

**Interactive Worship:
Lessons from the Life of Christ in Regard to Having:
Nothing to Prove, Nothing to Hide
& Nothing to Lose**

Grover's Last Favorite Hymn: *Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone*

Must Jesus bear the cross alone, And all the world go free?
No, there's a cross for everyone, And there's a cross for me.

The consecrated cross I'll bear, Till He shall set me free;
And then go home my crown to wear, For there's a crown for me.

Early in the morning before his surgery, I talked with Grover. And knowing what was ahead of him, he said, "Oh, Garry, How wonderful God is. I can go through this holding my Papa's hand. And whatever happens, it is all right with me. If I live, I will continue to tell people about my Father, and if it's time for a good night's sleep, I'm ready for that too."

That's the same thing the Apostle Paul said when his life was about to end. He said, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

If we are living "in Christ" we have nothing to fear when it comes to closing our eyes for the last time. I've heard Gary, on a couple of occasions, say, "I'm not afraid of dying." And I agree with him. For those who are living their lives each day "in Christ", death is just a good night's sleep until Jesus comes back with our wake-up call. I'm not afraid of dying; but the process you go to get to that point, I need to tell you, that I'm not real excited about that. That process of dying, that process we will go through that leads to the good night's sleep in Christ, I'm really not looking forward to that.

But when that happens, God will take me through those circumstances. He will take me through those circumstances for only two reasons: 1) To help me to GROW even closer to Him, or, 2) To help me to GLOW: to show some of His other children what it means to die, by faith, trusting in God.

Grover's Favorite Hymn prior to *Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone* was another good one. It was *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*:

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O, take and seal it; Seal it for Thy courts above.

For the last 3 or 4 years, when Grover woke up in the morning, he would say, "I love You, Father. Now, here's my heart, O, take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above." God sealed Grover's heart officially on Friday, Nov. 26/06. But unofficially, Grover's heart had been sealed long before he went to sleep that Friday morning.

What is the sealing of God?

"Just as soon as the people of God are sealed in their foreheads – it is not any seal or mark that can be seen, but a settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved – just as

soon as God's people are sealed and prepared for the shaking, it will come. Indeed, it has begun already." -4 BC, 1161 (What would you call the opposite of the unpardonable sin?)

Self Evaluation: (to see where I am in the sealing process.) Here is one way to measure your life.

Those who are truly sealed will have:

- 1) Nothing to Prove ("In the heart of Christ...." motivation factors: need for approval & fear of failure)
- 2) Nothing to Hide
- 3) Nothing to Lose

What can we learn from the example of Christ in regard to having: Nothing to prove, nothing to hide and nothing to lose?

Draw some conclusions about Christ's life then apply them to our lives today.

Support Documentation from the Life of Christ

As Christ's followers, everything we do (or don't do) should be validated by the example of what Jesus did (or didn't do). His life is the only safe filter for us to use in measuring our thoughts, motives, words and deeds.

Study carefully the divine-human character, and constantly inquire, "What would Jesus do were He in my place" This should be the measurement of our duty. -MH, 491

Christ lived in such a way that He had:

Nothing to Prove:

In the heart of Christ where reigned perfect harmony with God, there was perfect peace. He was never elated by applause nor dejected by censure and disappointment. Amidst the greatest opposition and most cruel treatment, He was still of good courage. -DA, 330

While His manners were gentle and unassuming, He impressed men with a sense of power that was hidden, yet could not be wholly concealed. -MH, 51

God places no value on outward display or boasting. Many, who in this life are looked upon as superior to others, will one day see that God values men according to their compassion and self-denial. . . . Those who follow the example of Him who went about doing good, who help and bless their fellow men, trying always to lift them up, are in God's sight infinitely higher than the selfish ones who exalt themselves. -Amazing Grace, 67

Lucifer thought that he was himself a favorite in heaven among the angels....He gloried in his loftiness.... Angels that were loyal and true sought to reconcile this mighty, rebellious angel to the will of his Creator.... They clearly set forth that Christ was the Son of God; and that He had ever stood at the right hand of God and His mild loving authority had not heretofore been questioned. -SR, 15

In that life no noisy disputation (fond of arguing), no ostentatious (showiness) worship, no act to gain applause (approval or praise), was ever witnessed. Christ was hid in God, and God was revealed in the character of His Son. To this revelation Jesus desired the minds of the people to be directed. -MH, 32

