36-38

"For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions."

Matthew 6:14-15

ANSWER:

IF: on the condition that; in the event that.

F.Y.C. is a monthly publication by Ron Adams.

Bible references are from the NASB except where another translation is referenced.

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Be thoughtful and kind.

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