

COMMUNITY CONTENDER

I TIMOTHY 2:15

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HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CHURCH

1 Peter 5:1-10, The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: (2) Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; (3) Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. (4) And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. (5) Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. (6) Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: (7) Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. (8) Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: (9) Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. (10) But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

*1 Timothy 3:15, But if I tarry long, that thou mayest **know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God**, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*

This verse says that God says the church is: **1. The house of God. 2. Need to learn how to behave in it. 3. It is the pillar and the ground of the truth.**

Non spirit-controlled parents rear non spirit-controlled children.

In all the things I have seen in 38 years of ministry and I have seen a lot and counseled a lot. One of the most important things I try to get people to understand and to teach them is to set spiritual priorities in their lives. Then make sure everything else works around those spiritual priorities. It can be done if a person Biblically understands the importance of spiritual priorities and does not try to rationalize their poor choices and inconsistent non spiritual behavior. The people who set spiritual priorities in their lives and are consistent in them always do well. Their children see the parent's consistency and understand the importance and the conviction the parents put on spiritual priorities. They learn the spiritual priority principal and the importance of it in their lives. The children who see the consistent spiritual lives of their parents generally do well. The children who see the spiritual inconsistency of the parents and the lack of spiritual priorities produce children who grow up to ruin their life. They are generally worse than their parents. Their lives are spiritual disasters and they create much havoc in their lives and the lives of others. Sadly, it happens about 80 percent of the time. Of course, the parents wonder what in the world happened here. Non spirit-controlled parents rear non spirit-controlled children.

Several years ago we put the following on our church sign. "The church is a gift from God-assembly required-Hebrews 10:25."

The church is a gift from God. It would be my hope that every Christian would see the church that way. It has been my privilege to pastor for more than 35 years and I have seen many different people attend the house of God.

I have seen those attend who thought they were God's gift to the church rather than the church be a gift from God to them. I have seen those who have attended church for ulterior motives rather than service and worship to God. I have seen those who have fallen by the wayside rather than have a teachable usable spirit and destruction rules and reigns in their life.

Proverbs 13:13-15, **Whoso despiseth the word (does not give proper attention to) shall be destroyed:** but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded. (14) *The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death. (15) Good understanding giveth favour: **but the way of transgressors is hard.***

I have seen those who wanted to learn and be a great encouragement to others. I have seen those who thought God's work would end if they were not in control of it. They never learn to submit themselves to the authority over them.

Hebrews 13:7, 17, *Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation. Obey them that have the rule over you, and **submit yourselves:** for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*

People who never learn to submit themselves always cause harm to the church and not good to the church or the people in the church.



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CHURCH CONTINUED...

1. Look at it as the gift of God to my life. It is the place I am called to serve. It is the place I worship the living and true God.

2. Look at it as a place where I learn what God wants me to learn. If we have a life that has a submissive right spirit with God we will desire to learn. The Pastor is to feed me so I can learn. He is the shepherd. The Pastor must have a spirit that wants to: "Help them learn!"

1 Peter 5:2-4, *Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; (3) Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. (4) And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.*

3. Look at the church as a place where each of us learns humility. Are you desirous to serve, then it requires humility.

1 Peter 5:5-6, *Likewise, ye younger, **submit yourselves** unto the elder. Yea, all of you be **subject one to another, and be clothed with humility**: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. (6) **Humble yourselves** therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:*

4. Look at the church as a place to learn how to have a real relationship with God. This is a maturity issue, your spiritual maturity.

1 Peter 5:7-10, *Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. (8) Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: (9) Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. (10) But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.*

5. Look at the church as a place where you learn how to be faithful. Hebrews 10:24-25, *And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: (25) **Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

The Jews who had gotten saved had been following Old Testament law practices. Paul is raising the question with them not to try to go back under the law and **to not forsake the assembling together of the saints for instruction and edification. It is the easiest way to apostatize by forsaking the house of God. They need to be faithful to the assembly to encourage one another, learn what they need to learn,** and if they choose to go back to the old way after they have come unto the knowledge of the truth, then they leave God no other alternative but to judge their life. It is the same way for you and me.

