

## IMITATE CHRIST AND TURN FROM THE WORLD

Our Lord Jesus Christ says, *"Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* By these words of Jesus we are advised to imitate His life, attitudes, and habits. We must model our lives after His, if we wish to be truly enlightened and free from all blindness of heart. Therefore, let our chief effort be to study the life of Jesus Christ and be His disciples.

The teaching of Christ is more excellent than all the advice of the wisest of the saints, and the person who has His Spirit will find in it a hidden manna. Now, there are many who hear the Gospel often but care little for it because they have not the Spirit of Christ. Yet, whoever wishes to understand fully the words of Christ must try to pattern his/her whole life on that of Christ.

You see, it does no good to speak smartly about the Trinity, if in your pride you displease God. It is not talent or education that makes a man holy and just. Rather, a virtuous life of faith makes a man or woman pleasing to God. I would rather feel broken contrition than know how to define it. For what would it profit us to know the whole Bible by heart and the principles of all the philosophers if we live without grace and the love of God? Vanity of vanities and all is vanity, except to love God and serve Him alone.

This is the greatest wisdom: to seek the kingdom of heaven through rejection of this world. It is vanity to seek and trust in riches that perish. It is of no worth to cherish the honor of men and to be puffed up with pride. It is useless to follow the lusts of the body and desire things for which severe punishment will later come. It is a waste of time to wish for long life and to care little about a well-spent life. It serves no purpose to be concerned only with the present and not to make provision for things to come. It is vanity to love what passes quickly away and not to look ahead to the place where eternal joy abides.

Often recall the proverb: *"The eye is not satisfied with seeing nor the ear filled with hearing."* Try, even more, to turn your heart from the love of visible things and have an eternal perspective. For they who follow their own evil passions stain their consciences and lose the grace of God.

*This year I will share with you some of my most treasured possessions. They are simple devotionals or meditations that have helped me walk in the Presence of Jesus with every breath of life. They come from an old, old friend, named Thomas. I hope you enjoy them and are blessed!*

*Scott*