


PRAISE News

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Lose Your Life and Save It

By Merlin Carothers

From the cradle to the grave we hear, “Eat drink and be merry, for tomorrow you may die.” Young 

people feel oppressed by advancing age. They believe they must enjoy life quickly or they will soon be *too old*. Middle-aged people often feel their life is “nearly over” and they need to hurry to enjoy themselves. Senior citizens often think they must enjoy this world quickly while they are still able.

But Jesus came with an entirely different message to what He said about life here on earth. He said God has *His reasons* for having us here. Jesus taught us that living to please ourselves leads to certain failure.

God builds into each person *a desire to help other people*. If that desire is quenched, we will always feel that something is wrong – life is fading away and nothing worthwhile is happening. So, we intensify our efforts to get to the right place – by running in the opposite direction!

Jesus describes that attitude or lifestyle in Matthew 16:25: *Whoever wants to save his life will lose it.*

On the other hand, those who take the risk of living to help others will always wonder, “Is it worth it? Does anyone appreciate my efforts? Will all my endeavors accomplish anything worthwhile?”

We have Jesus’ answer in the same verse. *Whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it.*

Those who have spent most of their lives in trying to follow Jesus’ example have had a united testimony.

They say they were glad they did. Those who have lived selfish lives nearly always end with a bitter, angry, lonely attitude about life.

Most people practice a little of both selfishness *and* trying to help others. If we have that attitude, we can become quite contented. Jesus had another name for it. He called it being “lukewarm.” Neither hot nor cold.

Most of us are both selfish and unselfish. Accepting Jesus as our Savior doesn’t seem to completely change that. But followers of Jesus *can* be changed by Him. Each day we can rearrange our lives so they will be more like His. We can make many decisions every day, which will cause us to follow His example.

There is one delightful part of becoming more like Jesus that many people never discover. The more we become like Him the more we *want* to be like Him! And the reverse of this is true. The further we stray from Him the further we want to stray.

If you haven’t already done so, I urge you to make a decision to strive to become *more like Christ*. Decide to give more of yourself, your time and material possessions to help Jesus fulfill His life in you. Don’t give in to the temptation to feel you have already done your share. Be more of what He would be if He walked in your shoes.

Yes, His life led to a cross, but think what He accomplished for us! Think of the glorious reward He has for us in eternity!

Let’s strive to treat our lives as Jesus did. The more we do that, the more God will treat us as He treats His Son!

(Reprint from March 1994)





Little by Little



By Mary Carothers

Lot had lived for many years in close relationship

with Abraham. Doubtless he had known about Abraham's relationship with God. Free from the stress of today's hurried pace, they probably spent many hours talking about God. The New Testament speaks of Lot as a righteous man (see II Peter 2:7,8). We can therefore assume that he instructed his family in the way of the Lord.



Then came the day that Abraham and Lot had to separate from one another – the area could not support their flocks and herds. Abraham gave first choice to Lot. As Lot was the younger, he should have deferred to Abraham, giving the older man *his* preference. Even though Lot was a righteous man, he still had problems with “looking out for #1.” And so, he chose the best land for himself. Abraham took what was left. Had we been one of Abraham's herdsmen, we probably would have grumbled that Abraham had gotten the short end of the deal. The truth is we can never be short-changed by others if we are walking with God. Although Lot chose the “biggest piece” when he chose the well-watered valley, he ultimately lost everything, while Abraham became even more wealthy.

Lot may well have been a righteous man, but he certainly lacked wisdom in moving his family closer to, and eventually into, “Sin-City Canaan.” Have you ever noticed how the enemy entices us to compromise just a *little bit* at a time? When

Lot first separated from Abraham, he probably stayed as far as possible from Sodom – avoiding it like the plague. But little by little he moved closer, and finally, folding his tent away, he moved into the city itself. How like us he sounds!

Compromising “little by little” may lead us into questionable territory. For example, think a moment about television and movies. Do you find yourself watching things today that once were offensive? Did you once have strong convictions against drinking, but now find it easy to justify a relaxing drink after work? Were you once in close church fellowship but now choose to sleep in or plan a family outing instead? I could go on and on, but I'm sure you get the picture.

Whatever the reasons for compromise were, Lot's family paid a terrible price. Only because of the prayerful intercession of Uncle Abraham – the family's “religious fanatic” – were they saved from destruction. They were so reluctant to leave Sodom that the angels had to literally drag them out of the city. Or perhaps it was their riches that chained them to Sodom. No wonder Jesus said it was difficult for the rich to enter the kingdom.

