



**“CHALLENGE YOURSELF FOR
2018!”**

Introduction:

A. **(Slide #2)** Jesus Was Loyal To His Father And To His Mission Throughout Eternity And CERTAINLY When He Was Here On Earth!

1. Lk. 2:49 “And He said to them, ‘Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?’”
2. Jn. 5:30 “I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.”
3. Jn. 6:38 “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”
4. Jn. 17:4 “I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.”
5. Jn. 19:30 “So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.”

B. **(Slide #3)** A Call To Us As Christians -- To Be Loyal To Our Father And To Our Savior In Our Christian Life Here On Earth!

C. (▶) As We Face This New Year, 2018, I Want To Make A Couple Of Challenges To You!

I. (Slide #4) Loyalty To Christ!

A. **(Slide #5)** Jesus Has Exhibited Loyalty To His Father, To Himself, To His Mission, And To Heaven’s Plans And Will!

B. (▶) He Has Shown Us How It Is Done!

- C. (▶) Our Challenge -- To Be Loyal To Christ!
1. Song: "To Christ Be Loyal And Be True!"
Verse 1:

"To Christ be loyal and be true;
His banner be unfurled,
And borne aloft till is secured
The conquest of the world.

Chorus:

To Christ, the Lord, be true,
For He will go with you,
And help you all your conflicts through;
To Christ, the Lord, be true.

Verse 2:

To Christ be loyal and be true;
He needs brave volunteers
To stand against the powers of sin,
Moved not by frowns or fears.

Chorus:

To Christ, the Lord, be true,
For He will go with you,
And help you all your conflicts through;
To Christ, the Lord, be true.

Verse 3:

To Christ be loyal and be true;
In noble service prove
Your faith and your fidelity,
The fervor of your love.

Chorus:

To Christ, the Lord, be true,
For He will go with you,
And help you all your conflicts through;
To Christ, the Lord, be true.

Verse 4:

To Christ be loyal and be true,
And He will be your Friend,
Defending and protecting you
To life's triumphant end.

Chorus:

To Christ, the Lord, be true,
For He will go with you,
And help you all your conflicts through;
To Christ, the Lord, be true."

Words -- Elisha Albright Hoffman

Music -- Daniel M. Wilson

2. **(Slide #6)** Loyalty to Christ as our Savior and Lord!
 - a. Song: "I Am THINE O Lord!"
 - b. Gal. 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."
 - c. Peter's words when others were leaving Jesus, "But Simon Peter answered Him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'" Jn. 6:68,69

3. **(▶)** Loyalty to His Words!
 - a. Jn. 6:63 "The words that I speak to you are spirit, and *they* are life."
 - b. His words ARE eternal life! See above at Jn. 6:68
 - c. His words are authoritative and will be the standard by which we will be judged! Jn. 12:48-50 "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. ⁴⁹For I have not spoken on My own *authority*; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. ⁵⁰And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak."

4. **(▶)** Caution -- Let NOTHING And NO ONE cause you to give up your loyalty to Jesus!
 - a. Eph. 4:14 "that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,"
 - b. Eph. 5:6 "Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience."

- c. Col. 2:4 “Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words.”
- d. Col. 2:8-10 “Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; ¹⁰and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.”
- e. Col. 2:18,19 “Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in *false* humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, ¹⁹and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase *that is* from God.”
- f. II Tim. 1:13 “Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.”
- g. Rev. 22:18,19 “For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; ¹⁹and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.”
- h. The point -- DOCTRINE MATTERS! What you believe and practice MATTERS! It determines loyalty to or disobedience to Christ!

D. Being In A Right Relationship With God And Going To Heaven Demands Loyalty To Jesus!

- 1. Jn.14:6 “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”
- 2. “To Christ Be Loyal And Be True!”

II. (Slide #7) Look For The Lost!

A. (Slide #8) Jesus’ Mission And His Challenge To His Disciples:

- 1. “Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. ³⁵Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and *then* comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!’” Jn. 4:34,35
- 2. “Look Unto The Fields!”
- 3. Song: “Seeking The Lost!”

- B. He Explained His Mission At Zacchaeus' House! Lk. 19:10 "for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

- C. (▶) The Lord Prayed For Laborers -- For Seekers Of The Lost! Mt. 9:35-38
 "Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. ³⁶But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. ³⁷Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest truly *is* plentiful, but the laborers *are* few. ³⁸Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.'"

- D. (▶) Our Mission -- To Proclaim The Gospel!
 1. Living a holy Christian life is who we are; telling others the "Good News" is our mission!
 2. Evangelism -- telling others the "Good News!"
 3. Sadly, most Christians today have salved their conscience by convincing themselves that all they have to do is be a good example! We must! HOWEVER, our mission is to tell the lost the "Good News!"

- E. We Must Tell Those In Sin How To Be Saved!

- F. We Must Tell Those In Error The Truth!

- G. We Must Be Like The Godhead And The Father Of The Prodigal -- Encourage Prodigals And Be Eager To Welcome Penitent Prodigals Home When They Repent!

III. (Slide #9) The Stability Of "Being About The Lord's Business!"

- A. Congregationally:
 1. Congregations "About The Lord's Business" Do Not Have Time To Feud, Fight, Or Turn On Each Other!!!
 2. Congregations "About The Lord's Business" Will Not Tolerate Winds Of Change Externally Or Internally To Sidetrack Them From The Lord's Words And His Work!

3. Congregations “About The Lord’s Business” Will Not Be Swayed By Popular Preachers Who Begin To Promote Unsound Messages That Tickle Ears But Lead People Away From Jesus!
4. Congregations “About The Lord’s Business” Are Loyal To Christ And To NO ONE ELSE!!!

B. Individually:

1. Christians “About The Lord’s Business” Do Not Have Time To Flirt With Or To Live In Sin!
 - a. They know they are in a battle against sin! Eph. 6:10-17
 - b. They see themselves as “Soldiers Of Christ!”
 1. They live by the call of the hymn: “Soldiers Of Christ Arise!” (And Put Your Armor On!)
 2. They live by the words of the children’s song: “I’m In The Lord’s Army!”
 3. Their motto is “Onward Christian Soldiers!”
 - c. In the words of “To Christ Be Loyal And Be True” verse 2:

“To Christ be loyal and be true;
He needs brave volunteers
To stand against the powers of sin,
Moved not by frowns or fears.”
2. Christians “About The Lord’s Business” Will Not Allow Slickly Presented Error To Sway Them One Bit From The Lord And His Truth!
 - a. They hear His cautions!
 - b. They are in love with Him and the revealed Word that the Holy Spirit provided!
3. Christians “About The Lord’s Business” Are Loyal To Christ And To NO ONE ELSE!!!
 - a. They like people; they love fellow Christians.
 - b. They compare everything that anyone tells them with the Word!
 - c. They are like the Bereans of Ac. 17:11 “These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so.”
4. Christians “About The Lord’s Business” Are About That Business For AS LONG AS THEY LIVE!
 - a. I Cor. 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”

