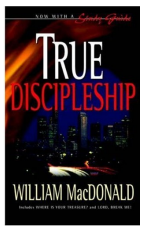


Library News



Book Review by Dan Benson “True Discipleship” by William MacDonald

True Discipleship by William MacDonald is a classic work that sets forth the “terms of discipleship as laid down by the Savior of the world.” These terms include:

- A supreme love for Jesus Christ. (Luke 14:26)
- A denial of self. (Matthew 16:24)
- A deliberate choosing of the cross. (Matthew 16:24).
- A life spent in following Christ. (Matthew 16:24).
- A fervent love for all who belong to Christ. (John 13:35).
- An unswerving continuance in His Word. (John 8:31).
- A forsaking of all to follow Him. (Luke 14:33).

I first read this slim book (just 141 pages) many years ago when Christ first drew me to himself. Published in 1975, this uncomplicated and straightforward book gripped my heart then and it gripped me again. MacDonald does not pull any punches when he lays out the stringent demands Jesus laid down for his disciples and contrasts them with what weakly passes for discipleship these days. As I read it, I almost cringed at times as I considered how lackluster I am in my passion for Christ. This is a shocking – as in electrically charged – book.

True discipleship is not based on knowledge, or experience MacDonald points out, but obedience and zeal according to the knowledge one possesses.

“A disciple can be forgiven if he does not have great mental ability. He can be forgiven also if he does not display outstanding physical prowess. But no disciple can be excused if he does not have zeal,” he writes.

After all, “Zeal for Your house has consumed Me” it was said of Jesus, (John 2:17). How can we be different if we are to be like him?

Other hallmarks of a true disciple are a hunger for God’s Word, faith, prayer and a broken spirit that bends itself to the will of God.

- “Since faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God, the disciple’s desire should be to saturate himself in the Scriptures -- to read them, study them, memorize them, meditate upon them day and night.”
- “Faith that costs nothing is worth nothing.”
- “God knows how to resist the proud (James 4:6), but He cannot resist a humble person.” (Psalm 34:18; Psalm 51:17)
- “What is meant by brokenness? Repentance, confession, apology, restitution.”

MacDonald also introduces his readers to many great heroes of the faith who gave their all to follow Christ and urges us to follow their example. People like C.T. Studd, Hudson Taylor and Jim Elliott, who, while meditating on Hebrews 1:7, wrote: “Am I ignitable? God deliver me from the asbestos of ‘other things.’ Saturate me with the oil of the Spirit that I may be a flame. ... Make me thy fuel, Flame of God.”

So many of modern Christians’ problems -- which statistically parallel those of the non-Christian community -- probably stem from our watered-down version of what it means to be a disciple. Without being legalistic, we seek the benefits of Christ’s sacrifice on our behalf without making any of our own.

MacDonald, who died in 2007 at the age of 91, was a former faculty member and president of Emmaus Bible College and wrote more than 80 books. MacDonald accepted no royalties for any of his books and they, including “True Discipleship” can be downloaded for free at many sites on the Internet. There is no book I could recommend more highly.

Building & Grounds

By Gary Schlenvogt

We have issued a contract to Lee J. Allen and Sons to replace several windows and repair four others. New windows are currently being manufactured. The administrative assistant’s office is now painted and new carpet installed. The office is now set up to accommodate the financial secretaries.