

January 7, 2024

Standing Alone

by George Slover

The following is from *Life, Letters and Sermons of T.B. Larimore*, pg. 147,148

It is human to stand with the crowd; divine to stand alone. It is man-like to follow the people, to drift with the tide; God-like to follow a principle, to stem the tide. It is natural to compromise conscience and follow social and religious fashions for the sake of gain or pleasure; divine to defy fashion and sacrifice both gain and pleasure – worldly glory, too- on the altar of truth and duty.

“No man stood with me, all men forsook me,” wrote the battle-scared apostle Paul describing his first appearance before Nero, to answer for his life for believing and teaching contrary to the Roman world. Loyalty and truth have been out of fashion since man changed his robe of fadeless light for a garment of faded leaves.

Noah built and voyaged alone. His neighbors laughed, doubtless, at his strangeness and perished in style. Abraham wandered and worshipped alone. Sodomites smiled at the simple shepherd, followed the fashion and fed the flames. Daniel dined and prayed alone. Elijah sacrificed and witnessed alone. Jeremiah prophesied and wept alone. Jesus lived and died alone.

Of the lonely way his disciples should walk, he said, “strait is the gate, and

narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” Of their treatment by the many who walk in the broad way, he said, “If ye were of the world, the world would love its own; because ye are not of the world, therefore the world hateth you.”

The church in the wilderness praised Abraham and persecuted Moses. The church of the Kings praised Moses and persecuted the prophets. Caiaphas praised the prophets and persecuted Christ. The church of the popes praised the Savior and persecuted the saints. And multitudes now, both in the church and in the world, applaud the courage of the patriarchs and prophets, the apostles, and martyrs; but condemn as stubbornness, ignorance or foolishness, like faithfulness to truth and duty today.

Wanted, today: Men and women, young and old, who will obey their convictions of truth and duty at the cost of fame, fortune, friends, and life itself.

God's Workmanship

by George Slover

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10)

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Ladies' Class - Tuesday, January 9 at 10 a.m.

Memorial Service for Harold Hammons is scheduled for January 13 at 10:30 a.m. at the building

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

Prayer Requests

There are some who have the wonderful talent of writing poetry. The words just seem to flow easily from the heart to the pen. The poet can paint a wonderful portrait in words. They can stir such emotion as loneliness, strength, excellence, perseverance, sorrow, anger, or admiration. Did you know that God is a poet? His product is written on tablets of the human heart. (II Corinthians 3:2,3)

In the above passage the word “workmanship” is translated from the Greek word poieema. It is obviously the word we transliterate “poetry”. Paul says God’s people are his poetry. Anyone who walks by the works God has appointed in Christ manifests a life written by that hand of God!

The meter of this poem is guided by such themes as love, (Ephesians 5:2) and light (Ephesians 5:8). Each verse and line should include traits of honesty (Ephesians 4:25), hard work (Ephesians 4:28), purity (Ephesians 4:29; 5:4), and kindness (Ephesians 4:32).

Christianity is not a way of doing special things. It is a special way of doing everything. The Lord puts significance into the simplicity of life. We are His workmanship. We are His poetry.

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson’s lymphoma has returned and is suffering cognitive and balance issues.

Dinah Williams continues to have mobility issues.

Don Simmons is still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. **Alene** is having hip issues.

Debbie McMurray has undergone her last immunotherapy treatment and is recovering.

Terry Behrns is recovering at his sister’s home

Elaine Kersh is undergoing tests and waiting for a treatment plan for cancer.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord’s body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord’s will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

Evangelist

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