Hebrews 10:26-27, *For if we **sin wilfully** after that we have **received the knowledge of the truth**, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, (27) **But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.***

Be faithful and be an encouragement to others!

The Negative and Positive of My Church Attendance

Someone sent this to me back in 2008. I do not know who the author is, but I think it is helpful.

What My Absence From Church Did

1. It caused some people to question the reality of my faith.
2. It made some think that I was a pretender.
3. It made many think that I consider my spiritual welfare and that of others a matter of small concern.
4. It weakened the effect of the church service.
5. It made it harder for the preacher to preach.
6. It discouraged other church members and robbed them of a blessing.
7. It made it harder for me to resist the temptation of the devil.
8. It gave the devil more power and influence over lost people.
9. It encouraged me to become more irregular in church attendance.

What My Presence At Church Did

1. It caused people to have confidence in me.
2. It made people realize that I regard my spiritual welfare and that of others, matters of great importance.
3. It had a good effect on the services.
4. It made my friends feel more welcome.
5. It encouraged other church members and helped the pastor in his work.
6. It caused others to come to Christ.
7. It made my life stronger for another week.
8. It removed stumbling blocks for the sinner's path.
9. It pleased God.
10. It caused others to say, "He practiced what he preaches."

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CHURCH CONTINUED...

6. Support Your Local Church By Inviting Others. When was the last time you invited someone to church? When was the last time you led anyone to the Lord? Have you ever led anyone to the Lord? Many people blame the church for that. If you're local church has taught you how to lead people to the Lord and they should have done that, then you should know how to do so. If not ask the Pastor to teach you. Most of the time folks it is not a lack of instruction, but seeing the need to do so. If you are critical of others on this issue, ask yourself, "What have I done to lead others to Christ?"

7. Support your local church by Giving Regularly. Keep your commitments. Give when you get paid. Don't give after everything else is paid. You give first and you do not rob God. People who are not mature enough to give regularly and systematically can never move up in service for God and should not.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8, *But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. (7) Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. (8) And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:*

8. Support Your Local Church By Praying For and Supporting the Other Church Members. Get to know each other, be concerned for each other. You can tell a lot about body language. Have you ever noticed when a church has a handshaking time and there are people who never go to anyone else? Walk over and say hello! If your church has a time in prayer meeting where you can pray with people, pray with different people. Care enough to get to know other people. The difference is a selfish person verses a serving Spirit controlled person.

9. Support Your Local Church By Not Fellowshiping In The Negative. Every church has immature non Spirit controlled people who gossip, are negative, and nothing is ever right. You cannot be a Spirit controlled person and be involved in always finding fault and fellowshiping with people who are negative all the time. They can wake up when the sun shines and it is too hot! Or, it is too cold! Life is hard, drudgery, never good! They bring that attitude over to the church. They always have a better idea. They are never focused on the betterment of the church, or others, just their pride, selfishness, and themselves.

Psalm 15:3, *He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.*

Galatians 5:15, *But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.*

Support your local church by being positive about it at home, in the community, and to others.

10. Support Your Local Church By Being On Time And Behaving Yourself In The Service. Be on time for the services. Get there a few minutes early, find your seat, and get situated. Have time to go to the bathroom. Unless ill or it is an emergency, stay seated during the service. Don't be walking around. Don't go outside! Don't write notes to one another during the service. Show respect for the preacher and others around you! Sit up properly! Open your Bible and follow along. Do not whisper and talk to each other while the preaching and teaching is going on. Participate when you are called upon to participate in the service. (Do not take it personally when you are not called upon). Do not sleep, go to bed early enough on Saturday evening that you are alert on Sunday morning.

11. Support Your Local Church By Praying For the Services and The Preacher. Pastors are human beings and so are their families. Pray for the pastor and his family. Ask God to use them and fill them today with His Spirit! Pray that God will speak to your heart today and others around you. Pray that the service will be glorifying to God in all aspects. Pray that you will be an encouragement to others. Pray for souls to be saved.

Most of all make sure you deal with any sin in your life daily, submit yourself to God, and be a Spirit controlled person.

