

THE TRENTON BULLETIN

The Man Who Wouldn't Go Away (Ken Weliever)

On the day after Jesus' death, it looked as if whatever small mark He left on the world would rapidly disappear. Instead, His impact on human history has been unparalleled." These are the opening words by John Ortberg in his book "Who is this Man?" Ortberg asserts that most people's impact and influence on the world begin to decline as soon as they die. If they do leave a great legacy, they already had developed an enormous reputation. Jesus' life and death were different.

On the Friday Jesus died, His movement appeared to have failed. His followers were scattered. Scared. And shrouded in secret hiding places. As Ortberg put it, "If there were a kind of 'Most Likely to Posthumously Succeed' award given on the day of death to history's most influential people, Jesus would have come in dead last."

Jesus died broke. Homeless. And all alone. He never married and had no children. He never attended college. He never wrote a book. He never commanded an army. He never succeeds in business. And he never was elected to public office. Jesus never did anything like political leaders do to ensure his legacy. There are no original paintings of Jesus. Or statues. Or busts. He personally never had anything named after himself. In short, the day Jesus died, he had never achieved any of the things that people associate with success. Greatness. And lasting fame. Yet, three days later, things began to change. Quickly. Uniquely. And dramatically. Jesus arose from the grave! He overcame death. Defeated the devil. And resurrected hope in His dispirited disciples. There's no denying it! Witnesses confirm it. History records it. And changed lives demonstrate it.

His name and message began to be preached fifty days later. First at Jerusalem. Then in Judea and Samaria and throughout the Roman Empire. All kinds of people were converted. Men and women founded equality in Christ. Jews and Gentiles were joined

together as one. Masters and slaves became spiritual peers. Even Jesus' most ardent enemy, Saul of Tarsus, turned from being a persecutor to a proclaimer of Jesus!

Today every facet of our lives is impacted by Jesus. Art. Literature. History. Poetry. Sculpture. Theater. And even movies! His name has influenced the names of our hospitals. Towns. And missions. Libraries are filled with books about Him. Museums display artifacts relating to His era. The influence of the Son of Man is everywhere! The name of Jesus was "not so much written as ploughed into the history of this world," once wrote Ralph Waldo Emerson.

In his sermon "The Real Jesus," James Allen Francis said: "Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today Jesus is the central figure of the human race and the leader of mankind's progress. All the armies that have ever marched, all the navies that have ever sailed, all the parliaments that have ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned put together, have not affected the life of mankind on earth as powerfully as that one solitary life."

Still today, through His Word and the preaching of His Gospel, He is ever-present. Probing our souls. Touching our hearts. Calling to our consciences. And He is coming back again to receive the redeemed and take them back to His home in heaven. Indeed, He is the Man who won't go away!

You shall call Matthew 1:21
His name
JESUS
for HE will
SAVE HIS
PEOPLE BunnyRamey

PLEASE GOD, HELP ME (Dee Bowman)

God, please help me not to grumble about how I'm treated. Just let me learn from it how to treat others.

God, help me not to judge harshly. Just help me judge righteous judgment, the kind where everybody concerned benefits from the decision.

God, help me to restrain my speech. But help me not to restrain it too much, especially when something need be said.

God, help me not to be scared. Just help me to realize that when Thou art with me, nothing or nobody can hurt me.

God, help me to see better. Just help me to see past what is just in front of me and to see what is way out front, where it really matters.

God, help me not to be partial. Just help me to have Jesus' attitude toward people, all people, the same attitude that drove Him to the cross.

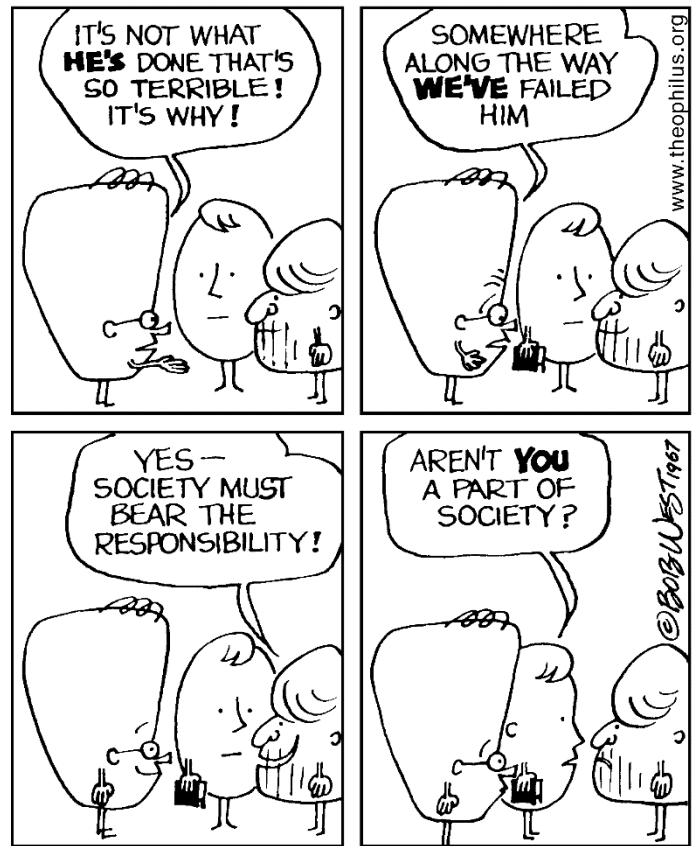
And God, help me to understand. Just help me to see, as best as I am capable of seeing, why things are how they are, and if and how I can help make them better.

But most of all, God, forgive me. I have failed so often. Just give me some more time and some more mercy and I'll try to do better.

Please God, help me.

THEOPHILUS

The Blame Game



We have unwittingly created an artificial distinction between trusting Christ as Savior and obeying Him as Lord. The New Testament recognizes no such false compartments of experience. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ," said Paul to the jailer. No man can be a Christian by knowingly and willfully taking Christ on the installment plan, as Savior now, and Lord later.

(Vance Havner)

FALSEHOOD

A little girl came very early one morning to her mother, saying "Which is worse, mama, to tell a lie or to steal?" The mother replied that both were so sinful she could not tell which was worse. "Well, mama," replied the little one, "I have been thinking a good deal about it, and I think it is ever so much worse to lie than steal." "Why my child?" asked the mother. "Well, you see, mama, it is like this," said the little girl: "If you steal a thing, you can take it back, unless you have eaten it, and if you have eaten it, you can pay for it; but a lie is forever."

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WHEN CHURCH
BECOMES
OPTIONAL TO YOU

IT WILL BECOME
UNNECESSARY TO YOUR
CHILDREN