



# The Tri-Cities Edifier

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## Wherefore Sighest Thou?

Roger Bruner

Do problems abound in your life? Does it seem that your life is just one challenge after another? Take heart; the only people who don't have troubles are in cemeteries. In reality, the life of a Christian would be for the worse if not for struggles.

Steve Goodier shared the following story:

Maybe you have seen the Great Barrier Reef, stretching some 1,800 miles from New Guinea to Australia. Tour guides regularly take visitors to view the reef. On one tour, the guide was asked an interesting question. "I notice that the lagoon side of the reef looks pale and lifeless, while the ocean side is vibrant and colorful," a traveler observed. "Why is this?"

The guide gave an interesting answer: "The coral around the lagoon side is in still water, with no challenge for its survival. It dies early. The coral on the ocean side is constantly being tested by wind, waves, and storms — surges of power. It must fight for survival every day. As it is challenged and tests, it changes and adapts. It grows healthy and strong and it reproduces." Then he added this telling note: "That's the way it is with every living organism."

For Christians, through physical demands, our strength increases. Mental and emotional stress produce tough-mindedness and resilience. Likewise, spiritual testing brings health and strength to our faith. The benefit? We live by our faith rather than by sight (**2 Corinthians 5.7**). Let us value God's wisdom in providing the means whereby we can escape the corruption that is in the world by lust. It is called "*adding to*" our faith (**2 Peter 1.4-9**).

Somerset, KY 12/7/25

## Improve Your Life

Frank Himmel

1. Turn off the TV and read your Bible. The Psalmist said of the blessed man, "*His delight is in the law of the Lord, and in his law he meditates day and night*" (**Psalm 1.2**).
2. Hang up the phone and pray. I never cease to be amazed at how much time some people spend on their cell phones. Is all that talking necessary or profitable? "*Pray without ceasing*" (**1 Thessalonians 5.17**). "*The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much*" (**James 5.16**).
3. Get up out of bed an hour earlier and come to Bible study on Sunday. "*As the door turns on its hinges, so does the sluggard on his bed*" (**Proverbs 26.14**).
4. Cut down your credit card purchases and give. Give to the poor. Increase your contribution at church. "*One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his good deed*" (**Proverbs 19.17**). "*It is more blessed to give than to receive*" (**Acts 20.35**).
5. Change the conversation from sports, weather, and politics to spiritual things. Do that at home. "*These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up*" (**Deuteronomy 6.6-7**). Do that at work, too. "*He who wins souls is wise*" (**Proverbs 11.30**).

# More Than A Ritual

Michael W. McLemore

What's the difference between a hollow habit and holy hunger? Answer: One goes through motions; the other meets the Master. The church at Corinth had reduced the sacred supper to selfish ceremony. Some feasted. Others were famished, and Christ was forgotten in the frenzy, 1 Corinthians 11:21. Paul pulls back the curtain and reveals something richer, deeper, and far more radiant. The memorial surpasses ritual. It is a living, breathing, soul-stirring encounter with Jesus.

**It's a Proclamation** — a bold broadcast. "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death," 11:26. Every bite of bread and sip of cup is a sermon: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ reigns. Like the early church, who "devoted themselves...to the breaking of bread," we declare with gathered voices and visible faith that Jesus lives, Acts 2:42. Our participation preaches when our lips fall silent.

**It's a Perpetual Reminder.** "As often as" speaks to repetition. We are prone to drift, quick to forget, easily distracted. Yet Jesus commands, "Do this in remembrance of me," Luke 22:19. The Table becomes heaven's divine reset — a summons back to Calvary. It rescues us from spiritual sleep and stirs us to grateful remembrance. In a world of unrelenting noise, Communion calls us to silent reflection and renewed devotion.

**It's a Prophetic Hope.** Paul adds a phrase that lifts our eyes upward: "until he comes," 11:26. The Supper stretches our souls between two certainties — the cross behind us and the crown before us. We remember a finished work and anticipate a future return. Jesus promised, "I will not drink...until the kingdom of God comes," Luke 22:18. Every observance proclaims, He is coming again!

Make the Supper more than mere habit. Come consciously, never casually. Come reverently, not reluctantly. Proclaim boldly. Remember deeply. Hope eagerly. This is more than ritual. It is a rendezvous with redemption, until He comes.

Weatherly Weekly, Huntsville, Alabama

## To Capture Hearts...

*Robert F. Turner*

Having spent many years trying to bring men to Christ, and pondering repeated failures, I have drawn a few conclusions from experience. We may have trusted the story of the cross too little, and our teaching ability too much. We have relied heavily upon the assumption that if we could teach men what to do, they would do it. There is something to do all right, but there will be little **doing** (and none that is valid) until the subject is made aware of a need, believes in a remedy, and desires the result of doings. Information may be adequate, but **motivation** may be lacking.

Motive is that within the individual, rather than without, which incites him to action. Peter's sermon on Pentecost made the hearers aware of circumstances which produced self-judgment — we have killed the long-awaited Messiah. What shall we do? Under these conditions the answer can be brief and to the point. There was no need for charts, diagrams, and argumentative sermons on baptism.

This is no indictment of defense and proclamation of doctrinal details. Where such differences exist, and are the deterrent to full obedience, they must be thrashed out. But in many cases if we would expend greater efforts to convince men of their true status before a righteously indignant God, we would not have to press so fruitlessly the details of His will. A man who realizes he is drowning does not argue about the color of the life buoy thrown to him.

We strive for men's **hearts**: casting down man's evil reasonings, his pride, and bringing into captivity his thoughts (2 Cor. 10:4-5) to the obedience of Christ. If we are more interested in winning an argument than in saving a soul, we will certainly fail in the latter, and probably in the former. We are trying to win a man, not **whip him**.

To change the attitude of others, so that they will be open and receptive to the gospel of Christ, we may first have to revise **our** attitude. We must somehow become one with the Lord Jesus, who **loved** and **sacrificed Himself** for mankind; not because we were lovely, but while we were sinners.