

A Word from Our Preaching Pastor:

Sunday, March 8, 2009

*"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself
and take up his cross and follow me."*

Mark 8:34

*"When Christ calls a man, 'Come follow me' He bids him come and **die!**"*

For the author of these words, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, that was anything but a cheap statement. For he soon paid for it with his life as he stood against the evils of Nazi Germany during World War II. And yet, this command of Christ to take up the cross and follow, goes out not just to the valiant of the earth like Pastor Bonhoeffer, it is the call of God to every Christian.

That's what I want you to see this morning. The radical call of Christ is for *every* believer. It is not a special call to the super-committed – to the missionary martyr or the sacrificial saint. It is the common call to every Christian – the minimum requirement of the Christian life! *"If anyone wishes to come after me"* Jesus says.

"You want to come with me? You want to be my disciple? Here is the minimum commitment! Deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me!" In other words, if there is not something of this radical commitment to Christ in what you call Christianity, then you don't have real Christianity!

Think about it. What makes you think you are a Christian? A decision you made? A prayer at an altar?

"If anyone would come after me, let Him say a prayer? Is that what Jesus says? . . . with every head bowed and every eye closed?"

No! This is a radical call to total discipleship! That's what I want God to help us see this morning! Christ bids us come and die! Christ calls us out of ourselves to live lives of reckless abandon to Him. Christ calls us to stop living for the American dream of material security, and start living boldly for the sake of His Kingdom – no matter what the cost – because in the end it is worth it!

By His Grace and for His glory!

Pastor Scott!