Let's become more aware of the enemy's tactics. He never tries to get us to move into “Sodom” right away. Rather, he entices us little-by-little, until before we know it, we have fallen into his trap. But no more!! For we, like Paul, can *“keep Satan from gaining the advantage over us; for we are not ignorant of his designs”* (see II Cor. 2:11).



Letters of Praise and Thanks



Thank you so much for all that you do at the *Foundation of Praise* and for the books that Merlin wrote. They have changed our lives and we appreciate all of you.

JOHN & SUSAN, TX

Some time ago you asked for reactions upon hearing that Merlin had passed away. At that time, I couldn't respond. It seemed like Merlin was an old and valued friend and I felt a personal sorrow as well as feeling that we had lost someone important. I have many of his books and have cherished them and given many of them away. Thank you for continuing this ministry.

LAURA, WI

Thank you so much for your 'thank you letters.' They help me a lot to know I am serving our wonderful Lord!

JANET, NY

I love the *Praise News* and I thank you for the encouragement of Romans 8:28.

ANDREW, CA

I want to thank you for sending me the *Praise News*. I enjoy reading them and hearing how God is working in everyone's lives. Please keep them coming!

ROMAN, IA

Merlin's books have given me deep, profound, and spiritual insights. Thank you for doing God's work.

GARY, BUCKEYE JAIL, AZ

Thank you for your faithfulness in sending us the praise books. Your dedicated act of kindness towards us always allows the glorious Gospel of Christ to continue to spread throughout the Marshall County Correctional Facility.

CHAPLAIN, MS

I truly loved reading *Prison to Praise*. It was the most enjoyable and informative book I have read since the Bible.

LARRY, CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, CA

My name got drawn in a book giveaway through a Christian newsletter and I received *Prison to Praise*. I just finished reading it and the teachings have been very life changing. My heart was filled with joy, as I read it.

CHASE, CORRECTIONAL CENTER, OK

Books are vital to our ministry as we visit each facility weekly sharing the Word of God. When we leave it sometimes leaves a vacancy in the inmates, but the books fulfill this emptiness and gives them continued strength. Your book *Prison to Praise* is such a book!

WENDELL, JAIL MINISTRY, IL

Thank you so much for your praise books. The inmates read and love them. They say that they can easily understand and apply these principles to their lives.

FRANK, COUNTY PRISON, PA



The Foundation of Praise has Received Gifts

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

IN HONOR OF:

Fabio & Anna DiMeglio

The Mooradian Family

Merlin Carothers

Mary Carothers

By their daughter
Vivian Jacobs
of Smithtown, NY

By Don Lupro
of Murrieta, CA

George & Gwen Dilworth
of Cape May, NJ

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of Cape May, NJ

Our loss is Heaven's gain! Our prayers are with those who loved them.



County Annex, EL Paso, TX
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 Mercer County Jail, Aledo, IL
 Health Care Facility, Stockton, CA
 Correctional Facility, Lansing, KS
 Jackson County Jail, Medford, OR
 Correctional Facility, Winfield, KS
 Prison Fellowship Bahamas, Miami, FL
 State Correctional Institute, Dallas, PA
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 Ector County Detention Center, Odessa, TX
 San Juan Corrections Center, Farmington, NM
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 Montgomery County Jail, Christiansburg, VA
 Atlantic County Justice Facility, Mays Landing, NJ
 Hardeman County Correctional Facility, Whiteville, TN
 Western Reception Correctional Center, St. Joseph, MO



Your faithful support has enabled us to send free praise books to the following facilities!






Praise THE Lord



The Power of Praise

I will praise God's name in song and glorify Him with thanksgiving.

(Psalm 69:30)

-  Praise renews your sense of worth to God.
-  Praise lifts your eyes to Jesus. Praise changes circumstances as God responds to it.
-  Praise will change the atmosphere of your home. Praise is holy and God pleasing. Praise cleanses your heart. Praise clarifies your vision. Praise will transform your prayer life. Praise is the strategic way to victory. Praise drives away frustration, tension, and depression. Praise renews the awareness of your part in God's plan for this world. Praise washes away negativity, self-pity, self-centeredness, and discouragement. Praise cleanses your spirit, multiplies your faith, and covers you with God's presence.



When you enter His presence with praise, He enters your circumstances with power.

Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise.

Give thanks to Him, bless His name.
(Psalm 100:4)

