

MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY



IT'S NOT EASY BEING ME

Some people say living as a Christian should be easy. In fact some say it is. I say they are wrong or they don't really understand what it means to represent Jesus in a world full of crooked and perverse people, especially when some of those people call themselves Christians. It seems there are always people and things that try to dim our light.

We can't really control the words or actions of anyone other than ourselves, so let's spend this time talking about our own lives and living as a light in a dark world.

Read Philippians 2:13-16 NLT

Re-read verse 13

- What exactly does this verse mean to you?
 - Is it actually possible to please God?

Now re-read verses 14 and 15: (Remember verse 13) and answer these questions

- What are some areas of our lives where we have the opportunity to represent Christ?
- Assuming one of the places we can represent Christ is in our jobs, talk about how we can represent Christ there.
- Talk about some other places and how we can represent Christ.

Now re-read verse 16 and talk about what it says to you.

Okay, let's do something a little different. Talk about a time when you did something that wasn't very smart. Or you can use my own mistake from below.

"When I was 15 my family moved from the low-country of South Carolina to Boone, North Carolina. Having grown up in and around Beaufort, South Carolina, I had heard of snow, but I don't think I had ever seen any in real life. At 15, I was young and 'curious.' Maybe another way to say that is at 15 I did a lot of things without thinking. I still do, but hopefully not as much. So when I woke up one mid-September morning and looked out the window to a world covered in freshly fallen snow, I jumped up, got dressed, and ran outside.

Boone, North Carolina is a beautiful area and when it's covered with fresh, undisturbed, snow it is especially beautiful. My sisters and I were running around doing all the stuff kids do in the snow. We made snow angels, we built a little snow man, and yes, don't eat the yellow snow! (Hey I was 15!) Then I saw it; off in the far corner of our yard was a four foot deep snow drift.

Now, pay no attention to the fact that there was only about a foot of snow on the ground and we had been running around in it for a good half hour, but seeing that drift I lost all perception of reality and in my mind all I could see was the cartoon where the little rabbit would run and jump in the snow drift to get away from the big bad wolf that was chasing him.

So without giving it a second thought, I took off across the yard and jumping up in the air as high as I could, I dove head first into that snow drift. It was a great feeling running over to that drift; it was a great feeling jump-

ing and flying up into the air. But it wasn't so great when I landed head first in a foot of snow covering that big rock over in the corner of our yard.

I almost knocked myself out and I think my neck issues today may have something to do with that experience. It hurt, I felt stupid, and it affected the rest of the day for me."

Here's the point: being a Christian isn't about feeling good, it's about doing the right thing. It's about living a life that shines like a bright light in a world full of crooked and perverse people.

Every now and then, we do something, or someone else does something, that knocks the wind out of our sail. That's when we have the greatest opportunity to let people see that light, the light of Christ in us. And remember, "God is working in you, giving you the desire and the ability to do what pleases him."

Talk about a time in your life when you failed in your witness. Before you do, read Romans 3:23.

In closing, read Hebrews 12:1-3.

Suggestion: This would be a good time to ask for personal commitments; to fix our eyes on Jesus and not the people or circumstances around us. We need to strive to live as a bright light in a dark world.