

Celebration Services (September 29th & 30th, 2007)
"Embracing Discomfort in Order to Embrace the Life"

"The Life We Were Meant to Live" (Pt. 6)

INTRO

.... Air Conditioning Sugar Artificial SweetenersSilk.... Remote Controls Lazy Boy
Recliners Hired Servants Hot Water Heaters Charmin toilet paper Nike tennis shoes
Pillow-top Mattresses Heated Car Seats Sun Glasses Riding Lawnmowers Escalators
..... Pain Medication.....

Webster def: Comfortable = 1. Providing comfort or ease; 2. At ease in body or mind SYN:
comfortable implies the absence of disturbing, painful, or distressing features and in a positive sense
stresses ease, contentment, and freedom from care

*— How Many are Making LIFE CHOICES Based on What Will Be MORE
COMFORTABLE (or Easier)?*

INTERESTING IRONY That Should Also Characterize the Christian in Such a Culture

- The "Discomfort" that Some People Avoid is Pursued by Others:

*.... What We Do With "Comfort/Discomfort" is Very Much Determined by
What We've LABELED "LIFE"!!*

.... We Must Be Careful that Our Appetite for Being Comfortable Doesn't Cause Us to MISS
OUT on the Life We Were Meant to Live

"When God ceases to be the treasure of your heart, more than likely your heart will fasten itself on the pleasures and comforts of this life. And unless God graciously intervenes, your addiction to comfort will make you indifferent to honesty and hardened against the poor.Listen to Amos' slam at the lovers of comfort in 6:1, "Woe to those who are at ease in Zion, and to those who feel secure in the mountain of Samaria." Verse 4: "Woe to those who lie upon beds of ivory, and stretch themselves upon their couches." Verse 6: "... who drink wine in bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph." Does that refer to anyone today: people who live for comfort, and do not grieve over the lost; people who are experts in loving themselves, but have not thought the first thought about what it means to love your neighbor as yourself? What governs your getting and spending? Is it the desire to fill your little three score and ten with as much comfort as you can? Or is it the God-given desire to do as much good for others as you can to the glory of Christ? Take heed and guard your hearts diligently, lest you find yourselves enslaved to comfort and addicted to luxury."
John Piper, "The Poor of the Land and the Pride of Jacob"

DISCOMFORTS ENCOUNTERED ON THE WAY TO "LIVING THE

LIFE WE WERE MEANT TO LIVE"

THE DISCOMFORT OF CHANGING YOUR BELIEF SYSTEM

- **Acts 2** the first wave of Jews— a call for "Religious People" to REPENT!!

Acts 2:5 ... "Jews... devout men" reverent, religiously devoted men

Acts 2:37-41

... in our RELIGIOUS/MORAL Climate, it's hard for us to find a place for "Religious People to Repent!"

“ Are you living an examined life? Or are you living in the hand-me-down ideas of others? ... Are you open to the full interrogation of life? Or are you closed to the search because you believe what you've always believed without question?” Os Guinness (“The Long Journey Home”, p. 20, 32)

“ Most ideas that shape our lives are accepted (at least initially) somewhat uncritically. We do not create a world or environment from scratch and then live in it. Rather we step into a world and culture that already exists, and we learn to interact with it.” R.C. Sproul, "The Consequences of Ideas", p. 9

- *How Easy (Comfortable) Was it for a Jew to Repent & Believe in Christ?*

.... Acts 2:36 "God has made Him both LORD & CHRIST" (Remember Jn 8 & 10)

.... Acts 4:12 No Other Salvation apart from Christ — "Not Even in Abraham or Moses or in the Community of Israel!?"

- **Abandoning Traditions** Acts 15:1, 5

- The Galatian Controversy trying to retain works in the midst of grace

Gal 2:15-16 We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; 16 yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

Gal 5:2-6 Look: 1, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. 3 I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. 4 You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. 5 For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

- Have You Fallen From Grace... by Continuing to Seek Justification by Your Own Works?

- **Facing Family & Social Pressures**

- **Acts 10** ... the Gospel to the Heathen

- How Easy (Comfortable) Was it for a Heathen to Repent & Believe in Christ?

- **The Lifestyle of the Greek & Roman World** the hedonistic pursuit of pleasure
- **Facing Financial Realities** Acts 19

If You're Going to Live the Life You Were Meant to Live.... the 1st Uncomfortable Thing You MUST DO is Reexamine Your Life and Embrace REPENTANCE & RECEIVING THE GOSPEL

THE DISCOMFORT OF RECEIVING THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST

- "KURIOS" ... what did that mean to the first century believer?

1 Cor 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Rom 10:9 if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

What Does it Mean for Christ to be LORD?

- Acts 2 & 4 ... it meant Jesus Being the OWNER of Their Money & Property

- How Easy (Comfortable) Was it for Them to Sell Off Their Assets?

— The Biblical Principle of "Letting Go of Something" so that you can Properly Have It!

John 12:23-26 And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. 25 Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

“affluence gradually enslaves those who are attached to it. It builds an increasing dependence upon comfort, upon "the good life," until people reach a point where they cannot give it up. They are owned by their possessions. Like to a habit-forming drug, they become addicted to things, addicted to comfort and ease. Therefore it destroys the responsive spirit that is ready and willing to follow truth whenever it is revealed.” Ray Stedman, "The Plight of the Overprivileged"

THE DISCOMFORT OF STEPPING OUT INTO MINISTRY

Acts 2:10 the Visitors to Jerusalem from CYRENE

Acts 11:19-21 Preaching the Gospel

- How Easy (Comfortable) Was it for Them to Preach the Gospel?

.... They Saw ABUNDANT LIFE— Just Beyond This Discomfort!

THE DISCOMFORT OF EMBRACING THE UNFAMILIAR

- They changed JOBS
- They changed HOME LOCATIONS
- They changed FINANCIAL CATEGORIES

IN WHAT WAYS IS GOD CALLING YOU TO EMBRACE DISCOMFORT IN ORDER TO LIVE THE LIFE YOU WERE MEANT TO LIVE?

- UNCOMFORTABLE COURTSHIPS
- UNCOMFORTABLE PARENTING
- UNCOMFORTABLE HUSBANDRY
- UNCOMFORTABLE WIFERY
- UNCOMFORTABLE DEVOTIONAL LIFE
- UNCOMFORTABLE MINISTRY PURSUIT
- UNCOMFORTABLE WORK ETHIC

“Every time you say no to God you change a little. Your heart gets a little harder. Your spirit dies a little. Your addiction to comfort gets a little stronger.” John Ortberg