

# SUVISESHA DHWANI

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## Forsake All for Christ

While presenting the conditions of true discipleship, the Lord Jesus declared in no uncertain terms that we have to forsake all for Christ to be His true disciples. Let's listen to His words: "So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple" (Luke 14:33). Hard saying? Yes, in the first hearing. Impractical? No. Probably, this is one of the very unpopular verses in the New Testament and something that is not understood accurately.

What does our Lord really mean by this condition? Is it something possible? Is it not contrary to the general teaching of the New Testament? Hundreds of such questions will rise in our minds when we read His words. To discover the correct meaning of this

condition for discipleship we have to examine other passages in the Scripture too. Since the Bible never contradicts itself, this verse must be understood in the light of other passages dealing with similar issues.

The first question we have to answer is this: Does this condition teach asceticism? The answer is an emphatic No. In fact, the Bible condemns an ascetic life imposed on others (1Tim. 4:2-4). In addition to that the Bible commands and always commends family life. As far as we know all the apostles except Paul were family men (1Corinthians 9:5). Therefore, by the expression, "forsake all", our Lord never meant His disciples to forsake their family life. Does this condition of discipleship prohibit ownership of private property and saving

for our present and future needs? The answer again is an emphatic No. Let's survey the plain teaching of the Bible in this regard:

"... the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children" (2Cor.12:14). The Bible commands the parents to save for their children.

"But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever" (1Tim.5:8) Here Paul denounces those who do not provide for their household.

..... If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat" (2Thess. 3:10). The practical principle laid down here is that one

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## Punjab Campaign Fathegad Saheb District

The gospel campaign in this district is in the second week. On Sunday we the team members worshipped the Lord with the saints of Ludhiana. From Monday we started the campaign. This is the harvest time. So we can see fields ready for harvest anywhere and everywhere. The machine for reaping and the tractors that carry the paddy is a common sight here. Lord Jesus Christ has sent the apostles to the ends of the world. They propagated the gospel in Jerusalem and they even reached other continents in the first century itself. Thus it reached the soil of our country. But how many crores of the hundred cores in India still remain without the proper access to pure gospel. Let us get ready to carry out our responsibility to share gospel to our compatriots.

Lord enabled us to witness Him in a big village called Kheda. It is a densely populated area. The testimony of the so called Christians is harmful for our ministry. The Christians do not live as they preach. So why do you come and preach here is the usual question that we hear from the people. The people lead a quite immoral life here disregarding the teachings of Jesus Christ. The light of Christ has to come out of them but instead the foul smell of the works of darkness is coming out of them. Though they claim that they are Christian, they are not really transformed. They have only the name Christians. At this we have to examine ourselves also. How is our life. We do claim that we have indepth knowledge of the Word of God. But on the practical side what is our state. My name is put onshame because of your deeds is the comment of the Lord.

We got a good response in the Nandapur Choda village. Many listened to the message and a few bought copies of the Bible. God may have special concern for this village. The villagers of Sukha are mostly migrants. They have come from other states for job. The financial condition is bad and most of them are poor. But they showed great interest to listen the word. Even at the time of Jesus the poor and downtrodden gave keen attention to Jesus Christ. Even today the situation remains the same. The Israelities were reminded not to forget the good things they enjoyed on their journey from Egypt to Cannan. But they forgot their God. It can happen to us also. There should be deliberate attention in this field. Let us pray to the Lord to give fruit for our labour in these villages.

## ARE THE MOBILE PHONES REQUIRED FOR STUDENTS?

**Bensiq Miranda**

After the independence the electronic media had great influence for the reformation of India. The young people received the Radio with great pleasure when it was introduced. In those days the older generation was worried about the future of the younger generation. And in some places the diminution of the spiritual value was seen. But the apt interference of the believers and the dealing of the elders helped to make use of many youngsters for the glory of God.

But in a short time the Television replaced Radio. Nowadays we can see at least one T.V. at every home. But it has done a great damage to the spiritual world. To add fuel to the fire today the mobile phone has reached the hands of the youth.

