

# The Vincennes Voice

“...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...” (Matt. 3:3)

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## WHAT ARE YOU LEAVING?

Larry R. Ping II

Leaving is a part of many aspects in life. Consider the calling of the apostles.

When Jesus called Peter and Andrew, “they straightway left their nets, and followed him” (Matt. 4:20).

When Jesus called James and John, “they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him” (Matt. 4:22; Mk. 1:20).

When Jesus called Matthew, “he left all, rose up, and followed him” (Lk. 5:28).

In fact, Jesus would say, “Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life” (Mk. 10:29-30).

Have you thought about the need to leave these?

### 1) Father & Mother.

Jesus, in answering the questions of the Pharisees said, “For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh” (Matt. 19:5). He repeats this in Mk. 10:7. Later, Paul confirmed this when writing, “For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh” (Eph. 5:31). One part of a successful marriage is the fact the would-be-husband and the would-be-wife understand they are “leaving” their parents’ homes to establish a new one.

**2) Gift.** Upon the mountain Jesus said, “Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift” (Matt. 5:24). When brethren are at odds with one another, it affects the value of their worship. In fact, it invalidates it. Jesus’ instruction puts a priority upon mending the relationship, then come and

offer your worship. If today there are issues between a member of God’s family and you, fix them!

### 3) The Ninety-Nine.

Jesus spoke of a shepherd who would “leave the ninety and nine (sheep) in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it” (Lk. 15:4; Matt. 18:12). This is a simple lesson from the Lord about the immense value of a lost soul. It is imperative someone who is lost is sought after. Let us not grow lax in our duty to help find and save the lost (Jam. 5:19-20).

### 4) The Principles of the Doctrine of Christ.

The Hebrew writer announced there was a time to be “leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ” and to “go on unto perfection” (Heb. 6:1). In Heb. 5:14, the writer notes there were those who “ought to be teachers” but had the need to be taught again. We need to be the sort who have mastered the basics and ready to move on to “meatier” matters. This only occurs as a result of diligent Bible study (II Tim. 2:15).

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# ACTION “P” WORDS

Larry R. Ping II

The Book of God is a Book of action. Reflect upon these actions starting with the letter “P.”

**1) Pardon.** To “pardon” is to “lift.” That is, to “lift” one away from the guilt of sin, Biblically. This is what God has been doing since man sinned in the Garden of Eden. The Messianic prophet wrote, “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon” (Isa. 55:7). Obey God today so He can pardon you, now!

**2) Persuade.** It has been falsely stated we are not in the persuasion business. Such is simply not true. Paul penned, “Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men” (II Cor. 5:11). Later he asked, “For do I now persuade men, or God” (Gal. 1:10)? Agrippa famously said, “Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian” (Acts 26:28). Who have you persuaded recently to come to God?

**3) Petition.** To “petition” is to “request.” Of course, Biblically speaking, making a request of God through the avenue of prayer. Eli said to Hannah, “Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him” (I Sam. 1:17). She had been requesting of God a man-child, and God granted that request. We are encouraged to do the same in the New Testament. Paul said, “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God” (Php. 4:6).

**4) Plant.** The idea of planting is sowing some sort of seed with the expectation of a plant to harvest. No one I know would plant something if there was no expectation of something to harvest. Paul reminded the Corinthians, “I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase” (I Cor. 3:6-7). What are God’s people to be planting? The Word of God!

Peter penned, “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever” (I Pet. 1:23).

**5) Praise.** To “praise” is to “shine, or celebrate.” Who else, but God, deserves to be celebrated? The last five Psalms all begin the same, “Praise ye the Lord” (Psa. 146-150). A healed blind man simply said, “Give God the praise” (Jn. 9:24). Paul and Silas set the standard well. While in prison, they “prayed, and sang praises unto God” (Acts 16:25). Have you praised God lately?

**6) Proclaim.** To “proclaim” is to “pronounce and publish.” Some things deserve to be published, like God’s Word and God’s love. Isa. 61:1-2 spells out the reason for the coming of Christ. To “proclaim” liberty to the captives and to “proclaim” the acceptable year of the Lord. Even this day, we publish and pronounce how sinners can be freed from their sin (Jn. 8:32; Acts 22:16) and warn others about the Lord’s coming (Heb. 9:28). Have you proclaimed these lately?

## FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

### MEETING AT HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS

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## MEETING TIMES (EST)

### SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

### WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm