

## I. INTRODUCTION.

-  A. Scripture text: **Luke 14:25-35**. From Craig Thomas (Nov. 30, 2008).  
Now great multitudes were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, [26] “If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. [27] “Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. [28] “For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost, to see if he has enough to complete it? [29] “Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation, and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, [30] saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ [31] “Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and take counsel whether he is strong enough with ten thousand *men* to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand? [32] “Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks terms of peace. [33] “So therefore, no one of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions. [34] “Therefore, salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned? [35] “It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”
-  B. Undoubtedly today’s world has many “conveniences”: cell phones, instant “this and that”, remote controls, drive-through restaurants, and microwave ovens.
- C. There’s nothing inherently evil about conveniences, but living in such a world can lead us to develop unhealthy spiritual attitudes.

## MICROWAVE RELIGION MEANS...

### II. ...**SALVATION WITHOUT SACRIFICE.**

-  A. Jesus said that discipleship means sacrifice (Lk. 9:23; see Lk. 14:25-35).  
And He was saying to *them* all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.
- B. But about the only thing that differentiates most Xians from people of the world is that their name is on a church roll somewhere and they show up once in awhile for a worship service (maybe!).
- C. You can’t have salvation without sacrifice! Jesus asks for our sacrifice, not occasionally, but daily!

### III. ...**REMISSION WITHOUT REPENTANCE.**

-  A. Repentance is perhaps God’s hardest command.
- B. Repentance is more than being sorry (2Cor. 7:10). It’s a change of mind and behavior (Mt. 3:8).  
(2Cor. 7:10) For the sorrow that is according to *the will of God* produces a repentance without regret, *leading to salvation*; but the sorrow of the world produces death.  
(Mt. 3:8) “Therefore bring forth fruit in keeping with repentance;
- C. Repentance is an absolute requirement! (Lk. 13:3).  
“I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.
- D. God commands all men to repent, - that’s you, that’s me, that’s everyone! (Ac. 17:30).  
“...having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent,

### IV. ...**RIGHTEOUSNESS WITHOUT OBEDIENCE.**

-  A. Many people excuse themselves of obeying God, “I’m just human!” they cry.
- B. The way to know God is to do His will (1Jn. 2:3).  
And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.
- C. Claiming to know God without keeping His commands makes us a liar! (1Jn. 2:4).  
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;
- D. Jesus saves those who obey Him (Heb. 5:9) and His commands are not burdensome! (1Jn. 5:3).  
(Heb 5:9) And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,  
(1Jn 5:3) For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

## V. ...**MORALITY WITHOUT SELF-DENIAL.**

-  A. We live in a society without self-denial. But it is impossible to live a moral life without it (Ti. 2:11-12). For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, [12] instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,
- B. Paul practiced discipline (1Cor. 9:27). We must do the same!  
but I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.

## VI. ...**GROWTH WITHOUT DILIGENCE.**

-  A. Unfortunately most Xians remain spiritual “babies” (Heb. 5:12-14).  
For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. [13] For everyone who partakes *only* of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. [14] But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.
- B. Peter said we must “give all diligence” to “add” certain things to our faith (2Pet. 1:5-7).  
Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge; [6] and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness; [7] and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, love.
- C. If we fail to do so we are spiritually blind and have forgotten our forgiveness (2Pet. 1:9).  
For he who lacks these *qualities* is blind *or* short-sighted, having forgotten *his* purification from his former sins.
- D. Are you growing or forgetting?

## VII. ...**KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT STUDY.**

-  A. The amount of Bible knowledge possessed by most Xians is truly pitiful!
- B. Evidently they don’t realize God said, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hos. 4:6).  
*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.*
- C. We need to be diligent students of God’s word (2Tim. 2:15). Otherwise we’ll fall too! (Eph. 4:14,15).  
**(2Tim 2:15)** Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.  
**(Eph 4:14-15)** As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; [15] but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him, who is the head, *even* Christ,
- D. How are your Bible study habits?

## VIII. ...**TRUTH WITHOUT CONTROVERSY.**

-  A. By its very nature truth is controversial. But in our “politically correct” world few are willing to “earnestly contend for the faith” (Jude 3).  
*Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.*
- B. Does the truth make you squeamish? Remember, “Good preaching sounds reveille, not taps.”
- C. Xians are to expose deeds of darkness--enter the fray! (Eph. 5:11,12).  
*And do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; [12] for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret.*

## VI. **CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.**

-  A. What about your religion? Is it true to God’s book? Is it the religion taught by Jesus and the apostles?
- B. Is it sacrificial, obedient, and self-denying? Or, is it a religion of convenience, a “microwave religion”?
- C. If you are ready for a religion of commitment and not convenience, respond now...
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.