

This Christmas...Let It Be
A Season of Sacrifice



Phillipians 4 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus...

Sacrifice...this is certainly a word we are discovering the meaning of in every day life.

Just a few years ago, in 2000, we were seeing the market soar upwards on a faster trajectory than the NASA space shuttle. We were accustomed to seeing the stock market paying 15-25% yields. Information technology was our savior providing "cushie" jobs—paying lavish incomes. Our investment portfolio and home equity were adding zeros, even in our sleep.

Then came September 11. Then came the war in Iraq. Then came \$150/barrell for crude. Then came \$4.00/gallon of gas. Then came the credit crises. Then came foreclosures. And, now banks and financial institutions are failing. Today, the three biggest industries in America are threatening bankruptcy. The politicians say they are concerned not about "Wall Street," but what will happen to us on "Main Street."

Well, let me be the one to tell them. "Main Street" is having to learn how to spell "sacrifice." The spelling has changed from "g-r-e-e-d" to "s-u-r-v-i-v-e". Who wasn't wanting some of those double digit returns, six-figure incomes and plush retirement benefits? But, maybe losing isn't as bad as it feels. Don't get me wrong—I don't like the feeling of seeing my little investment portfolio shrink from two zeros to one. Who likes to worry about whether their income will be there tomorrow or not.

As Christians, sacrifice is a word we have attached to what God has done for us. And, I am quick to say, "Thank you". But, learning to practice the meaning of this word in my everyday life means "saying no to what makes me feel good

today in order to provide what is good for someone else tomorrow." Did Christ like the idea of "sacrificing" His life on the cross for you and I under this definition? No!! He did say, as He faced the reality of this pain, "Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me." But, His trust in His relationship with God the Father was greater than His trust in providing what was best for himself. So, He was willing to say, "Not my will, but thine be done."

Can you and I look at our future today and say that to God, our Father? Yes, the stock market has lost 40-50% of its value. Yes, the economy is at the brink of depression (*I think someone needs to tell the media and politicians that a recession started several months ago and depression is what we are facing*). Yes, we may even lose our jobs. Pray diligently, "If at all possible, Lord, let this cup pass by us." But, don't forget that He may be calling us to submit to His will and not ours.

And, by sacrificing our will of "give me pleasure today" for His will of "paying the price of pain today for the value of what will come later," God disciplines us from destroying ourselves. I think that is what "Wall Street" needs to hear from "Main Street." And "Main Street" needs to stop living like the greedy "Wall Street" executives who are just the pinnacle of the iceberg of "lust" in our society. We don't have a financial crises in America—we have a moral crises. Learning to spell "sacrifice" is one of the ingredients for this cure. So, let it start with you and I....submit to God's will when He is allowing our culture's excess greed to bring death, so that we might find the life in our souls. This becomes like the same natural process of a grain which must "die today in order to bring about life tomorrow."

May it be a Merry Christmas for all of us...as we learn how to spell S-A-C-R-I-F-I-C-E one day at a time in the current painful process of whatever is happening—recession or depression. For through it, we are regaining our souls by losing the worlds in which we may have been trusting.

Mark 8:17...What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world, but loses his own soul (who he becomes).

Wayne & Jean

See...

Our 2008 QLD Newsletter

at

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Your Prayer & Support:

1. QLD Women's Group on completing in a few months.
2. QLD Men's Group start with focus on developing disciple makers.
3. Minister to & Disciple parents from a child care center.
4. Discipling Opportunity with a pastor and key leaders of a church in Dallas.
5. QLD Disciples Starting a Church using Quantum L.E.A.P. disciple materials as core of leadership groups.