

CHALLENGED TO CHALLENGE  
Follow Christ  
Banska Bystrica, 17th September 2022

כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה עֲמְדוּ עַל-דַּרְכֵי  
וַיִּרְאוּ וַיִּשְׁאַלְוּ לְנַתְבוֹת עוֹלָם  
אֵי-יְהִי דַרְךְ הַטּוֹב וּלְכוּ בָּהּ  
וּמְצְאוּ מַרְגּוּעַ לְנַפְשֵׁיכֶם

**Jer 6:16** Thus says the LORD: "Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.

**Luke 14:28** Τίς γὰρ ἐξ ὑμῶν, ὁ θέλων πύργον οἰκοδομῆσαι, οὐχὶ πρῶτον καθίσας ψηφίζει τὴν δαπάνην, εἰ ἔχει τὰ εἰς ἀπαρτισμόν; <sup>29</sup> Ἴνα μήποτε, θέντος αὐτοῦ θεμέλιον καὶ μὴ ἰσχύοντος ἐκτελέσαι, πάντες οἱ θεωροῦντες ἄρξωνται ἐμπαίζειν αὐτῷ, <sup>30</sup> λέγοντες, ὅτι Οὗτος ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἤρξατο οἰκοδομεῖν, καὶ οὐκ ἴσχυσεν ἐκτελέσαι. <sup>31</sup> Ἢ τίς βασιλεὺς πορευόμενος συμβαλεῖν ἐτέρῳ βασιλεῖ εἰς πόλεμον οὐχὶ καθίσας πρῶτον βουλευέται εἰ δυνατός ἐστιν ἐν δέκα χιλιάσιν ἀπαντῆσαι τῷ μετὰ εἴκοσι χιλιάδων ἐρχομένῳ ἐπ' αὐτόν; <sup>32</sup> Εἰ δὲ μήγε, ἔτι πόρρω αὐτοῦ ὄντος, πρεσβεῖαν ἀποστείλας ἐρωτᾷ τὰ πρὸς εἰρήνην. <sup>33</sup> Οὕτως οὖν πᾶς ἐξ ὑμῶν ὃς οὐκ ἀποτάσσεται πᾶσιν τοῖς ἑαυτοῦ ὑπάρχουσιν, οὐ δύναται μοι εἶναι μαθητῆς.

**Luke 14:28-33** For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup> Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, <sup>30</sup> saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' <sup>31</sup> Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup> And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. <sup>33</sup> So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

## OUTLINE

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- 0.2. THE PROBLEM

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- 1.1. STAND!
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- 1.3. EVERLASTING WAYS

### 2. A CHALLENGE TO SACRIFICE

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## 0. INTRODUCTION

- what are we talking about?
- **2Cor 2:15-16** For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, <sup>16</sup> to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things?

### 0.1. CHALLENGED?

- SLEX: 1. dávať pokyn, príkaz na urobenie niečoho, obracať sa s výzvou,

- kniž. apelovať: vyzývať ľudí na pokojnú demonštráciu, apelovať na ľudí, aby bola demonštrácia pokojná,
- nabádať, pobádať, povzbudzovať, ponúkať, podnecovať (dávať podnet, príkaz na nejakú činnosť): nabádať, pobádať pracovníkov, aby zvýšili opatrnosť; ponúkať niekoho do reči, mať (do dačoho),
- hovor. oslovovať: oslovuje ho už tretíkrát, aby dlh vrátil,
- expr. burcovať: burcovať na odpor,
- aktivizovať: aktivizujú nás do boja proti vojne,
- expr.: badúriť, badúrkať, duriť, podúrať
- 2. dávať podnet na istú reakciu,
- dráždiť, provokovať: celý výzor dievčiny vyzýva, dráždi, provokuje,
- podnecovať, povzbudzovať: pokojná krajina podnecuje na tiché úvahy; úsmev ho povzbudzuje k činu

## 0.2. THE PROBLEM

- the need of encouragement
- **Heb 12:12** Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees (Διὸ τὰς παρειμένας χεῖρας καὶ τὰ παραλελυμένα γόνατα ἀνορθώσατε), → *to set up, make erect*: a crooked person; drooping hands and relaxed knees (to raise them up by restoring their strength)

## 1. A CHALLENGE TO THINK

- What is *really* my thinking? Where am I getting my opinions? Would I change if proven wrong?

