

Follow Jesus: Certify That God is True

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John the immerser told his disciples, *“He who has received His (Jesus’) testimony has certified that God is true”* (John 3:33). John may well have been referring to himself as one who had received Jesus’ testimony, thereby certifying that God is true. But the general principle remains that when we follow Jesus, believing what He said and obeying what He taught, we certify that God is true.

“Certify” literally means to set one’s seal upon something to verify that it is authentic. Today we use a Notary Public to insure that the signatures on a document are valid rather than forgeries.

Of course God is true (authentic, correct) whether we respond to Him in the right way or not. But when we believe and obey Jesus we are, in effect, casting our vote for God.

The apostle John wrote, *“he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son”* (1 John 5:10). Now obviously, God is not a liar! But see the implication of John’s words. To “make” God a liar is to consider Him so, or to imply that He is such. Those who reject the teaching of Jesus are, in effect, calling God a liar! Who would want to be guilty of such a thing? Yet multitudes, by reason of their failure to believe and obey Christ, are implying that God is a liar, whether they mean to do so or not.

Are you certifying that God is true by your faith and obedience?

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“Worship is not something done on the outside to ‘impress.’ It comes from the inside to ‘express.’
--Jimmy Jividen (deceased) *Worship in Song*, p. 11

BROKEN WINDOWS

Rudy Guiliani is probably the best known (former) mayor in the United States. He reduced crime a lot in New York City during his term in office. One of the ways he was able to do that was by applying the "Broken Window Theory." This theory is that if you take care of the small things, the bigger things will take care of themselves.

The broken window theory is that a broken window can trigger the downward spiral of a once proud structure. One shattered pane, left un-repaired, causes area residents to feel a sense of abandonment. They begin to believe that the owner of the building does not care about them or the building. Soon there is litter and junk collecting in the doorways and "there goes the neighborhood."

Mr. Guiliani started with the “squeegee guys” - those people who run up to your car at a traffic light, wash your window with dirty water and rags, squeegee it off, and then demand some money.

Then he went after the people who jump the turnstiles to keep from having to pay at the subways. They found that many of these petty criminals were also felons and drug pushers.

Most of us have many good things in our lives, but we find life to be hectic and exhausting. Maybe some of that is caused by "broken windows" in your life.

Little things matter. When you attack the small problems in your life, you gain the advantage over much bigger problems as well.

--Dennis Russell (Santa Maria, CA)

“You have been faithful over a few things; I will make you ruler over many things” (Matthew 25:23).

AGE IS NOT THE ISSUE

David was a youth when he defeated Goliath (1 Sam 17:33). Jeremiah was a youth when he was called to be a prophet (Jer 1:6). Timothy was a youth when Paul left him to care for the church at Ephesus (1 Tim 4:12). We are never too young to serve the Lord.

Moses was 80 and Aaron 82 when they were called to lead the people out of Egypt (Ex 7:7). Caleb was 85 when he conquered Hebron (Jos 14:10). Anna was at least 84 when she told everyone about the birth of Jesus (Lk 2:36ff). We are never too old to serve the Lord.

August 3 of last year marked fifty years from the first time I led a song in public worship. Next year will mark fifty years since I preached my first sermon. It seems unlikely that I will still be able to sing or preach fifty years from now, but if I am able, I hope you know what I will be doing. Age is not the issue.

Health is sometimes an issue. Often, as we grow older, we just cannot do what we would love to do. But age is not the issue.

Last summer, the church lawn was mowed by a 90-year-old. At Cascade Christian, E.W. McMillian was still teaching Bible classes at the age of 90.

Lack of training can sometimes be an issue. I heard a really good lesson given by a teenager a few years ago, and a really terrible lesson given about the same time by a man in his fifties. The youth had taken advantage of opportunities to learn; the older man had not.

What is our issue? We might have a health issue; we might have a training issue; we might have an attitude issue, but we do not have an age issue. Our God is timeless. Age is never an issue with him. It is never too early and never too late to serve him.

“Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, ‘I have no pleasure in them’” (Eccle 12:1, ESV).

“So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come” (Psalm 71:18, ESV).

--Thayer Salisbury (Toledo, OH)