

As we begin this article, I want to ask you how the work of the congregation in which you attend is going? Is the gospel being spread through missionary efforts? Are your elders taking an active role in the well being of the church? Do the deacons take their work to heart and complete the tasks given them? Allow me to share a scripture with you. Hebrews 13:7, "Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith."

The church will always need good and humble men who will serve and lead. A plaque in Westminster Abbey has these words in honor of John Wesley: "God buries His workmen, but carries on His work." Following the examples of good and noble men and women from our childhood days can make us better adults. In turn, we can be the proper example to our young people and they to the generation to follow. We are blessed within our congregation to have many honorable men and women that stand as great examples of mature Christians. However, human beings sometimes disappoint us. Even church leaders, who stray from the faith they once held so dear, depart and let us down. We must not allow ourselves to be discouraged. Human beings are frail and sometimes even the noblest give into to the standards of the world. Hebrew 13:8 turns us to our greatest example—Jesus Christ. Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

As we strive to be the family of the Lord's Body in which He gave His precious life, let us look to His example of fortitude in the face of apostasy. In John 6 when Jesus referred to Himself as the Bread of Life, many of the people that heard Him disputed and misunderstood that which He spoke. They asked in John 6:52, "The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?'" Many of His disciples turned and left that day to walk no more with the Savior. Jesus seeing this asked His closest companions, the twelve He personally selected, will they too leave? They did not but gave the answer, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

Many today refuse to stand and proclaim the Word of the Lord. Many members of the Lord's Body seem a bit too comfortable to just sit and occupy space in a pew on Sunday's and Wednesday's. Let us follow the example of Jesus to continue to proclaim the gospel—even when it is not the most popular subject. Let us set the example for our young people to follow. Let us be teachers, those who lead in prayer and serve at the Lord's Table. Let us be leaders of visitation teams and train up deacons, elders, and evangelists. Let us step into the role of leadership in the church and help be the tool of God that brings others to a richer and fuller knowledge of God. One day God will bury His workmen, men and women alike. Will the church still stand in the community in which you live? Allow me to encourage you to step up and take part in the work of the congregation in which you attend.

May God richly bless you and the family of Christians you worship and work with. May we always look to the greatest example in Christ Jesus.

In Christ,

Joe Rhodes