

# The Exchanger

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THE NEWSLETTER  
OF  
**FELLOWSHIP  
BIBLE CHURCH  
WHITE ROCK**

*The  
Mission  
of  
FBCWR:  
To present the Lord Jesus  
Christ: His work  
on the  
cross  
and  
His in-  
dwelling  
power  
to meet  
man's  
needs.*

*"The Lord is my  
portion," says my  
soul, "Therefore I  
have hope  
in Him."*

*Lamentations 3:24*

## INSIDE

<i>Jesus' Fine Print</i>	1
<i>What's News at F.B.C.W.R.</i>	2
<i>Calendar</i>	3
<i>Ministry Spotlight</i>	4

## Read the Fine Print

It's an offer you'll quit refusing!

When we think about Jesus' teachings, we just can't avoid the fact that His cornerstone requirement for His followers was a **complete** and **total** self-sacrifice. Consider:

*Luke 14:27 "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple."*

Do you still think Jesus was such a great teacher? Now to allow His words to have their intended impact I must allow them to penetrate through my self-loving and self-preserving defenses. It is tempting to cling to my life until I consider the fine print, what Paul Harvey calls "The Rest of the Story". Jesus said in Mark 10:29-30,

*"Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake, but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life."*

Ahhh, rewards in the next life and in this life as well! That's His promise, but I don't think we often believe that He will reward our self-abandonment, so we cling to our lives, rationalizing that we really are, in the final analysis, probably very surrendered to Him.

### Tests of Surrender

But how can I know if I am on the right track in abandoning myself to Him. A person can tell themselves they have given up their life, but how can we really know whether we are laying down our life to follow Christ? Are there concrete tests? I don't know, but here is how I watch over my heart and responsiveness to God.

*If I have truly laid down my life...*

**\*I will have given up all my rights.**

-I will not fret, fuss or get depressed when I am mistreated. I will not insist that people and God treat me "fairly". When I am treated unfairly, I will try to resolve it graciously, not angrily and bitterly, and no sulking or depression.

-I will not insist on God giving me certain things - like money or luxuries.

-I don't cling to a right of a good reputation- to be seen by people in the best possible light.

-I will not consider sin to be an option.

**\*I will rejoice no matter what I suffer.** As David, Peter, James and Paul said, we should rejoice always under all circumstances. Jesus said, "Be of good cheer", in the midst of the trials in this life. So...

-I will not get angry at God that He has allowed too many trials in my life.

-I will not demand credit for things I have done for Him, for my wife, or for others.

-I will give cheerfully, not grudgingly, when I continually experience the inconvenience of sacrifice for others.

**\*I will not horde my money, time or talents.**

-I will actively look for ways to serve my family, church and the Lord.

-I will give a generous portion of my income to further God's kingdom before I make my wish list.

-I will gladly stand up and speak

out for the Lord.

-I will figure out ways to use my God-given gifts to further the kingdom work of our church.

These are just a few ways to determine if God really has our heart. Please don't forget the rest of the story- that He promises to reward our abandonment to Him. He is so good, so c'mon, let go of your life to Him. No offense of course, but HE will do a better job of managing our lives!

Oh yes, Jesus was truly a great teacher, but what benefit is good teaching if it's not followed?

*Forneare*

*-Joe*



Go ahead, pick up  
your cross, in the  
long run you won't  
regret it!