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Taking the Great Commission Personally

“A God Centered Life”

Stuart McAllister
Vice President, Training & Special Projects
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~ 2 Corinthians 5:10-20 ~

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope

~ 2 Corinthians 5:10-20 ~

that we are made manifest also in your consciences. We are not again commending ourselves to you but are giving you an occasion to be proud of us, so that you will have an answer for those who take pride in appearance and not in heart.

~ 2 Corinthians 5:10-20 ~

**For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God;
if we are of sound mind, it is for you. For
the love of Christ controls us, having
concluded this, that one died for all,
therefore all died; and He died for all, so
that they who live might no longer live for**

~ 2 Corinthians 5:10-20 ~

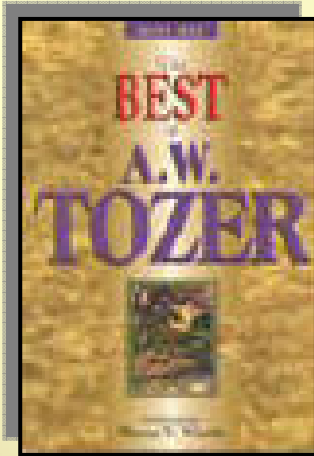
themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer.

~ 2 Corinthians 5:10-20 ~

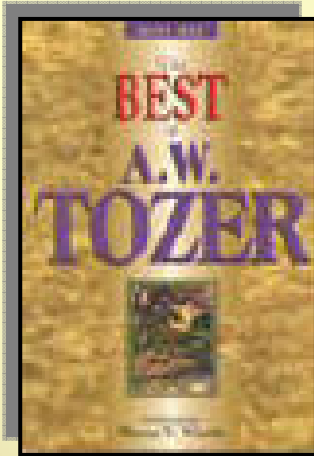
Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the

~ 2 Corinthians 5:10-20 ~

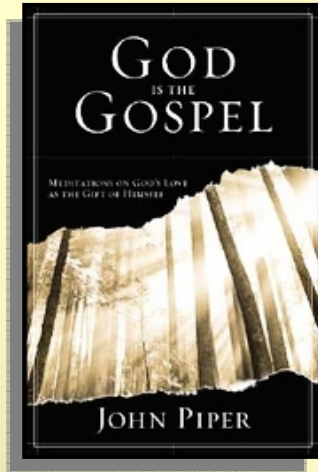
world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.



“I want to deliberately encourage this mighty longing after God. The lack of it has brought us to our present low estate. The stiff and wooden quality about our religious lives is a result of our lack of holy desire.”



Complacency is a deadly foe of all spiritual growth. Acute desire must be present or there will be no manifestation of Christ to His people. He waits to be wanted. Too bad that with many of us He waits so long, so very long, in vain.”



“The manifold glories of the gospel are beautiful. But that is just the point. If the overarching beauty is not seen – namely, the beauty of the glory of Christ – then the aim of the gospel is not attained.”

I. Lessons From A Focused Life

A. Knowing the fear of the Lord ~ *2 Corinthians 5:10 - 12*

“Awe is an intuition for the dignity of all things, a realization that things not only are what they are but also stand, however remotely, for something supreme. Awe is a sense for the transcendence, for the reference everywhere to mystery beyond all things. It enables us to perceive in the...

*world intimations of the divine,...to sense
the ultimate in the common and the
simple; to feel in the rush of the passing
the stillness of the eternal. What we
cannot comprehend by analysis, we
become aware of in awe.”*

Edited by Samuel H. Dresner, “I Asked For Wonder: A Spiritual Anthology Abraham Joshua Heschel” (New York: Crossroad Publishing Co., 2004), p. 3

I. Lessons From A Focused Life

A. Knowing the fear of the Lord ~
2 Corinthians 5:10 - 12

B. The love of Christ controlling ~
2 Corinthians 5:13 - 16

“Communist Lenin once said, ‘with a handful of dedicated people who will give me their lives, I will control the world’.”

Richard Shelley Taylor

“The things that will destroy America are prosperity at any price, peace at any price, safety first instead of duty first, the love of soft living, and the get rich theory of life!”

Theodore Roosevelt

I. Lessons From A Focused Life

A. Knowing the fear of the Lord ~
2 Corinthians 5:10 - 12

B. The love of Christ controlling ~
2 Corinthians 5:13 - 16

C. Ambassadors for Christ ~
2 Corinthians 5:17 - 21

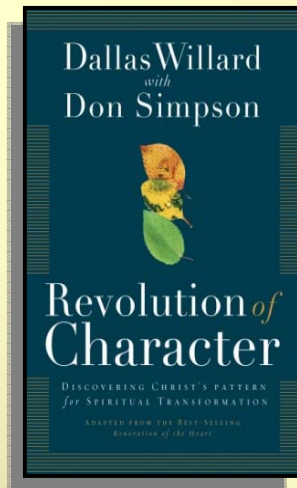
Reconciliation....