The mobile phones are the best instruments for communication. Mobile phones are available in the market with all electronic facilities. The Chinese sets with all facilities are available at a very cheap price, so everybody will have an option to buy it. The mobile phone had

influenced the new generation to a great extent. All the above facilities are not sin by itself. But the usage and addiction of the phones and other media can drag towards sin. It will definitely spoil the spiritual values of a child of God.

**THE PROBLEMS OF PHONE ADDICTS**

Discarding the studies, Love of loneliness, Narrow minded character, Lack of memory, Sleeplessness, Disorder in daily routine, A i m l e s s n e s s , Cowardness, Depending on friends for everything,

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# Writers or Men of Letters?

Language is the natural means for communication. Man is the creation of Almighty God. From the fact that God confounded the language as has been recorded in the Bible it is clear that language is God given and is a great gift from the Almighty God. Language consists of two aspects. One is hearing and the other speaking. Both these aspects are the parts of communication. Man is a social animal. He will be having lot of personal and social concepts and experiences now and ever. He will have an inborn tendency or desire to inform or communicate these experiences and concept to others. Likewise he has a great interest to know others views and ideas too. The meaningful and thoughtful process of acceptance was given meaningful sound. The meaningful and rich collection of a mixture or amalgamation of sound or voice is called language.

Malayalam is the language of Kerala. Kairali is another name for it. All linguistic scholar who had done an indepth study of the origin of Malayalam has come to the conclusion that it is an indepentant wing of the Dravidian language. There is some basic difference between ordinary colloquial language the language used for writing and the language used in literary works. Malayalam has a very old history. Lot of changes have taken place in the development of Malayalam and its literary works. It is not easy to explain the reasons and facts for the formation of literary works and linguistic movements in few words.

Poetry is the initial or first form of any literature. Poetry is the lofty manifestation of emotions, sentiments and beauty. The human experience of life is its fundamental and basic inspiration. Every human being is prone to emotions and sentiments. So the first form of literature is poetry which has come out of emotions. The abundance of inane talent is the possession and wealth of a literary figure. The greatness and quality of a work of art or literature depends upon these abundance of this talent in a person. The inborn talent or in a sense supernatural or superhuman efficiency in a person who can play magic with words and imagination is what we see in a great artist.

Another factor about it is that poets and literarary figures are people who fly on the wings of romanticism fantacies and imaginations. If we have a close look to it we see that great work are being produced when its authors reach a state of intoxication when they enjoy the natural beauty of the universe the physical beauty of people and the beauty in anything and everything.

But the writers of the Bible are not filled with such things. They had the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. So Bible is not a literary work nor its writers literary figures. If it was so then Moses would have become a great literary figure of the ancient times because he had authored the first five books of the Bible. If we can just put in terms of pure Malayalam then Paul would have become the great literary figure in Malayalam. Likewise when people who has real relationship with God writes books on the basis of the Bible they are not inspired by imagination or romanticism, but they get illumination on the Word of God with the help of the Holy Spirit.

If so like the people of the world when the writers in our midst take the name of Man of Letters it may be either from their ignorance or they are deliberately exploiting the ignorance of our people. As far as my information is concerned there is only brother Krishnankutty who was powerful and in effective words phrases and usages which has indepth meaning that can have the flow of ideas upon ideas after Mahakavi K V Simon. Even he has not claimed himself to be a man of letters. It is good that if our so called literary figures would have understood atleast one thing about it. They may kindly realize that any literarary work is not great because of plot or character but because of the effective and useful usage words upon words.

Criticism is a branch of literature. It involves internal and eternalanalysis of the work and also its creative evaluation. Criticism is the process of introducing a literary work to its reader in a limited way. How many such critics are in the Brethren world. If there is no literature .... Then what about criticism. Then what is the meaning of the formation of literary socities ... What is use of honouring people with decoration and honour. It is because of their scholarship or wisdom or illiteracy or foolishness or impoverishment of genuine wisdom ...? It is the need of any time and period to have writers to instill sense of guilt in the people and also to spiritually edify people. But they should write according to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Let more writers be raised from our midst. But hey should not be for flattery or decoration or honours but to bring forth so many fruit is in the eternity ....

