	WORD LIVING	Stewards In Action
		<i>April 2011</i>
STEWARDSHIP – Living Without Compromise		

LIVING WITHOUT COMPROMISE

We are thankful for another opportunity to share with you about our only hope, our savior Jesus Christ.

If what we do does not reflect the presence of Jesus to this dying world, than what we do has no real meaning. If our walk does not match our talk, the world will believe what they see and what we say will have no real meaning.

As we continue to focus on our theme, Living Without Compromise, we are reminded of the realness of Jesus, the truth of his love and the power he has given to us to achieve the plan he has for our lives.

We serve a risen savior who has fulfilled the requirements necessary that we might have life and have it more abundantly. (John 10:10) Yet we succumb to facing each new day with downcast hearts, thoughts of earthly failures, wondering what we are going to do and how we will survive this economic plight.

We have the perception that all is lost because we finally realize the control we thought we had to make things happen was never within our power. Our focus on things of this world, achievements, and the accumulation of stuff to impress friends and neighbors and working the long hours to have it all has resulted in no real gain.

Only now do we see the need to seek Jesus because our schools have no power to produce men and women who are responsible, accountable and ready to prepare themselves for successful living.

Only now do we seek Jesus because our way of life is threaten because of the possible loss of the lifestyle we have come to love.

Only now do we seek Jesus because we want Him to use his powers to make things comfortable for us again.

Only now do we seek Jesus because we want him to fulfill our needs and wants.

The uncertainty we face today is nothing new, The Bible records history of Israel how they went from having it all to being exiled slaves to their enemies. It was a rocky mountain top/valley rollercoaster ride where the people seemed to forget the past and repeat it expecting a different result.

Today you may be facing difficult challenges in your life. Job loss, possible loss of home, investments, and/or other benefits may be in your future. Perhaps you have physical issues that seem beyond healing. I do not know what you are facing, but I know the Jesus who died for our sins is the God of healing, compassion, salvation and restoration.

I am always reminded of the three (3) Hebrew boy's response to the king as they faced death - If it be so our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hands, O king. But, if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, not worship the golden image which thou has set up. (Daniel chapter 3)

The focus that sustains us in this unrest and economic crisis - our God whom we serve is able. He has provided all we need. His decisions are perfect and his plan is sure. We not receive what we want, but he provides all that we need.

FOR THOSE WHO SERVE HIM, HIS DEATH ON THE CROSS PROVIDES -

salvation, redemption, deliverance

payment for our past, present and future sins

a guaranteed eternal mansion

the supernatural guide for our earthly journey who has never failed

unconditional love

provides all of our needs

mercy, grace, and forgiveness

satisfaction for our inner thirst

peace in time of trouble

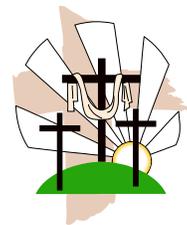
joy in sorrow

the gift of life

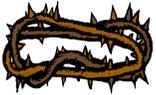
daily fellowship

the hope of his return

and...



THE ROAD TO CALVARY
THE MEANING OF THE CROSS



1. **The Crown of Thorns** that Jesus wore on his head had about 1 to 6 inch thorns. It was jammed on his head and he bore the pain.
2. **The Leather Whip** usually had pieces of steel, balls of lead, and sharp bones attached. Pontius Pilate orders that Jesus be scourged, that is beaten. The victim was usually stripped and his hands tied to an overhead beam. As the sharp bones and metal in the whip tore away the flesh, muscles were sliced wide open. The arteries would be hit, spurting blood.
3. **The Rusty Spikes** were not cleaned after each use. The rusty germ laden spikes usually caused gangrene and tetanus to the victims.
4. **The Rugged Cross** was not smooth like the ones we see today. The cross was rugged (jagged, ragged, pointy...) and weighing over 100 pounds, had to be carried the 650 yards to the place of execution—Golgotha. Jesus began the journey of carrying the rough wooded cross on his beaten and painful body.
5. **His Face** Jesus fulfills Isaiah 50:6 - I gave my back to the smiters and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.
6. **His body** his appearance was marred (disfigured) more than any man was. Fulfills Isaiah 52:14
7. **Love in Action – The Crucifixion**
In Rome, the wrist was considered a part of the hand. The rusty spikes were driven amongst the carpal bones of the wrist because the weight of his body would have ripped away the flesh between his fingers. Rusty spikes are driven through the nerves between the metatarsal bones of the feet also.

Jesus now hangs on the cross.

The crucifixion is the most agonizing death anyone could face. Jesus had to support himself in order to breathe. The spikes hitting the nerves in the wrist cause a flaming pain up his arms, into the brain and down the spine.

The spikes in the feet, jerks the body erect. The leg muscles convulse and drive his body downward beating him against the cross.

Air is sucked into the lungs but cannot be exhaled until the buildup of carbon dioxide in the lungs and blood stream stimulates breathing to relieve the cramps.

Exhaustion, shock, dehydration and paralysis destroy the victim.

The heart is barely able to pump the thick blood as each of his billions of cells die one at a time.

Before his death as he hangs on the cross, unconditional love is expressed, "Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do..." Luke 23:34

... "It is finished" and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost. John 19:30

Finally in death the blood coagulates and separates into serum and clotted blood cells.

Medical view - Gerald H. Bradley, M.D. – The Crusaders Chick Publications

For me, the cross means I willingly set aside my will and my desires to follow Jesus. And what keeps you from yielding all to Jesus? We don't have time to waste and tomorrow is not promised.

Now is your opportunity to accept Jesus Christ as your savior.

The Bible says, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God has raised him from the dead, thou shall be saved." Romans 10:9 (KJV)

If you accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior, ask him to direct you to a church where you can learn the truth and grow in your Christian walk. I pray you accept Jesus as Lord. Questions - Contact SIA,

INTERNET SCAMS – From the FBI Updates 2011



Some Tips for Avoiding Credit Card Fraud:

Don't give out your credit card number online unless the site is a secure and reputable. Sometimes a tiny icon of a padlock appears to symbolize a higher level of security to transmit data. This icon is not a guarantee of a secure site, but provides some assurance.

Don't trust a site just because it claims to be secure. Do your homework on the individual or company to ensure that they are legitimate.



Obtain a physical address rather than a simply post office box and a telephone number. Call the seller to see if the telephone number is correct and working. Send an e-mail to the seller to make sure the e-mail address is active, and be wary of those that utilize free e-mail services where a credit card wasn't required to open the account.

Make sure you are purchasing merchandise from a reputable source. Check with the Better Business Bureau from the seller's area. Don't judge a person or company by their website. Flashy websites can be set up quickly.

Keep a list of all your credit cards and account information along with the card issuer's contact information. If anything looks suspicious or you lose your credit card(s), contact the card issuer immediately.

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