

Heart to Heart

Devotional Thoughts for Women

February 2016

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Conspicuous Christianity

An interesting Internet headline caught my attention recently: “These celebrities are devoutly Christian – and you probably didn't even realize it.” At first glance, one may think, “Hey, that's great that there are celebrities out there who believe in God.” But look closely at the headline again. Do you see anything wrong with that statement?

If we belong to Christ, there are identifying signs that let others around us know without a shadow of a doubt that we are His. Remember the words to the children's song, “This Little Light of Mine”?

This little Christian light of mine, I'm going to let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm going to let it shine!

Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:14-16, “*You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*”

The headline caught my attention because it contained such a contradiction. One cannot truthfully claim to be “devoutly Christian” but live her life in such a way that no one would ever realize it. Are we ever guilty of the following?...

- 1) **Blending in with the world by the way we talk** – Lying, crude speech, profanity, euphemisms, gossip, and taking the Lord's name in vain are all marks of speech belonging to people of the world but not to God. Proverbs 30:5 tells us that “*Every word of God is pure.*” If we claim to be a Christian, then there is no room in our lives for unholy talk of any kind.
- 2) **Blending in with the world by the way we dress** –

This is not just exclusive to celebrities, but sadly, it is evident among Christian woman today. Immodest dress that does not honor God, but rather seeks to draw attention and affirmation from the world. In I Timothy 2:9, the apostle Paul writes, *“In like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation...”* Modest apparel is always demanded of daughters of God, but this particular verse is actually addressing how women should be dressed for public worship. The world may be touting skinny jeans, short shorts, low necklines and hiked up hemlines, but if we claim to be a Christian, there is no place in our closets or on our bodies for clothing such as these.

- 3) Blending in with the world because we fear and fail to be devout** - A definition of devout is to be *totally committed to a belief*. We will fail every day to let our light shine for Christ if we are not all in. Christianity is a total commitment, not a weekend pastime. God calls us to a life of holiness. Not moments of holiness, or “when I feel like it” holiness but a complete, all-encompassing life of holiness. I Peter 1:16 tells us to, *“be holy for I am holy.”* Being “devoutly Christian” would indicate that one is living a life of holiness 24/7 because there is a total commitment to Christ. If we claim to be a Christian, there is no room in our hearts for fear or failing to be devout.

Christians should never be blending in with the world and going unnoticed because the Lord expects and commands that His children be conspicuous. We are distinctly different because we are called out of the world and set apart for holiness. II Corinthians 6:17a says, *“Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord.”*

Do others in the world around you see your light shining for Christ every day? Are you a conspicuous Christian?

~Heather Pryor

“He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.” ~I John 2:6

Ladies Bible Class – February 27th at 9:00 a.m. We are continuing a study on prayer titled “Unto Thee, O Lord.” (Yellow folders) Read and do the January assignments before class. Please bring your Bible and a breakfast item to share.

Ladies Bible Class #2 – We have received a gracious invitation to attend the ladies class at Pinellas Park church of Christ. Class meets each Friday at 1:00 p.m. For more information, call 727-544-8920 or 727-544-6918.

Search the Scriptures

“ Scripture Matching”

Match the verse on the left with its correct reference on the right.

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| _____ 1. “I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ...” | a. Leviticus 11:44 |
| _____ 2. “Fear not for I have redeemed you. I have called you by your name.” | b. Colossians 4:6 |
| _____ 3. “You shall be holy for I am holy.” | c. Romans 1:16 |
| _____ 4. “Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt...” | d. I Peter 3:4 |
| _____ 5. “the incorruptible ornament of a gentle and quiet spirit...” | e. Isaiah 43:1 |

Answers to Last Month's Quiz

“Be Prepared”

What is/was being prepared in each of the following verses?

1. Psalm 23:5 A table in the presence of my enemies
2. John 14:2 A home in heaven for us
3. Mark 1:3 The way of the Lord
4. Psalm 80:8-9 Room for the nation of Israel to grow
5. Hebrews 11:16 A city prepared by God

RECIPE CORNER

"She...provides food for her household." ~Prov. 31:15

Thanks to Beverly Bussinger for sharing these great recipes!

BROCCOLI CAULIFLOWER SALAD

- 2 medium heads of broccoli (florets)
- 1/2 head cauliflower
- 3 large scallions, diced
- 1/2 cup sunflower seeds
- 4 slices bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup vinegar
- 1/4 cup sugar

In a large bowl, mix together the broccoli, cauliflower, scallions and sunflower seeds. In a small bowl, blend together the mayonnaise, vinegar, and sugar. Pour mixture over salad and toss to coat. Before serving, sprinkle salad with crumbled bacon. Yield: 6 servings

*Here's a great recipe that makes enough to share some sweetness with a lot of people this Valentine's Day!

WHITE CHOCOLATE PARTY MIX

- 2 cups rice, corn, wheat Chex
- 2 cups Crispex
- 2 cups Honey Nut Cheerios
- 2 cups Golden Grahams
- 2 cups stick pretzels
- 1 cup pecans
- 1 cup almonds
- 1 cup walnuts
- 1 cup cashews
- 1 cup unsalted peanuts
- 32 oz. white chocolate

In a large turkey pan, combine all of the cereal, nuts, and pretzels. Melt white chocolate in double boiler. Pour chocolate over mixture and toss like a salad. Let it sit 6-8 hours uncovered. Toss again to break up pieces. Cover with a garbage bag. Allow to sit 24-48 hours. Toss again to break up clumps. Place in quart jars. Freezes great.