

“We train disciplemakers...”



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Update from Kansas Communities Ministry

Marks of a Committed Disciple

Hear from Pastor Reggie Coe on our current podcast series

[Making Disciples Naturally Podcast](#)

The challenge of helping others (and ourselves) heed clear Scriptural warnings
[See the article on page 3](#)

“Even more good things” is this month’s featured blog
<https://kansasnavs.org/2012/02/>

[Dr. Spann’s blogs are found at KansasNavs.org/blogs](#)

Are we over-impressed by the “splash”? Learn about aiming for the “ripple.”
[See the article on page 4](#)

What is your role “for such a time as this”?

We recently attended the beautiful performance of “Esther” at Sight and Sound Theater in Branson. The opulence of the stage was dramatic and the singing, music and acting were all fantastic. But once again I was struck by those famous lines *“For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for [such] a time as this?”* (NKJV Esther 4:14)

We are each asked to play a role in God's marvelous plan for the ages. For the vast majority of us, that role is a tiny, tiny “bit part.” We may in fact think that if we didn’t show up for our part, no one would notice. But is that an accurate understanding from God’s perspective?

There are many stories of people reaching out to a stranger, to their neighbor, to a family member with the good news of Jesus and then seeing that fruit years later. We may be privileged to lead someone to Christ. At other times (most of the time) we are planting seeds. We may invest in someone for the long haul, helping them grow in their faith. We don’t know who we are influencing. We don’t know the downstream “ripple” effect we might have. We don’t know how God will graciously use what little “offering” we bring in humility to the King of Kings.

Let us pray that as summer activities begin we will be sensitive to those around us. Speak up. Serve others. Engage. Who knows whether God has placed you where you are “for such a time as this”?

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“For you all are sons of the light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of the darkness. So then we must not sleep as the rest, but must stay alert and sober.”
— 1 Thess. 3:12-13 (NET Bible)

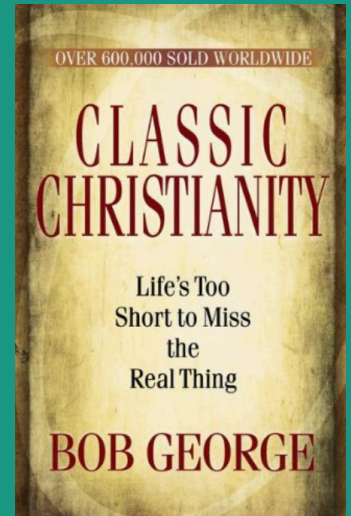
Classic Christianity by Bob George, Pub. by Harvest House Publishers, 2010

This book has been used by many over the years as an introduction to Christianity for the new believer (or the believer who is wanting to grow or deepen their understanding of the faith). Written by counselor and radio host Bob George, the emphasis is on the freeing message that we do not have to measure up to rules. God accepts us where we are and wants to change us into His image. We are truly saved by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8-9)

Mr. George tells many different true-life stories of the change in people's lives as they understand the truth of experiencing the grace of God and getting off the treadmill of performance.

One of the interesting points he makes is that oftentimes we think that becoming a Christian means accepting the moral teachings of Jesus who lived 2000 years ago, and then trying to measure up to them to be accepted by Him. Instead Mr. George reminds us that Jesus is alive today and has real power to change us from within.

This is an excellent book for the growing believer. We may not always agree with every point he makes, but it is a great book to start the discussion on many essential points of doctrine.



Goads and Nails

By Richard Spann

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant!’” Matthew 25:21

— Vol. 3 pages 27-29

On two occasions our Lord spoke of the Master commending His servants. One of these is in the parable of the talents (Matthew 25) and the other is in Luke 19 (the parable of the minas). In both cases, it was a view of the future when each of us will stand before our Lord. II Corinthians 5:10 also speaks of this time. “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.” This judgment seat (Bema) is a seat of rewards, not condemnation, our condemnation already being taken by Christ. (II Corinthians 5:21-“For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”) In these six words, “Well done, good and faithful servant,” we are given instruction in regard to what our Lord will find commendable in our lives on that day.

The first word which is arresting is simply the word “good.” Our casual view of this word robs it of its scriptural significance defined by our Lord's own words in Mark 10:18. “‘Why do you call me good,’ Jesus answered. ‘No one is good-except God alone.’” Jesus' statement was designed to bring the rich young ruler to the realization of the Deity of Christ. We see, then, that goodness is Godliness, and comes only from God Himself. To be recognized by our Lord as “good” implies the presence of the character of Christ Himself...

The second word which demands attention is the word “faithful.” This has also been translated as reliable and implies dependability or trustworthiness. I Corinthians 4:2 states “Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.” Ephesians 2:10 tells us “For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” The Lord has prepared us individually for His work. He has prepared His work for us, and the Holy Spirit has given us His gifts. Unless we use His gifts to accomplish His work, we are not faithful servants...

In Christ, Richard Spann

“We train disciplinators...”