Pastor Terry Coomer

MEMORY CORNER:

I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD. Psalm 122:1

Behold, bless ye the LORD, all ye servants of the LORD, which by night stand in the house of the LORD. Psalm 134:1

How amiable are thy tabernacles, O LORD of hosts!
My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of

the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God. Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah. Psalm 84: 1-2, 4

The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing; Psalm 92:12-14

A PROPER PREACHER WHO BRINGS PROSPERING

Then the prophets, Haggai the prophet, and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophesied unto the Jews that were in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, even unto them. Then rose up Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and began to build the house of God which is at Jerusalem: and with them were the prophets of God helping them. (Ezra 5:1-2)

It ought to be the heart's desire of every God-called preacher worth his weight in salt, that he be a proper preacher with a prospering ministry. It is not that he desires to have self-promotion or greatness attributed to his name, but rather that he effectively point people to Christ and witness their lives prospered as they respond correctly to his message.

The preacher does not preach about himself nor promote himself, but rather he preaches the message that the people need to hear. He is not in it for popularity. He recognizes the unworthiness of himself and the worthiness of the One of whom he preaches. John the Baptist was not very popular seeing where he lived, what he ate, what he wore, and even the hardness of his preaching, yet people flocked to hear him. He was a God called preacher.

A preacher recognizes the spiritual condition of the people. He is very much in tune with keen discernment as to what God has asked, what the people are doing, and what be the condition of the hearts. He recognizes the lack of obedience and faithfulness to the Lord. He recognizes that the work of God is not moving forward and the people of God are at a standstill, thus he preaches.

His preaching has a certain aim. He aims for the heart to bring conviction, so that faith and obedience to the Lord may be the result. One preacher said he aims to use the Word of God as the chess piece to place the king in check mate so that the hearer has no recourse but to get right with God. Of course, without the power of the Lord, nothing in his preaching will take hold on the hearers. And so, he seasons his preaching with prayer. His preaching must be seasoned with prayer so that it may be savored by the people.

Such was the ministry of two of God's chosen prophets during the return from captivity. Haggai and Zechariah, building prophets, preached to God's people a message of encouragement and hope in a time when the building of the walls of the city of Jerusalem had come to a standstill. Adversaries of God's people had written letters to the Persian King Artaxerxes telling of the rebellion and sedition of this great city in years past, who in turn commanded the ceasing of the work. Multiple years pass by, and these two prophets recognized that the people were not prospering while God's house was lying in waste and God's people were daily working on their own dwelling places. It was time to preach. Preach they did and in the name of the Lord, the work began afresh.

A few encouraging thoughts can be found about these two preachers which must be true of every preacher:

The preacher should preach in the Name of the Lord to the people—vs. 1 Then the prophets, Haggai the prophet, and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophesied unto the Jews that were in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, even unto them...

The preacher does not preach from His own platform or authority. He preaches the preaching which the Lord alone bids him. Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee. (Jonah 3:2)

He comes in the Name of the Lord and in the power of His might. This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts. (Zechariah 4:6)

He preaches as the oracles of God. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 4:11)

The Preacher should be with the People—vs. 2 Then rose up Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and began to build the house of God which is at Jerusalem: and with them were the prophets of God...

The preacher did not preach the message and then return to his chamber to idly please himself. He was seen preaching in the pulpit, but then present with the people.

The preacher does not rise above the people as a "man of the cloth". He must pray the same way, fight the same battles, and trust God by faith just as the person in the pew. He is made of the same medal as the carpenter or block layer. He struggles with the same sins as the people because he has the same old man.

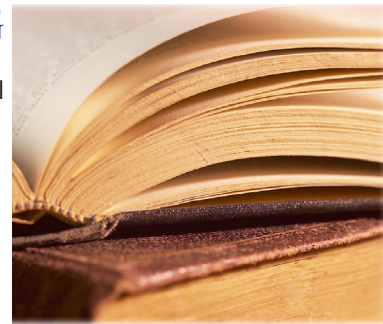
He is no greater in spiritual standing before the people; it is only that God's calling has been different upon His life.

The Preacher should help the people—vs. 2 ...And with them were the prophets of God helping them...

The preacher must involve himself in the work of preaching, but he must also see that he serves alongside the people.

