

**COME
FOLLOW
ME**

THE NECESSITY OF
EMBODIED ALLEGIANCE



COME FOLLOW ME

17 And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” **18** And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. **19** You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.’” **20** And he said to him, “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.” **21** And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” **22** Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Mark 10:17-22

CHRISTIAN

- To have **faith** in Jesus.
- To **believe** that he died to save me from my sins.
- Because I **believe** = eternal security. My fate is sealed. I'm going to heaven.
- This “eternal security” is not because of anything that I have done.
I must be careful not to “slide back” into trying to earn my salvation.
- Because God has saved me by grace, I will eventually act differently, grow, mature, etc. But again, this is not a requirement for my salvation.
- My job is to **trust, believe**, and have **faith** in Jesus.

**COME
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JESUS

- Enter through the narrow gate
- Take up your cross and follow me
- Give up your homes, families, and possessions in following me.
- Cut out your offending eye
- Stand firm in the face of persecution
- Provide food, water, and hospitality for the least of my brothers
- Tend to the sick, visit the imprisoned.
- Zaccheus: "Today salvation has come to this house."
- Mark 7: "Depart from me, I never knew you."

PAUL

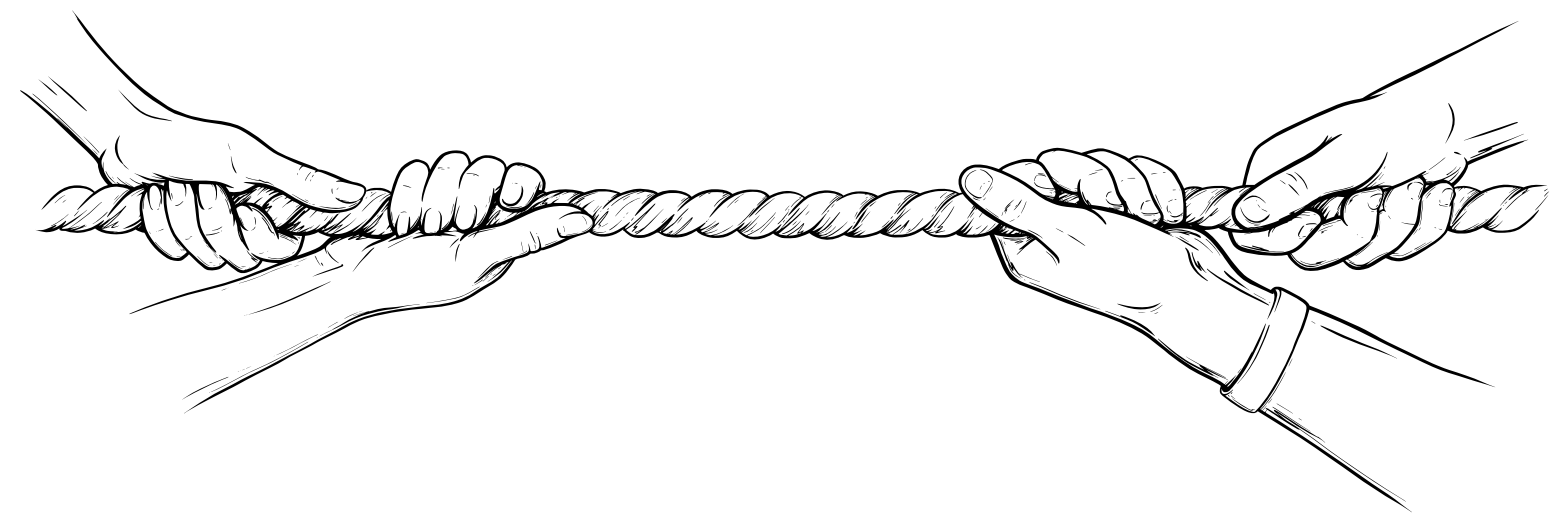
**COME
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"Saved by grace through faith" =

We are saved by the grace of
God through our belief
(intellectual assent) that Jesus
saved us from our sins, NOT
through our action.

**COME
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JESUS



PAUL

p i s t i s = *a l l e g i a n c e*

- faith/belief
regarding something as true or real
- reliability, confidence, assurance,
fidelity, faithfulness, commitment,
and pledged loyalty.

THE GOSPEL

1 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, **2** and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you – unless you believed (*gave pistis*) in vain. **3** For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, **4** that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, **5** and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. **6** Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. **7** Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

1 Corinthians 15:1-7

THE GOSPEL

COME
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24 Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 27 For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.”

1 Corinthians 15:1-7

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JESUS...

THE GOSPEL

1. Preexisted with the Father,
2. Took on human flesh, fulfilling God's promises to David
3. Died for sins in accordance with the scriptures
4. Was buried
5. Was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures
6. Appeared to many
7. Is seated at the right hand of God as Lord, and
8. Will come again as judge to restore and renew all things.

COME
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JESUS...

THE GOSPEL

1. Preexisted with the Father,
2. Took on human flesh, fulfilling God's promises to David
3. Died for sins in accordance with the scriptures [NARROW GOSPEL]
4. Was buried
5. Was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures
6. Appeared to many
7. Is seated at the right hand of God as Lord, and
8. Will come again as judge to restore and renew all things.

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ALLEGIANCE

“If we synthesize the biblical data, we discover that saving allegiance includes three basic dimensions: *mental affirmation* that the gospel is true, *professed fealty* to Jesus alone as the cosmic Lord, and *enacted loyalty* through obedience to Jesus as king.”

- Matthew W. Bates

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ALLEGIANCE

Intellectual Agreement

Confession of Loyalty

Embodied Fidelity

ALLEGIANCE

1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, 2 which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, 3 concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh 4 and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, 5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about *the obedience of faith (pistis)* for the sake of his name among all the nations, 6 including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

Romans 1:1-5

RE-FRAMING

THE GOSPEL

From narrow: *"Jesus died for my sins"*

To wide: *The whole story of Jesus*
(pre-existence to enthronement)

OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL

From narrow: *"I believe, that settles it."*

To wide: *"Jesus deserves my allegiance."*

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RE-FRAMING

DISCIPLESHIP

From narrow: *Optional "growth/maturity."
Added bonus. Icing on the cake.*

To wide: *Essential.. inseperable from
Salvation.*

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“Although contemporary Christian culture tends to separate personal salvation and discipleship, allegiance is where they finally meet - and they don't just meet, they embrace. For when we discover that saving “faith” means above all allegiance to Jesus the king, the intimacy between discipleship and salvation is easy to recognize. A person is not first “saved” by “faith” in Jesus' death for sins and then, once that is secured, plugged into a discipleship program as an optional extra in hope that he or she might “grow.”

COME FOLLOW ME

On the contrary, a person is first saved when she or he becomes a disciple by declaring allegiance to Jesus the king - that is, when a person agrees to submit obediently to Jesus's wise and sovereign rule so as to take up his way of life... We are only and ever (past, present, and future) saved by discipleship to Jesus, for to be a disciple is to have declared and enacted *pistis [a full allegiance]* unto Jesus the king.”

- Matthew W. Bates

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THE GOSPEL

RESPONDING TO THE GOSPEL

Will I give my allegiance to King Jesus?

*Have I been unconcerned with the necessity
of obeying Jesus (enacted loyalty)?*

*How does this re-framing effect the way I
live my life?*