Jose Philip

## Continued from Page 1

Depression, Expecting call from others, Disappointment, Eagerness, Sadness, Anger, Lack of appetite, Disobedience and keeping distance from the parents, Love of extreme privacy and keep everything in suspense these are the common defects seen in a mobile phone addicted student.

### THE CHANGES SEEN IN THE SPIRITUAL FIELD

The lack of interest in the spiritual matters, Avoiding the assembly gathering, Unspiritual contacts, (Pro 18:24 in Mal; More friends will spoil the life) Lack of brotherly love, Telling lies in the public and influence of the friends for the important decisions of life. (The formation of all these characters is a very slow process).

### WARNING TO THE PARENTS.

1. The parent should know the operations of children's phones.
2. It is necessary for the parent to check the incoming and out going calls.
3. Beware of the incomplete names in the phone book.
4. Find out the friend who talks for a long time.
5. Check the frequent missed calls.
6. Check if there is an abnormal change in their face and body language.
7. Check if they seek privacy for certain calls and disconnect the phone in the presence of others.
8. Watch the children carefully if they are irritated when we attend their friend's calls.

The above things should be done prayerfully and carefully. Nothing should be done in the police way or the children should not think that we are doing a 'CBI' work.

When our children are traveling or are confused on the way at an odd time, the phones are of great help. The frequent calls of the parent are a good encouragement for the children. The students can discuss their studies with other friends. In such occasion the mobile phones are at good use and very convenient. But the hidden dangers behind the mobile phones are at a greater extent. The students up to the +2 level are to be discouraged from the usage of mobile phones. In Kerala, the usage phones in the schools are strictly prohibited. (KERALA EDUCATIONAL ACTS & RULES. 2005). The role of mobile phones in the increasing suicidal tendency is too much.

Do not use the mobile phones during the assembly gatherings. Some parents give their phones to the children as a toy to avoid disturbance. It is not a healthy practice to allow them for mobile games during these meetings. The free offer of the film songs as the caller tunes are to be avoided. We should check of all dangerous actions which divert the attention of the young generation from the spirituality. Let us be very cautious about all these things with the help of God.

## Contd from Page 1 Forsake All ...

should work and earn his food.

"Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, not to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy (1Tim. 6:17). Here Paul recognizes that there are certain rich disciples in the Church. Paul is not asking them to divest themselves of their riches. Instead commanding them not to trust in their riches, but to trust in God who is the giver or riches. He also writes that God has given all riches for our enjoyment too.

"The wise man saves for the future, but the foolish man spends whatever he gets" (Prov. 21:20 - The Living Bible). The wise man in the book of Proverbs is a godly man (Prov. 1: 7).

Sometimes Acts 2:45 is quoted to support that the Bible teaches all believers should give up their private property. John Mac Arthur Jr. makes an illuminating comment about this verse based on the origina' meaning of this verse: The verbs "sold" and "parted" are both in the imperfect tense, which means it was a continuous action... It simply means that all the believers were selling their goods and giving money to those who had need as the needs arose. It was 2 picture of self-sacrifice for the need of another, not of pooling everything. Nowhere does the Bible advocate that all money be put into a common pot to be dolled out by some hierarchy".



## YMEF Kallissery Centre

If it be the will of the Lord, the Kallissery unit of the YMEF will be having a one day programme on 21.11.09 at Kallissery from 9am to 5pm. All those who wish to participate in this campaign may kindly reach the Brethren Gospel Hall near Kallissery post office. John Thomas (Secretary) Phone: 9446918942

**Wayanadu:** A one day outreach of the Wayanadu unit was held on 26.10.09 at Meppady. House Visiting and open air meetings were conducted. The programme was held in association with the Puthenkunnam Brethren Assembly. We were able to share gospel in many house. Brother Godson Valayil works here with the view of establishing a new assembly. Brother P Y Kunjumon and Anil also join in this work. Kindly continue to pray for the work of the Wayanadu unit YMEF. **PY Kunjumon**

## Assembly News

**Poomala:** There is an assembly congregation here. Six people partake in the Lords supper. Brother James Philip and family is in the Lord's work here. Kindly pray for this assembly and its ministries. George A. J

## Pray for the Sick

**Kottayam:** Sr.Mary John and Aleyamma John of the Chemmerappally Brethren Assembly are suffering from various problems. Both of them are widows. They need our prayer and support. So kindly pray for them.