The Savior has said of Himself, “The Son can do NOTHING of Himself;” “the Father that dwelleth in Me, He doeth the works.” (John 5:19; 14:10)

Nothing to Hide:

Behold the Son of God bowed in prayer to His Father! Though He is the Son of God, He strengthens His faith by prayer, and by communion with heaven gathers to Himself power to resist evil and to minister to the needs of men. –GW, 510

The life of Jesus was a life of constant trust, sustained by continual communion; and His service for heaven and earth was without failure or faltering. –Ed, 80

If we are following Christ, His merits, imputed to us, come up before the Father as sweet odor. And the graces of our Savior’s character, implanted in our hearts, will shed around us a precious fragrance. –5T, 174

Those whose hearts have been moved by the convicting Spirit of God see that there is NOTHING good in themselves. They see that ALL they have ever done is mingled with self and sin. –MB, 7

Jesus, the precious Savior, the pattern man, was firm as a rock where truth and duty were concerned. And His life was a perfect illustration of true courtesy. Kindness and gentleness gave fragrance to His character. –ML, 242

Nothing to Lose:

The disciples... Jesus often released for a season, that they might visit their homes and rest; but in vain were their efforts to draw Him away from His labors. All day He ministered to the throngs that came to Him, and at eventide, or in the early morning, He went away to the sanctuary of the mountains for communion with His Father. –MH, 55 (Jesus had “tunnel vision.” All He had time for was God’s call for His life.)

He loved to hold communion with His Father.... Christ found comfort and joy in communion with His Father. Here He could unburden His heart of the sorrows that were crushing Him. –2T, 201

In one way only could such a life be sustained. Jesus lived in dependence upon God and in communion with Him. –Ed, 80

Those with whom God has entrusted His truth, must possess the same beneficent spirit that Christ manifested.... They must hold all they have – property, mental powers, spiritual strength – as not their own, but only lent them to advance the cause of Christ on earth. –GW, 335

The Father’s presence encircled Christ, and nothing befell Him but that which infinite love permitted for the blessing of the world. Here was His source of comfort, and it is for us. He who is imbued with the Spirit of Christ abides in Christ. The blow that is aimed at him falls upon the Savior; who surrounds him with His presence. What ever comes to him comes from Christ. He has no need to resist evil, for Christ is his defense. Nothing can touch him except by our Lord’s permission, and ‘All things’ that are permitted ‘work together for good to them that love God.’ (Romans 8:28) –MB, p. 71

Miscellaneous Quotes:

Even Christ during His life on earth sought His Father daily for fresh supplies of needed grace; and from this communion with God He went forth to strengthen and bless others. –GW, 510

Often His incessant labor and the conflict with the enmity and false teaching of the rabbis left Him so utterly wearied that His mother and brothers, and even His disciples, feared that His life would be sacrificed. But as He returned from the hours of prayer that closed the day, they marked the look of peace upon His face, the freshness and life and power that seemed to pervade His whole being. –MH, 55

Jesus endured agony which required help and support from His Father. –2T 508

Love for God, zeal for His glory, and love for fallen humanity, brought Jesus to earth to suffer and to die. This was the controlling power of His life. This principle He bids us adopt. {DA 329.3}

Christ has thrown His divine arm around the human race. He has brought His divine power to man, that He might encourage the poor, sin-sick, discouraged soul to reach up for a higher life. O, we need more of Christ's spirit, and much less of self! We need the converting power of God upon our hearts daily.... Christ can change you into His likeness, if you will submit yourself to Him. –GW, 336

It is by loving Him, copying Him, depending wholly upon Him, that you are to be transformed into His likeness. –SC, 70

If we ever attain unto holiness, it will be through the renunciation of self and the reception of the MIND OF CHRIST. –MB, 143

Notwithstanding the defects of the people of God, Christ does not turn away from the objects of His care.... He places upon the repenting believing ones His own robe of righteousness, and writes pardon against their names on the records of heaven. He confesses them as His before the heavenly universe. –COL, 169 (Note: Everybody needs a Big Brother like the One we have)

He is our example. If we could remember
This, and imitate him, we would be much stronger in God. –2T, 202