God's preaching is not just to motivate the people to up, move, and serve the Lord, but must first impact the servant of the Lord. It should be the preacher's duty to first preach every message to himself and to see that he is spiritually prospering before he preaches that very message to his people.

Preaching will be greater received when the preacher practices the preaching in the same trenches with the people. If he preaches to pick up a trowel and hammer, he must be the first to take hold of one when he descends from the pulpit.



Life changing preaching must be seasoned with prayer so that it may be savored by the people.

What was the nature of the preaching of these “building” prophets...

Consider your ways... (Haggai 1:5)

I am with you, saith the LORD... (Haggai 1:13)

Yet now be strong...all ye people of the land, saith the LORD, and work... (Haggai 2:4)

The silver is mine, and the gold is mine... (Haggai 2:8)

From this day will I bless you... (Haggai 2:19)

Turn ye unto me, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the LORD of hosts... (Zechariah 1:3)

I am returned to Jerusalem with mercies: my house shall be built in it... (Zechariah 1:16)

For I, saith the LORD, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her... (Zechariah 2:5)

For he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye...Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion: for, lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the LORD... (Zechariah 2:8, 10)

Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts... (Zechariah 4:6)

For who hath despised the day of small things? (Zechariah 4:10)

Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD... (Zechariah 6:12)

Ask ye of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain; so the LORD shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to ever one grass in the field... (Zechariah 10:1)

In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD... (Zechariah 14:20)

What of all this preaching? What happens when God’s men are stirred about the condition of the people, preach in the Name of the Lord, are present with the people, and are laboring alongside of them?

And the elders of the Jews builded, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. (Ezra 6:14)

THE BLESSINGS OF TRUTH:

Welcome to a post-truth society. While many stumble along without truth, believers are not as some philosopher who must ask, What is truth? They are not left to wonder. We have been given the Truth.

The Sovereign Lord, the great I AM, has seen fit to give His Word to His Creatures. It is nothing short of perfect, infallible, and inerrant. It is the perfect law of liberty by which man will be judged. It is that which sanctifies because it is truth. How sad and scary that any would question its authority or accuracy, for truly there is no fear of the Lord in this type of thinking. Has He not magnified His Word above all His name?

Psalm 138:2 I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.

The Jewish scribes had such fear of the Lord when they copied His great name Jehovah. Not only did they respect the Words of God, but they respected His name. Consider three important steps taken. *While copying, the scribe must only write the name of God with a pen newly dipped into the ink. Each time the scribe came across the Hebrew word for God, he had to wipe his pen clean. And when he came across the name of God, Jehovah, he had to wash his whole body before he could write it. Should a king address the scribe while writing that name he must take no notice of him*

If Gods Word is magnified above His name, let us thank Him for His Word and fear His commandments as Solomon describes. Proverbs 13:13 Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded. Let us allow the Word of Christ to dwell in hearts richly, till it fills our souls, alters our attitude, changes our behavior, and places a song on our lips. Let us desire the sincere milk of the word and find it sweeter than honey and the honeycomb. Count up its value more than gold, silver, or any precious gem. Would we not value a piece of communication from a president or king? We might display it, read it often, talk of it to others. Let us do so with the Word from the King of Kings.

Conviction: truth is just that. It allows me to rest upon it and know that it is so and will be so. It will not change. It transcends culture and is timeless. It will stead me in this day and even through eternity.