## YMEF (SD) For Fervent Prayers

By the grace of the Lord the gospel campaign and follow up campaign in Erode and Karnataka is going smoothly. We are looking for the brethren with commitment and good testimony to work along with the team and to drive the vehicle. Those who are interested may kindly contact **Mr. A J Oommen, Aykkareth House, Pullad PO, Telephone: 0469 2660478, 9447408205**

## Attention!

**Those who send money through electronic medium may be kind enough to send a letter to the concerned to facilitate correspondence. This is a must for the transparency of the account and otherwise it is not easy to identify the donor. So kindly make it a point that all donors to YMEF or BRT may kindly send a letter or atleast give a call to give the details.**

## Gospel Meetings

### Pathanamthitta

Venue: Suvisheshalayam Pathanamthitta Date: 2009 December 20-27, Time: Night Meetings 5.30 to 8pm. Speakers: **Dr O M Samuel, Varghese Kurian, Thomson B Thomas P J James**

**Main Programmes:** 22.12.09 10.30 to 1.30 Sunday School Teachers Conference

23.12.09 9.30 to 1.30 SBS oOne Day Meeting

24.12.09 10.30 to 1.30 Sistersw Meeting

25.12.09 9.30 to 1.30 Family Conference

26.12.09 10.30 to 1.30 Prayer Meeting

### Kumbanadu

Venue: Pandal prepared infront of the NMHSS Ground

Date: 2009 December 27 to 2010 January 3.

Speakers: **Dr O M Samuel, M M Zachariah, Varghese Kurian, Joseph Madhuran, Jose Mankudy, Thomson B Thomas, Albert Sunil**

Night Meetings: 5.45pm to 8.45pm.

### Main Programmes:

29.12.09 10am to 1.30pm Evangelist Meeting

30.12.09 10am to 1.30pm Sisters Meeting

1.01.2010 10am to 1.30pm Missionary Meeting

2.30 pm to 4pm YMEF SD Special Meeting

2.01.10 10.30 to 2.30 Family Conference

### Thiruvananthapuram

If it be the will of the Lord a gospel meeting will be held under the auspices of the Ponneduthakuzhi Brethren Assembly in a nearby premises. Evening meeting will be held from 6.30pm to 9pm. **P G James** is the main speaker **C J Biju**

**Pooyappally:** If it be the will of the Lord a gospel meeting will be held under the auspices of the Pooyappally Brethren Assembly in the Assembly premises from 2.12.09 to 6.12.09. Evening meetings will be held from 6.30pm to 9pm. Messages by **K V Thomas, Aniyar Varghese and Chandapilla Philip**. Kindly pray for the spiritual blessing of these meetings.

## With the Lord

**Eraviperor:** Mrs Annamma Kuruvilla (86) wife of late V T Kuruvilla of Sankaramangalath went to be with the Lord. The mortal remains of the dear mother was buried on 31.10.09 at the Thadiyoor Brethren Cemetry in the presence of a large gathering of saints. Kindly pray for the bereaved family.

**Ernakulam:** Mrs. Saramma Thomas (Kunjamma 89) wife of the late K M Thomas Kuravackal went to be with the Lord on 2.11.09. The mortal remains of the dear mother was buried on 5.11.09 under the officiation of the Palarivattom Christian Brethren Chappel in the midst of a large gathering of saints. Kindly pray for the bereaved family.

# EDOM! A STRONG CITY!

King David killed 20000 Aramites and 12000 Edomites in the valley of Salt at that terrific war (Ps 60, 2Sa 8:3-14) and he was thinking to himself that “who will take me to the strong city and who will carry to Edom?” On one side was the success of David and on the other side the ruined towns of Aram and Edom. And David saw Edom in a prophetic knowledge; he saw the blessed mount of Edom.