### 1.1. STAND!

- Jeremiah (627-587)

[CHAMBERS Notes on Jeremiah] 1. The Fear of the Past Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein. (6:16) The ideas of men are in connection with what is before us, but the ideas of God are always from the past. The fighting quality of ungodly human nature is the frightened attitude of those who refuse to look back. Have you ever noticed the forced gaiety of a bad person, of someone who has something they want to cover up? The audacity of the whole thing is fundamental fright; it is the fear of the past. "I will do anything you like, but don't let me think about the past." We do not want to be forgiven; we want to forget, because we are cowards.

- Return to the roots → New Testament; the Reformation; my conversion...
- What is driving you? fear of conspiracy? electronic virtual space? desire for success/recognition/ ? what is cultural/spiritual/biblical?
- What it means to stop? Try NOT to → play; use a smartphone; watch TV/YouTube; listen to favor music; gossip with the best friend... → to think/meditate/ask questions

### 1.2. SEARCH!

- the ancient paths → the good way
- → read the Bible!
- **Ps 139:23-24** Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! <sup>24</sup> And see if there be any grievous way (עֲוֹן עֲוֹן) in me, and lead me in the way everlasting (עֲוֹן עֲוֹן עֲוֹן)!
  - religious ways
  - 2Tim 4:13 When you come, bring . . . my scrolls, especially the parchments.

### 1.3. EVERLASTING WAYS

- → the Bible; TORAH;
- the ways of God

#### 1.3.1. CREATION

- humans created in the image of God → to rule
- humans created for relationship → to serve

### 1.3.2. ELECTION

- **Ephesians 1:3-4** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> even as **he chose us in him** before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him in love.
- **Ex 2:24** And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his **covenant** with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.
- **Mt 22:32** 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not God of the dead, but of the living.
- Abraham – not Lot (**Gn 13:11-12** So Lot chose for himself all the Jordan Valley, and Lot journeyed east. Thus they separated from each other. <sup>12</sup> Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and moved his tent **as far as Sodom**.)
- Isaac – not Ishmael (**Gal 4:28-29** Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of **promise**. <sup>29</sup> But **just as at that time he** who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born **according to the Spirit**, so also it is now)
- Jacob – not Esau (**Heb 12:16** that no one is sexually immoral or **unholy** like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal)

## 2. A CHALLENGE TO SACRIFICE

- John 12:24 Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die,
- F.A.I.T.H. → Forsaking All I Trust Him

Determinedly take no one seriously but God, and the first person you find you have to leave severely alone as being the greatest fraud you have ever known, is yourself. (Chambers, O. *My Utmost for His Highest*)

### 2.1. TODAY'S MILIEU

- The term "selfism" was used by Paul Vitz in his book *Psychology as Religion: The Cult of Self-Worship*.
- → something to BUILD
- → something to TEAR DOWN (to defeat)

### 2.2. BUILDING A TOWER

- Personality ~ a city → Bunyan *Holy War*;
- → **personality; career; family; work results**...
- vineyard watch-tower?
- building sth. conspicuous, seen by everyone
- city on the hill (Mt 5)
- → **tower of holiness**

### 2.3. WAGING A WAR

- "king" → someone independent from the world system (→ Abraham)
- a citizen of heaven (Phil 3)
- a war of "rebellion" → against lies; against pride; against atheistic culture...

### 2.4. RECKONING

- **Rev 22:13** I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. (CHAMBERS *If Thou Wilt Be Perfect*) I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last." Jesus Christ is the last word on God, on **sin and death**, on **heaven and hell**; the last word on **every problem** that human life has to face. If you are a disciple, be loyal to Him; that means you will have to choke off any number of things that might fritter you away from the one Centre. Beware of prejudices being put in place of the sovereignty of Jesus Christ, prejudices of doctrine, of conviction or experience. When we go on Jesus Christ's way, slowly and steadily we find He builds up **spiritual and moral** character along with **intellectual discernment**, these develop **together**; if we push one at the expense of the other, we shall get out of touch with God. If our intellectual curiosity pushes the barriers further than God has seen fit to

open, our moral character will get out of hand and we shall have pain that God cannot bless, suffering from which He cannot protect us. "The way of transgressors is hard."

"I am the first and the last." Is Jesus Christ the first and the last of my personal creed, the first and last of all I look to and hope for? Frequently the discipline of discipleship has to be delayed until we learn that God's barriers are put there not by sovereign Deity only; they are put there by a God Whose will is absolutely holy and Who has told us plainly, "Not that way" (cf. Deuteronomy 29:29).

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### **3. TO REMEMBER**

- The Christian's thought life is modeled on the biblical patterns of God's works in the past.
- Sacrificial living for Christ is the only way how to share spiritual life with others.
- We learn from the past in order to be prepared for the last day of reckoning.