Warning ... don't go there!

by David Dennis

I was on my way to get some coffee early in the morning on my way to the hospital. It was still dark and I knew that it had stormed the night before. What was that figure on the road doing, shining a flashlight at me? The closer I got, I realized it was a policeman. By the time I got close enough to see what was going on, I could see the power lines down. He was trying to warn me not to drive over them and possibly be in danger. Thankfully, no harm was done!

We have some friends who related to us their concern about their daughter who was making some really bad choices. She had grown up in the church and was active in the youth group, etc. She was a senior in high school and was dating a young man who clearly had ulterior motives, motives that did not seek the best for the girl. Our friend walked in on them one time while they were watching a movie in their basement with the lights off. When confronted about her relationship with this boy, the girl became defensive and pulled further away from her parents.

She was an “A” student and had great plans for the future, hoping to major in marketing in college and have a family and career. But clearly her parents could see those plans come crashing down with a possible pregnancy and broken heart if this relationship continued. Our friends were frantic about the situation and spent many hours in tears, brokenhearted about the direction their daughter was taking. They asked us to pray for the situation, for wisdom and for this relationship to be done with before something bad happened.

In pondering this situation, I realized that this is true in our relationship with our heavenly Father. He can see what is ahead and knows that if we make the wrong choices, wrong outcomes may well ensue, whether we are believers or not. Our friends wanted to warn their daughter, “Wait, don't go there. It's not the best! It's a dead end. If you make those wrong choices, we know that there will be a bad outcome.” But their daughter thought she knew better. She wanted to do things “her way.” It seemed the right thing to do. It seemed to be right to give herself to the boy, despite her parents frantic warnings to stop.

“Do not be deceived. God will not be made a fool. For a person will reap what he sows, because the person who sows to his own flesh will reap corruption from the flesh, but the one who sows to the Spirit will reap eternal life from the Spirit.” — Paul in Galatians 6:7-8 (NET Bible)

Oh, how those parents wanted to grab their daughter and shake some common sense into her! They could see the path she was on. Oh, how our heavenly Father wants to get our attention and warn us to avoid sin and to follow Him. He can see what is ahead. He has spoken to us in His Word. He warns us to choose the right path, to avoid pitfalls ahead. Oh, let us not think we know better than our Creator in choosing our path! Read His Word, study His Word, obey His Word!



“We must believe that the world is really lost and that every non-Christian we meet is headed to hell. This determines our motives and whether we are going to be a spectator or a participant. There are too many spectators.”

—Bob Boardman, Navigator who was gravely wounded in WWII on Okinawa. He was able to communicate with only a whisper thereafter. He and his wife Jean ministered in Japan for 33 years. This quote found at <http://discipleshiplibrary.com/pdfs/N397.pdf>

“We train disciplemakers...”

“Aim for the Ripple” excerpt from blog by Richard Spann (complete blog found at <https://kansasnavs.org/aim-for-the-ripple>)

“Aim for the ripple, not the splash.” — Tom Yeakley

It was a featured article in the church’s newsletter. For the past year there had been a large number of men attending their presentations, more so than in any other men’s ministry in that state. The men who attended were always eager to come hear the next scheduled speaker. The news coverage mentioned the organizers by name and the awards and recognition given to them. When I visited with one of the leaders of that ministry a few years later, I asked him about the current state of that outreach. He said, “They are not meeting anymore. It all fell apart after a few years. I don’t think anyone of that group is involved anymore in a ministry to my knowledge.” I wondered the following to myself. Were they focused on the program rather than the people? Did they major in the dissemination of information and neglect the importance of transformation? Could they have been more occupied with the splash than with the ripple?



Fifty years ago, a ripple began with five couples here in Wichita. They met weekly, shared their lives, studied the scriptures regularly and prayed together. They were encouraged to share the gospel and their lives with others, and within the next ten years four teams of disciple makers had been formed. Some were transferred to other locations as their jobs changed, and they began to make an impact in the new locations. Others were added to the growth of the ministry and thousands of lives have been impacted for Christ since that time. The ripple has continued to extend to over thirty cities in Kansas and northeast Oklahoma since that time. Its effect is seen in at least ten different states. It did not begin with a splash. It began with person-to-person and couple-to-couple interaction with the addition of small group meetings. Large groups also began to be a part of that ministry as it grew, but the foundations were always centered around personal involvement in prayer and in God’s word. The Lord is still continuing to expand that ripple into regions that are unknown to us.

This ripple, I think, is what Paul had in mind when he told Timothy in II Timothy 2:2, “And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.”... This ripple was intended to impact generation after generation so that its fulfillment would be realized as seen in Psalm 78:5-6. “He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children.”

Not many of us are going to make that big of a splash, but we can all make a ripple. The Holy Spirit has given each of us the tools by which He creates ripples: our lives, the word of God, and prayer. As we invest in other lives using these tools, ripples will be created that will reach into eternity. May God so work in your life that you aim for the ripple, not just the splash.

In Christ, Richard Spann

“God is not looking for men of great faith. He is looking for common men to trust His great faithfulness.”

— Hudson Taylor, Missionary to China (quote found at https://www.azquotes.com/author/17456-Hudson_Taylor)