

# NOT IN WORD ONLY

by **Randy Nusbaum**

No religion has ever lived up to its idea of God. What makes what we teach different is that we have no religion but a life. He in us is able to live up to the standard of our God, for He is God.

A religion of high ideals is of no value if it cannot be lived or if it is not lived. Why teach something that cannot be done? *Love neighbor, lay down life, Christ liveth in me*. We preach it because it is our brand of religion. We strictly adhere to it in our sharing and preaching, but we compromise it when the high ideals are expected to be lived.

People do not seem to mind their religion not being able to match up with their beliefs. It is acceptable to live below what is taught. But in our case it is not acceptable because of the nature and magnitude of what we teach. To preach *Christ liveth in me* and then to cringe, flinch and run when commitment, involvement and sacrifice is called for is hypocrisy. But it is also something else. It is religion. The gospel to this person is high standards. The beliefs are not based on the Christ that is but on a religion of lofty ideals, principles, and terminology. A gathering of deeper life teachers or followers can never be a replacement for believers who are consumed by the knowledge that "the life which I now live in the flesh" (Galatians 2:20) is that of another. It is motivated by the knowledge of another. It does not live its life by the belief of high ideals but by the faith of the Son of God who lives in him. The life that many live in the flesh is the flesh. They feel, justified in knowing that their religious beliefs are of higher caliber than their actions. Either we teach one of the deepest messages found in the church and live in the flesh, or we preach Christ and live Christ.

What is our concept of God? Many will immediately begin to frame pictures of this might God in their minds. But God is not a concept. Also, our concept of Him should not be made God. To know the true God is to live Him or rather by the faith of Him. Why? To know Christ as He is, is to have had Him revealed in you (Galatians 1:16). The revelation of Christ crucified eliminates any hope for your life but establishes His.

We do not have a relationship with a concept. There is no communion between us and our religion. We are to commune with our Father through the Spirit of Christ. It *is* possible for our religion to reach unto our concept of God but only if our religion is not in word but a life and only if our concept of God is as an awareness of Him as He truly is and not as we have conceived Him to be.

You may have noticed that I have not described the Lord as *He is* for you. Only you can come to know Jesus as He is. Only a hungry heart that throws off religious concepts and seeks the living God can know. The one who awakens to the knowledge of his sonship will find his Father. Oh, to know that "*as He is, so are we in this world* ." (I John 4:17) Jesus is not our religion but our life. The body is not a gathering on Sunday but a living, functioning organism. And we are not our own for we were bought with a price. (I Corinthians 6:20) How is it that we can embrace these truths and yet our lives are not changed by them? It is because these truths are religion to us and not life in us.

Our religion has left us like the dry bones of Ezekiel 37. The question arises, "Can these bones live?" (verse 3) But the reply is, "Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost; we are cut off for our parts (on our part)." (verse 11) The difference between dry bones and a functioning body is life: "Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live." (verse 5)

We must cry out for the breath of God. "Then shall we know, if we follow on th know the Lord...." (Hosea 6:3) Our God is alive and He should be alive in us and we should live by Him. \*\*\*