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April 4, 2012

## THE CHURCH NEEDS TO CHANGE, PART 2

*"We're concerned about the moral decay of our culture, but have not done much to reverse the moral decay in the Church. We talk about transforming culture; we should spend more energy on transforming Christians. That can come only through the cross—through suffering." (Indivisible by James Robison and Jay W. Richards, p 13)*

When Moses had to deal with the misconduct of the children of Israel it was quite a challenge. Their behavior required them to be chastised by the Lord on various occasions. On the occasion where they spoke against God and Moses because they wanted water and bread and were tired of the manna, God sent fiery serpents that bit the people causing many Israelites to die. The deaths caused them to acknowledge they had sinned by speaking against the Lord and Moses and they asked Moses to pray to the Lord for deliverance from the fiery serpents. Under God's order Moses made a bronze serpent and put it on a pole and told them if they were bitten to look to the bronze serpent and live. Today, we have the cross of Jesus Christ to look upon. The use of the word look was not meaning to take a glance. We are to look attentively, expectantly and steady with an absorbing gaze at the cross of Jesus and what it has given us, Life! The new life we have requires us to change by living after the new man and not the old man. The decay of the church is prevalent as many have stopped looking at the significance of the cross of Christ and are focusing on other things. These diversions have caused many to be attracted to the desires of the flesh and are looking attentively to the world's sinful attractions. Our sensitivity to the cross may be sparked during the Resurrection service we attend annually but it does not remain there long enough to keep us reminded that Jesus' death was an extreme suffering experience that we might not be held captive by sin but can live free from sin and resist the devil. The suffering at the cross has made it possible that when we do stumble and miss the mark, our High Priest, Jesus, is willing to forgive us when we repent and acknowledge our sin and decide to walk away from it.

Our focus needs to change toward the cross of Christ and be willing to suffer in the flesh to reign with the Lord. As truly transformed people we lift up Christ and He will draw men to Him because of it. To remember the cross for Resurrection Sunday is too brief, we must focus on it daily.

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