

## Far Better!

By: Pastor Ronald Marr

When our earthly house is destroyed, we will have a building from God, not made by hands, eternal in heaven. While we're still in our earthly house we groan under the burdens we constantly bear. So that we long to be released from our earthly house and clothed in our new house from heaven in which mortality will be swallowed up by spiritual and eternal life in God.

There shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, nor pain. All this, streets of gold, and more, God made us for! In the meantime, He's given us as a down payment the Spirit Who already lives powerfully in us.

Still, while we're at home in our earthly body, we're not at home in the Lord in full personal presence. and we must walk by faith, not by sight. Obviously we would prefer to be absent from the body and present with the Lord. But until then we seek to please Him, remembering that we will all be rewarded for things we've done in the body, good or bad.

*Knowing, therefore, both the terror and the love of the Lord, we persuade men. In His love He died for all that they who live should not henceforth live to themselves but unto Him who died for them, and rose again.*

*And all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ and called us to be ambassadors in Christ's place beseeching everyone to be reconciled to God ... while it is still the day of salvation ... while God is still calling.*

-From II Corinthians 5 and other Scriptures.

If you get a phone call telling you that a relative who knows the Lord just "passed away, if you joyously say, "Praise the Lord," what kind of response would you expect to get?

## It Costs to Follow Jesus

By: Pastor Ronald Marr

**If your Christianity costs you nothing, it isn't worth much.**

*"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."  
(II Timothy 3:12)*

*"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth."  
(Romans 1:16)*

*"None-the-less you have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father."  
(Romans 8:15)*

*"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."  
(Romans 12:1,2)*

*"If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us."  
(II Timothy 2:12)*

You are going to get hurt if you're going to walk with God. It's a lot easier to just look like the world, talk like the world, act like the world.

Of, course, if it should sneak out that you profess to be a Christian, people around you will begin branding you a hypocrite or a coward. And you'll get hurt anyway.

So you really can't escape it, no matter how hard

## Every Tho't A Prayer!

By: Pastor Ronald Marr

We are the circumcision (God's people), which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh... Rejoice in the Lord always... Be careful (anxious) for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passed all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

... Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. And the God of peace shall be with you.

*... Bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.*

From Philippians 3, II Corinthians 10:5

We're always thinking. ... For better or worse! Mostly for worse. Our thoughts are usually anxious and fearful.

When we can't go to sleep at night, or when we waken and can't go back, it's usually because our mind is racing. It won't quit. And we know no peace.

For several years as soon as I've gone to bed, I worship the Lord by repeating His attributes (characteristics) and singing favorite hymns. Usually I'm asleep in 5 minutes.

Dead silence, then, “**What?!?!**”

... Even if the person has been released from years of pain and distress? ... Even if their care givers were released from a life of great self-sacrifice and difficulty?

Generally, we’ve been brainwashed and poured into the world’s mold.

Of course, if they don’t know Christ as their personal Savior, your response would be anything but appropriate ... And if the deceased person was leaving behind others to grieve, especially those who need them such as minor children.

Likewise, try telling people that you’re anxious to go home to be with the Lord and trade in pain and sorrow of all kinds for eternal bliss. Right away some will be label you depressed, even suicidal.

A wacco! It could well be argued that the waccos are those who don’t have enough sense to want to trade in present pain and sorrow for eternal bliss. We need to get as straight as Paul was on this whole matter.

It’s time for the church to preach again the everlasting joys of heaven, the eternal suffering of hell, and personal responsibility to God.

God is the beginning and end. We are to put Him first in all things. We are to be His ambassadors offering eternal life to all. Unabashedly longing to be with Him in eternal bliss is a great way to point them to Him.

you try.

For decades I’ve encouraged Christian parents to teach their children that they are delightedly different. Like it or not, by God’s grace they are actually “better.”

They are kinder, more thoughtful, more helpful, more gracious, purer, less selfish.

Now, I know this will be greeted with a chorus of fears that they will grow up to be twisted, warped, misfits.

Not so if they are constantly reminded that they are better off than others with a desire to be God-like, constantly turning others to Him that they may enjoy all the blessings that they enjoy, and more.

You’ll still be persecuted if you speak out for the Lord and His salvation. But often you’ll find that deep inside even your persecutors will envy you. And you may have the joy of winning some to Christ.

I have help for you in my book, A Christianity That Really Works and in numerous pamphlets including Worship Prayer.

I admit I’m still a long way from making every thought a prayer, but it’s an absolutely wonderful aim that I want never to lose sight of. One I want to earnestly urge upon you.

I do not want to get you into bondage to a superficial demand. I want to draw you into the marvelous privilege of fellowshiping more and more constantly with our loving, caring, giving God and His Christ.

Keep this card in pocket or purse. Pull it out frequently. Read both sides. As often as you think of it, make your present thought a prayer. Do it more and more often.

*Write to us and request more copies to share.  
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*Transformed Living Messages by Pastor Marr*  
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