



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

1 – 7 Mar, 2020

Going with the Flow, part 2

**'For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ,
for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who
believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek' Romans 1:16**

The Great Commission

'Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in Heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen' Mt 28:16-20

Ambassadors for Christ

† *'Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God' 2 Cor 5:20*

'For our citizenship is in Heaven' Phil 3:20a

- † An ambassador is a citizen of his country but lives in a foreign country. Ambassadors for Christ live on earth but belong to Heaven**
- † *'They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world' Jn 7:16***
- † *'I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world' Jn 7:14***
- † *'Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God' Js 4:4***

An ambassador is appointed officially and has authority

- † *'And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature' Mk 16:15*

An ambassador is totally protected by his government

- † *'The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; the God of my strength, in Whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge' 2 Sam 22:2-3*

An ambassador is judged on how faithful he is to his country and not on how popular he is in the foreign country (Lk 24:13-27)

- † The ambassador for Christ has put on Christ. *'For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ' Gal 3:26-27*
- † The ambassador is selfless. *'I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me' Gal 2:20*
- † The ambassador must be loyal as Saint Paul when he said *'praying always for all the saints— and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the Gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak' Eph 6:18-20*
- † The ambassador is bold and courageous
- † The ambassador for Christ has Christ as his all in all
 - He obeys Christ and the subordinate authorities
- † The ambassador of Christ is a fisher of men

'We believe, and therefore we speak with conviction' by Charles Malik

- † *'I remember a young man going into a pulpit, to address a small congregation, and he began by saying that he hoped they would pardon his youth, and forgive his impertinence in coming to speak to them. Some foolish old gentleman said, 'What a humble person that young man is to talk like that!' but another, who was wiser though he was younger, said, 'What a dishonor to his Lord and Master! If God sent him with a message to those people, what does it matter whether he is young or old! Such artificial modesty as that is out of place in the pulpit'*
- † I think that second man was right, and the first one wrong. A true minister of the gospel is an ambassador for Christ, and do our ambassadors go to foreign courts with apologies for carrying messages from their ruler? It would be a gross insult to the

governments of these countries if they showed such humility as that in their official capacity

- † Let ministers of the Gospel keep their modesty for other occasions when it should be manifested, but do not let them dishonor their Master and discredit His message as that silly young man did**
- † When we preach Christ crucified, we have no reason to stammer, or stutter, or hesitate, or apologize; there is nothing in the Gospel of which we have any reason to be ashamed**
- † If a minister is not sure about his message, let him keep quiet until he is sure about it; but we believe, and therefore we speak with conviction**
- † If I have not proved the power of the Gospel in my own heart and life, then I am a vile impostor to be standing in this pulpit to preach that gospel to others'**

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

'Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God'
2 Corinthians 5:20

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 Christ's ambassador and a minority?**
- † 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 Maronite Church in prayer

<u>الصلاة الربانية</u>	<u>قانون الايمان</u>
أبانا الَّذِي فِي السَّمَوَاتِ	نُؤْمِنُ بِإِلَهِ وَاحِدٍ، أَبِ ضَابِطِ الْكُلِّ، خَالِقِ السَّمَاءِ
لِيَتَقَدَّسَ اسْمُكَ	وَالْأَرْضِ، كُلِّ مَا يُرَى وَمَا لَا يُرَى وَبِرَبِّ وَاحِدٍ
لِيَأْتِ مَلَكُوتُكَ	يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ، ابْنَ اللَّهِ الْوَحِيدِ، الْمَوْلُودِ مِنَ الْآبِ
لِتَكُنْ مَشِيئَتُكَ	قَبْلَ كُلِّ الدَّهْرِ، إِلَهُ مِنْ إِلَهُ، نُورٌ مِنْ نُورٍ، إِلَهُ
كَمَا فِي السَّمَاءِ	حَقٌّ مِنْ إِلَهٍ حَقٌّ، مَوْلُودٌ غَيْرَ مَخْلُوقٍ، مَسَاوٍ
كَذَلِكَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ	لِلْأَبِ فِي الْجَوْهَرِ، الَّذِي بِهِ كَانَ كُلُّ شَيْءٍ، الَّذِي
أَعْطَانَا خَبْرَنَا كِفَافَ يَوْمِنَا	مَنْ أَجَلْنَا نَحْنُ الْبَشَرُ وَمَنْ أَجَلَ خَلَاصِنَا، نَزَلَ مِنْ
وَاعْفُرْ لَنَا ذُنُوبَنَا وَخَطَايَانَا	السَّمَاءِ، وَتَجَسَّدَ مِنَ الرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ وَمِنْ مَرْيَمَ
كَمَا نَحْنُ نَعْفُرُ	الْعُذْرَاءِ، وَصَارَ إِنْسَانًا وَصَلِبَ عَنَّا عَلَى عَهْدِ
لِمَنْ خَطِيئَتِ الْإِنْسَانِ	بِيِلَاطُسَ الْبَنْطِي، تَأَلَّمَ وَمَاتَ وَقُبِرَ،
وَلَا تُدْخِلْنَا فِي التَّجَارِبِ	وَقَامَ فِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّالِثِ كَمَا جَاءَ فِي الْكُتُبِ
لَكِنْ نَجِّنَا مِنَ الشَّرِّيرِ	وَصَعِدَ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ وَجَلَسَ عَنْ يَمِينِ اللَّهِ الْآبِ
لَأَنَّ لَكَ الْمَلِكَ وَالْقُوَّةَ وَالْمَجْدَ	وَأَيْضًا يَأْتِي بِمَجْدٍ عَظِيمٍ لِيَتِدِينَ الْأَحْيَاءَ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ
إِلَى أَيْدِ الْأَبَدِينَ	الَّذِي لَا فَنَاءَ لِمُلْكِهِ، وَنُؤْمِنُ بِالرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ، الرَّبِّ
أَمِينَ	الْمُحْيِي، الْمُتَنَبِّئِ مِنَ الْآبِ وَالْإِبْنِ، الَّذِي هُوَ مَعَ
	الْآبِ وَالْإِبْنِ، يُسَجَدُ لَهُ وَيُجَدَّدُ، النَّاطِقِ بِالْأَنْبِيَاءِ
	وَالرَّسْلِ، وَبِكَنِيْسَةٍ وَاحِدَةٍ، جَامِعَةٍ، مَقَدَّسَةٍ،
	رَسُوْلِيَّةٍ وَنَعْتَرَفُ بِمَعْمُوْدِيَّةٍ وَاحِدَةٍ لِمَغْفِرَةِ
	الْخَطَايَا وَنَتَرَجَّى قِيَامَةَ الْمَوْتَى وَالْحَيَاةَ الْجَدِيدَةَ فِي
	الدَّهْرِ الْآتِي أَمِينَ