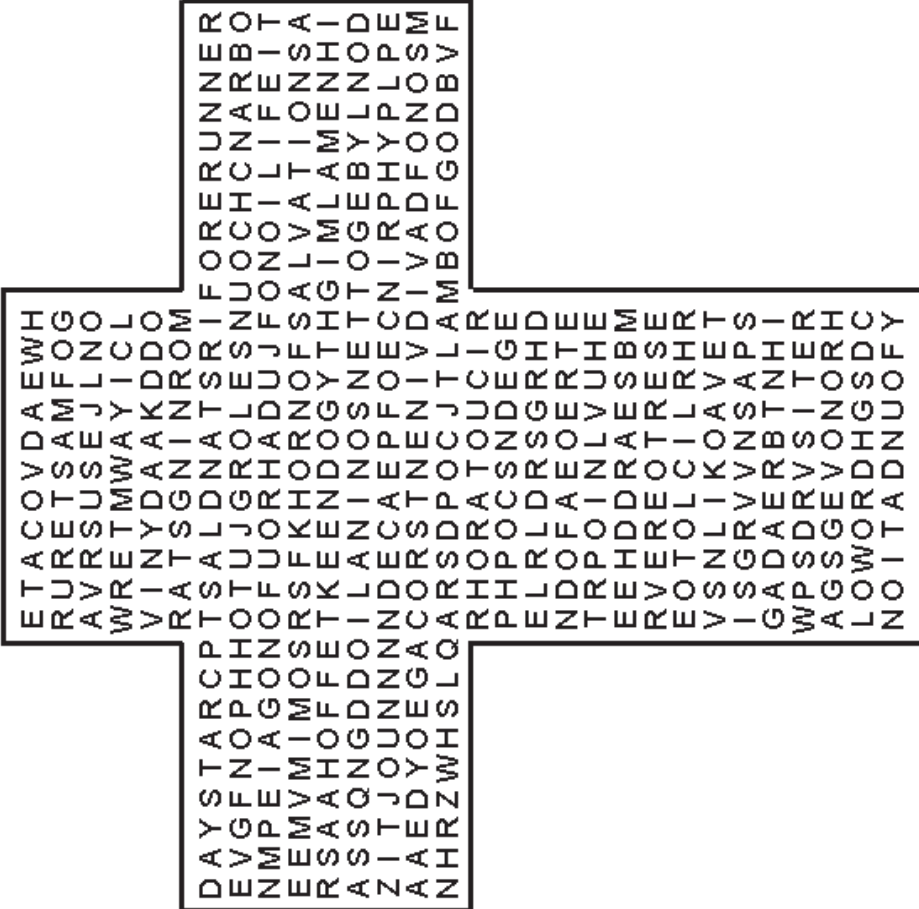
Cohesion: it rings true throughout. It does not contradict. It harmonizes and sheds light upon its own pages. Every book and writer agrees with the whole because they bear the message of the one Divine Author.

Confidence: truth allows me to stand tall against any and all opinions. It allows me to stand against heresies and cunningly devised fables. It rises above doctrines of devils and relativism of the world. If the world is against me and I stand on Gods Word I am confident.

Comfort: the Word of the Lord fills the soul with the comfort of the Lord. Scripture comforts through trial. Promises satisfy the soul and gives rest, sweetly they give assurance. The spark of joy is kindled in the heart by the Word.

Courage: It is the Word of God which has gripped the hearts of men to cause them to run fearlessly into the jaws of death, giving their bodies as a living sacrifice. It has been the sweet comforts of Scripture which have called many a man and woman to leave all and give all to fulfill God’s calling in some area of the white harvest fields. It is the Word of God which gives the Believer assurance that when he closes his eyes in death he will awake to be with the Lord.

But Whom Do You Say That I AM?



- Advocate
- Almighty
- Alpha and Omega
- Amen
- Apostle
- Beloved Son
- Bishop
- Branch
- Bread
- Captain
- Carpenter
- Chosen
- Christ
- Consolation
- Cornerstone
- Counselor
- Day Star
- Deliverer
- Door
- Emmanuel
- Everlasting
- Faithful and True
- First and Last
- Forerunner
- Foundation
- Governor
- Head
- High Priest
- Holy and Just One
- Horn of Salvation
- I AM
- Jesus
- Judge
- King
- King of Kings
- Lamb of God
- Lawgiver
- Life
- Light
- Lion of Judah
- Lord
- Lord of Lords
- Master
- Master
- Mediator
- Messiah
- Mighty God
- Morning Star
- Nazarene
- Only Begotten Son
- Passover
- Priest
- Prince of Peace
- Prophet
- Redeemer
- Resurrection
- Rock
- Savior
- Servant
- Shepherd
- Son of David
- Son of God
- Son of Man
- Vine
- Way
- Wonderful
- Word

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COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

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Be praying about the upcoming
 Vision of the Cross of Christ
 Good Friday, April 14
 12 Personal Messages

WHERE GOD IS GLORIFIED, HIS WORD IS MAGNIFIED, AND HIS PEOPLE EDIFIED