

Authentic Christianity: A Christian Surrenders

Wylie Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – January 15, 2023

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know — God knows. 3 And I know that this man — whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows— 4 was caught up to paradise. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell. 5 I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses. 6 Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say. 7 To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

An authentic Christian...

I. REALIZES THAT GOD KNOWS BEST

Proverbs 14:12

There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.

Matthew 6:9

"This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, to your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

Psalms 86:11

Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.

An authentic Christian...

2. SURRENDERS THEIR DESIRES TO GOD'S

Luke 22:41-44

41 [Jesus] withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, 42 "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." 43 An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. 44 And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

Matthew 6:33

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you..."

An authentic Christian...

3. REJECTS "CHEAP GRACE" AND EMBRACES "COSTLY GRACE"

Quote by Dietrich Bonhoeffer:

Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without discipline, communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.

What has cost God much cannot be cheap for us... It is grace because God did not recon His Son too dear a price to pay for our life, but delivered Him up for us.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

19... You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price...

[The Lord said to me] "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. For when I am weak, then I am strong."