Which is this city Edom? It is the first town of the world (Gen 4:17). The “Enoch Town” of Cain and the great town Nineveh, the capital of Ashur where 120000 people and their

animals lived is not present now. People of Tyre were rich and wise and they had a strong wall. (Ps 45:12, Zech 9). But now it is not there. Lord said about Capernaum that “if you lift high as heaven you will go down as the hell”. During the world war the prestige towns of Japan, Hiroshima and Nagasaki were destroyed. There was no security for New York and Mumbai which are commercial capitals of America and India. There is no security and strength for the world cities.

But which is the strong city? The author of the book Epistle to the Hebrews tells about a city in Ch 11 and verse 10 with

foundations and God as the architect. David looked to this city with the eyes of hope and asked who will take me to that city? More explanations about this strong city are seen Rev 21&22 chapters. This is the New Jerusalem, the holy city. A city, in which God has His tent with the people. The Lord who wipes out the tears of His people will be present there. There is no death, sorrow, lamentation and poverty. In the middle of the highways there is throne of God and the Lamb. Where is Edom? That is the name of Esau. It is the domicile city of the children of Esau. Zuar was the inherited land of



## THE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT US MAKES POLITE

If anyone looks at the deepness of the meaning of the words “Meekness” and “Politeness”, life will be fruitful. The life of some great men of history is like that and history will ways remember these people. There were such people in the spiritual world also. There is nobody in this world like our Lord Jesus who has gone deeper in this character. He has seen the completeness of this attitude. So God lifted Him above all names.

Jeremy Taylor was a respectable man who lived in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. He narrated a story of a King of Crete like this. He adopted a simple life for his people of the country. One day one of his close friends told him like this

“Master you have to change your life style and lead a royal life, otherwise the situations will become more complicated. But the King replied like this “You are mistaken about my life. I am leading a luxury life. Whenever I go to some place I will send a faithful servant before me and he will prepare royal lodging and food for me”. Then the friend was astonished and asked him” who is that friend”. The King replied “that is my knowledge about me”. That knowledge is always before me. I remember that how wretched and sinner I was and I know my rewards but the food and lodging I get in each place is more than I deserve. And

when I remember this I am happy and satisfied and praise God for that.”

Dear children of God the knowledge about us and repentance will make us perfect. When we examine our previous and present condition and the value of our life, meekness and politeness will come to our life. When we forget that truth the above quality will disappear. Therefore let us be submissive to each other and bare the meekness which is the quality of our Lord. Those who yield to the yoke of Christ will know the secret of it.

**T.V.S.**

**T.V.S.**

### In TV Channels

#### Sathgamagamaya TV Talk Show Programme

People channel of Kairali's News Channel

All Fridays (Malayalam) 4.30-5.00 p.m.

Monday 6.00-6.30 a.m. Zee TV (Hindi)

#### Jeevamritham Television Program

Every Saturday 9 P M -9.30 p.m. in Power vision channel.by Evg Chandapilla Philip

Esau. (Deut 2; 5) Why did David want to go to the place of Edomites? The Israelites had only bitter experience with the Edomites. In the book of Numbers Ch 20 verses 14 to 21 we read that Moses sent messengers to the king of Edom. Israelites wanted to pass through the country and guaranteed that they will not touch the field or crops or drink the water from their well. They requested only to cross the country through the highway. But the king of Edom rejected the request and sent army against them. So the Israelites traveled through the Hor Mountain. David will not wish to go to a place where the forefathers were ridiculed and he killed so many of them.

Then where is this Edom? Where is that Edom through which David wanted to walk? The answers of these questions are seen in Is 63:1. “Who is this comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah, This one glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength, I who speaks in righteousness, mighty to save.” This is a prophecy regarding our Lord Jesus Christ. The King we see in Jer 23:5 is our Lord who executes Judgment and righteousness. David wanted to go to that northern Mountain which is the Mont Zion (Ps 48:2). Why David wanted to reach that strong city Edom? Because he wanted to be a witness there at the second coming of Christ, when all the saints and heavenly army will gather together at that holy Mount Zion. Dear readers get ready receive Him at His second coming.

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