



Jesus Christ, our All in all
CrossTalk's 25th Anniversary

9 – 15 Feb, 2020

Going with the Flow, part 1

**‘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’ Ephesians 4:14**

Going with the flow or against it

- † Charles Malik says Christians will always be a permanent minority**
- † The saints are not part of the flow nor are they called to ever belong to the flow**
- † *‘And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God’ Rom 12:2***

‘You are the salt of the earth’ Mt 5:13a

- † Salt, in its minute quantities, does flavor the food and preserve it**
- † *‘As the salt of the earth, preserve the faith you have received and pass it on intact to others’ Pope John Paul II***
- † Salt purifies and is used as a medicine**

‘You are the light of the world’ Mt 5:14a

- † *‘When the light fades or vanishes altogether, we no longer see things as they really are’ Pope John Paul II***
- † We take our light from Jesus Christ. *‘Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life’ Jn 8:12***
- † *‘The light which Jesus speaks of in the Gospel is the light of faith, God’s free gift, which enlightens the heart and clarifies the mind’ Pope John Paul II***
- † Light is necessary for life**

† *'For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God' Jn 3:20-21*

'Strive to enter through the narrow gate' Lk 13:24a

† *'Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it' Mt 7:13-14*

The disciples of Christ do not belong to the flow since they are eternal in contrast to the flow which is short-lived

† The apostles were 12 and effectively only 11 and they could change the whole world. They were few in number but enormous in their deeds *(Acts 3:1-10)*

† *'And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever' 1 Jn 2:17*

† *'For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? Mt 16:26*

† Judas went with the flow and seemed to grab a great opportunity where he walked side by side with the army to seize Christ. But very soon, he ended up losing even himself *(Mt 26: 47-56; 27: 3- 8)*

† Peter confessed Jesus as Christ even when no one else did *(Mt 16: 13-19)*. Peter was an instrument in the Lord's Hands; his shadow healed the sick and his words converted the lost *(Acts 5:15; 2:41)*

† *Truth is true even if no one follows it' Paul Copan*

Being a permanent minority does not weaken us (1 Kgs 18:16-40)

† *'These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world' Jn 16:33*

† *'If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you' Jn 15:19*

Bibliography

1. Malik, Charles. *Christ and Crisis*. Acton Institute, 2015.
2. Unless otherwise noted, all Biblical passages referenced are from the New King James Version

Legend

 Refers to mandatory readings

Verse to memorize

'A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation. I, the Lord, will hasten it in its time' Isaiah 60:22

In my Prayer and Faith Autobiography Book

God acts

✝ Christ knew that He was never alone because the Father and His Kingdom were with Him

My reaction

✝ Am I trusting the call to be the salt of the earth and light of the world?

✝ Am I choosing the narrow door and leading others to it?

During the coming week, let us pray expectantly

1. seeking the Lord's will to be done in Lebanon
2. for CrossTalk to find a locale
3. for David, Gisele, Habib and Karim
4. to become more of saints and less of sinners
5. to seek the Lord in every word I say, every act I do and every thought I think
6. to help in building His Kingdom by building His Church on earth
7. to deny ourselves, carry our cross and follow Him
8. to thank Him for creating us and each one around us, on His image and likeness, and choosing us to reveal His splendor
9. to all the sick
10. to all those in prison
11. to the unity of the Christians
12. to one another to be honest and not lack integrity
13. to put all that we have in the Lord's hands trusting His management
14. to all the Christians who are being persecuted, and to those who are persecuting them
15. to all families, that the Lord unites the parents together in His Name and stops all fights
16. to the situation in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Iraq and the whole region

During this coming week, we will lift the Armenian Orthodox Church in prayer

قانون الايمان
نؤمن باله واحد،
الآب ضابط الكل،
خالق السماء والأرض،
كل ما يرى وما لا يرى،
ويرب واحد يسوع المسيح،
ابن الله الوحيد،
المولود من الآب قبل كل الدهور،
إله من إله، نور من نور، إله حق من إله حق،
مولود غير مخلوق، الذي له وللآب جوهر واحد،
الذي به كان كل شيء،
والذي من أجلنا نحن البشر ومن أجل خلاصنا،
نزل من السماء،
وتجسد من الروح القدس ومن مريم العذراء، وتأنس،
وصلب عنا على عهد بيلاطس البنطي،
وتألم ومات وقبر وقام في اليوم الثالث
كما جاء في الكتب، وصعد إلى السماء،
وجلس عن يمين الله الآب، وسوف يأتي بمجد عظيم،
ليدين الأحياء والأموات، والذي لا فناء لملكه،
وبالروح القدس، الرب المحيي
المنبثق من الآب والابن، الذي هو مع الآب والابن،
يسجد له ويمجد، الناطق بالأنبياء،
وبكنيسة واحدة، جامعة، مقدسة، رسولية،
ونعترف بمعمودية واحدة لمغفرة الخطايا،
ونترجى قيامة الموتى والحياة في الدهر الآتي
أمين

الصلاة الربانية
أبانا الذي في السموات
ليتقدس اسمك،
ليأت ملكوتك
لتكن مشيئتك
كما في السماء
كذلك على الأرض
أعطنا خبزنا كفايت يومنا
واغفر لنا ذنوبنا وخطايانا
كما نحن نغفر
لمن أخطأ وأسأء إلينا
ولا ندخلنا في التجارب
لكن نجنا من الشرير
أمين