



Roll Call of Ordinary Christians

Hebrews chapter 11 is often referred to as “The Role Call of the Old Testament Faithful” and rightly so. There are other individuals that are mentioned often in the New Testament: the Apostles, Paul, Timothy, Titus, Mark, Luke, Barnabas. But many unnamed Christians were busy doing what they could where they were. In Romans chapter 16, we are given the names of some. I prefer to call this the “Roll Call of Ordinary Christians” – true foot soldiers of the cross.

Phoebe, who is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea . . . **Prisca and Aquila**, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who for my life risked their own necks . . . **Epaenetus**, my beloved, who is the first convert to Christ from Asia . . . **Mary**, who has worked hard for you ... **Andronicus and Junias**, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners, who are outstanding among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me ... **Ampliatius**, my beloved in the Lord ... **Urbanus**, our fellow worker in Christ ... **Stachys** my beloved . . . **Apelles**, the approved in Christ . . . the household of **Aristobulus** ... **Herodion**, my kinsman . . . the household of **Narcissus**, who are in the Lord . . . **Tryphaena** and **Tryphosa**, workers in the Lord ... **Persis** the beloved, who has worked hard in the Lord . . . **Rufus**, a choice man in the Lord, also his mother and mine . . . **Asyncritus**, **Phlegon**, **Hermes**, **Patrobas**, **Hermas** and the brethren with them . . . **Philologus** and **Julia** . . . **Nereus** and his sister . . . **Olympas** . . . and all the saints who are with them.

Doing What You Can Where You Are

Today, many Christians are busy doing what they can where they are. We may not notice them or hear what they have done, but their work makes a world of difference. Their names will rarely, if ever, appear in the church’s bulletin or be mentioned from the pulpit. They don’t do it to be praised by men but by God. Thank God for the “foot soldiers” in each congregation.

A word of appreciation now and then encourages them tremendously. It shows that others value their efforts.

Note: They may not be prominent, but their absence would be very noticeable.

IT'S ALL ABOUT LIVING

“If you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?”

WHAT EVIDENCE COULD BE USED TO CONVICT SOMEONE?

Someone calling himself a Christian.

Rebuttal: Many who aren't His disciples casually make this claim.

Someone assembling with others who call themselves Christians.

Rebuttal: Some who aren't Christians assemble for various reasons.

Someone being a member of a church.

Rebuttal: Membership and discipleship are not necessarily the same.

Having the appearance of being a Christian is not enough to convict one as being a true disciple “beyond reasonable doubt.”

APPEARANCE

“Christian” is better **demonstrated** (actions) than **defined**.

Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. 1 John 3:18

Outward appearance and inward quality may differ.

Matthew 23

:2 The scribes and Pharisees taught things but didn't do them.

:5 They did all their deeds to be noticed by men.

:14 They devoured widows' houses, and for a pretense made long prayers.

:16-22 They found clever ways to circumvent keeping their vows.

:23 They were scrupulous in tithing, but neglected justice, mercy, faithfulness.

:28 **They outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly were full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.**

“For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:20

*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his **deeds in the body, according to what he has done**, whether good or bad.*

2 Corinthians 5:10

JUDGMENT

Will there be enough evidence to convince The righteous judge to say “enter in?”

In the judgment scene (Matthew 25:31-45) notice the difference between the two groups:

Those on the right hand: **“when you did”** and those on the left: **“to the extent that you did not do.”**

IT'S ALL ABOUT LIVING FOR JESUS

Every day faithfully, lovingly, serving Him from the heart.

*The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, **practice** these things, and the God of peace will be with you.* Philippians 4:9



WORD STUDY

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DEEDS OF THE FLESH

Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, **enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.**

Galatians 5:19-21

The deeds in **bold face type** are ones that cause interpersonal problems. The other deeds seem more atrocious, however, the ones listed below are those which are at the root of most congregational problems.

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**enmities:** "hatred." The opposite of agape, "love."

**strife:** contention, the expression of enmity,

**jealousy:** resentfully or painfully desirous of another's advantages.

**outbursts of anger:** anger boiling up and soon subsiding again.

**disputes:** a partisan and contentious spirit.

**dissensions:** divisions; refusal to conform to authority or doctrine.

**factions:** parties, into which divisions crystallize.

**envying:** a feeling of discontent and resentment aroused by and in conjunction with desire for the possessions or qualities of another.



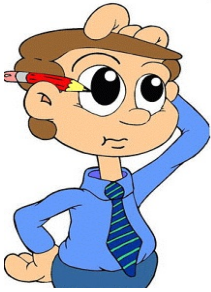
Pearls  
from  
Proverbs

### Pleasant Speech

- 15:1 *A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.*
- 15:23 *A man has joy in an apt answer, and how delightful is a timely word!*
- 16:21 *The wise in heart will be called discerning, and sweetness of speech increases persuasiveness.*
- 16:24 *Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.*
- 25:11-12 *Like apples of gold in settings of silver is a word spoken in right circumstances. Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold is a wise reprov-er to a listening ear.*
- 25:15 *By forbearance a ruler may be persuaded, and a soft tongue breaks the bone.*

### FEW WORDS

- 10:19 *When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, but he who restrains his lips is wise.*
- 12:23 *A prudent man conceals knowledge, but the heart of fools proclaims folly.*
- 13:3 *The one who guards his mouth preserves his life; The one who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.*
- 17:27-28 *He who restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding. Even a fool, when he keeps silent, is considered wise; When he closes his lips, he is counted prudent.*
- 18:13 *He who gives an answer before he hears, it is folly and shame to him.*



# Ponder This

## EXCUSES

We are not excused from doing what God wants us to do just because we don't like it, we would rather do something else, or think it to be unfair.

The one who wants to do something looks for a way.

The one who doesn't want to do something looks for an excuse.

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When you don't want to do something, one excuse is as good as another.

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Most people who are failures are experts at making excuses.

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For every sin Satan is ready to provide an excuse.

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Being busy with other things than His is no excuse.

*"A certain man was giving a big dinner, and he invited many; and at the dinner hour he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for everything is ready now.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first one said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land and I need to go out and look at it; please consider me excused.' And another one said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please consider me excused.' And another one said, 'I have married a wife, and for that reason I cannot come. . . 'For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste of my dinner.'"*

Luke 14:16-20,24

## MAY DAY

The Mayday call sign was originated in 1923 by Frederick Stanley Mockford of England. He was asked to think of a word that would indicate distress and would easily be understood by all pilots and ground staff in an emergency. He proposed the word "Mayday" from the French m'aidez "help me!" because most of the traffic was between England and France.

- answers.yahoo.com

### New Testament Distress Calls

*And a Canaanite woman from that region came out and began to cry out, saying, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is cruelly demon-possessed." But He did not answer her a word ... But she came and began to bow down before Him, saying, "Lord, help me!"* Matthew 15:22,25

*"[The father said] It has often thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!" And Jesus said to him, "If You can?" All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the boy's father cried out and said, "I do believe; help my unbelief."* Mark 9:22, 24

*A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."* Acts 16:9

### Their distress calls were answered! And the Lord hears the 'mayday' calls of the righteous.

*For the eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous, and His ears attend to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.*

I Peter 3:12

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