

*"For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's." **Philippians 2:21 KJV***



Where are the Faithful these days? Where are they in the large congregations? “[Jesus] said to them all, ‘If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and FOLLOW me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.’” Most professing “Christians” (Christ followers – Greek: Christianos, Χριστιανός) are more concerned with status quo, trying to impress some celebrity pastor or meet some arbitrary quota. Jesus said of these, “Therefore when thou doest thine alms (charity/good deeds), do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.” My Dad worked 32 years in the Amazon jungle with nothing but grit and faith. After the first 13 years without a convert, without notice his own sending church severed their support. A missionary with five children in the jungle laboring for God didn’t measure up to a “Christian” committee’s standards, but God still amply supplied our needs! However, it doesn’t excuse small minds imposing imagined standards! Faithfulness is measured by God, alone! I wonder how Hudson Taylor or Adoniram Judson would have done? 32 years later, health forced Dad’s retirement, but five indigenous churches still thrived in the Amazon Basin of Peru. He then pastored in the US many years. God even supplied His and Mom’s funeral funds and cemetery plot! My parents now kneel in the presence of their Saviour, awaiting the arrival of the souls they led to Christ! When what some mission board or committee thinks is against God’s leading in your life, it’s time to turn away! My Dad applied to several mission boards, but was refused because he wouldn’t abdicate God’s leading. Before his pre-missionary deputational circuit, our family of six was fully funded, including transport of all our earthly possessions via ocean freighter, months later. Where God leads He supplies! We never lacked food, clothing, shelter, protection, or health, because God provided miraculous intervention! Mom nearly died from malaria, because we were trapped in the jungle with no medicine. She joked about it being the best weight loss program, because her weight dropped under 80 lbs. Accidents were miraculously healed. My brother, Jack Jr., fell headlong into a roaring bonfire when two, and suffered third degree burns on his body. A year later there was not a scar. I survived stepping on a coral snake without a bite and being underwater for over five minutes. There’s more. True Christians care not a wit for the praise or approval of men, but rather, seek the approval of their Saviour. Their most precious possession is God’s Word and their prize is the face of their Blessed Redeemer! My Dad’s life verse is “*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the Faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.*” (Gal. 2:20) For the true Christian, death is no threat, poverty is no anxiety, and they are remarkably content.

The faithful saint stands on their own,  
Their deeds approved by God alone,  
They do not seek for earthly gain,  
Stedfast for aye they will remain. ~CGP

Whose gain do you seek? Yours or Christ’s? God knows the answer, do you?

*"And be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the Law, but that which is through the Faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by Faith." **Philippians 3:9 KJV***