- **It begins with personal reconciliation to God, *verse 17*.**
- **It results in the ministry of reconciliation FROM God.**
- **It is rooted in the work and message of God in reconciliation.**
- **It invites us to offer the invitation wherever we can.**

II. Against the Tide

“God is most glorified in me when I am most satisfied in Him.”

John Piper



“It isn’t always true where there is a will, there is a way. When it comes to transforming human nature, we also need an understanding of the depth of our problem and how Christ works to redeem each element of our nature.”

II. Against the Tide

A. The danger of superficial Christianity

*We are called to a revolution of character,
“which proceeds by changing people from
the inside through ongoing personal
relationship with God and one another. It
is a revolution that changes peoples ideas,
beliefs, feelings, and habits of choice, as
well as their bodily tendencies and social...*

relations. It penetrates to the deepest layers of their soul. External, social arrangements may be useful to this end, but they are not the end, nor are they a foundational part of the means.”

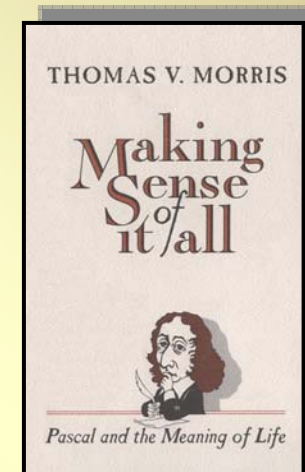
Dallas Willard

II. Against the Tide

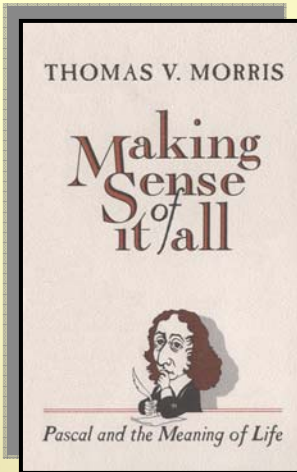
**A. The danger of superficial
Christianity**

**B. The unexamined life ~
*2 Corinthians 5:14 - 15***

*“To be utterly lost in the woods
is unfortunate. To be absolutely
unconcerned about it is
unreasonable.”*



Thomas V. Morris, “Making Sense of It All” (Grand Rapid, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1992) , p. 15
Thomas V. Morris, p. 33



“The only good thing for men therefore is to be diverted from thinking of what they are, either by some occupation which takes their minds off it, or by some novel and agreeable passion which keeps them busy, like gambling, hunting, some absorbing show, in short by what is called diversion.”

II. Against the Tide

**A. The danger of superficial
Christianity**

**B. The unexamined life ~
*2 Corinthians 5:14 - 15***

C. I'm afraid God could not use me

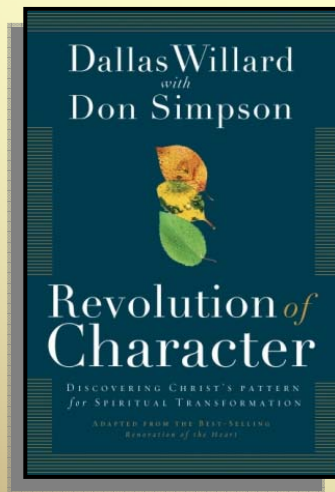
~ 1 Corinthians 1:26-29 ~

For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of

~ 1 Corinthians 1:26-29 ~

the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, so that no man may boast before God.

III. Taking It All Personally

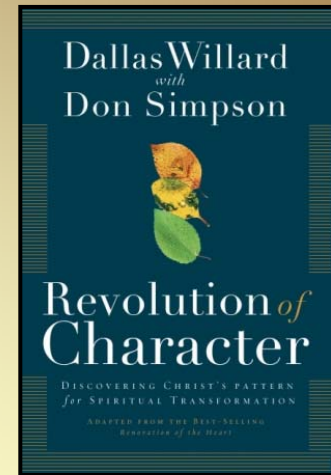


“The simple program of Christ for winning the whole world is to make each person he touches magnetic enough with love to draw others.”

III. Taking It All Personally

**A. Commit to an active process
of change**

“Spiritual formation in Christ likeness is the sure outcome of well directed action that is under the personal supervision of Christ and is sustained by His grace.”



III. Taking It All Personally

- A. Commit to an active process of change**
- B. Let us wrestle honestly with the issue of obedience**

~ 1 John 2:3-6 ~

By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever

~ 1 John 2:3-6 ~

**keeps His word, in him the love of God
has truly been perfected By this we know
that we are in Him: the one who says he
abides in Him ought himself to walk in
the same manner as He walked.**

III. Taking It All Personally

- A. Commit to an active process of change**
- B. Let us wrestle honestly with the issue of obedience**
- C. Accepting the call**

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