

# The Servant



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## Back to School

September is the time children return to school. As children of God, we never stop learning. When we pass one test, there will be another. When we finish one grade, there will be a new teacher. When we stop learning we stop living. There is much to learn. There are the lessons of today, and there will be homework for tomorrow. Even when this life ends, and we “graduate,” (as we like to say), we will go to a place where the real learning will begin. In heaven we will put away the child’s finger paint and learn from the Master. We will gather up our A,B,C’s and sit before the Word and learn of Him who is the Alpha and Omega.

## More to Learn

I was on my way to visit someone in the hospital in Durham when I noticed a bumper sticker on the car in front of me. It said “Jesus is Coming..... look busy.” I had to laugh out loud. It was funny on several levels. First of all, no one can fool God. Faking it, just will not work. Second, many are so busy with church “busy work” that they might not even notice when He comes.

I have been doing a lot of thinking about the church lately. I have been thinking about thinking. Do you remember the fellow who cheated in school? The one who wrote down the answers and brought them into the classroom? Perhaps you remember the kid in the third grade who said in a stage whisper, “what did you put for number three?” You did the best you could to ignore him. You would have no part in cheating.

I don’t want to sound like a pompous know it all. I know how little I know, and it frightens me, but I have met too many church people who have the “Answer” written down on some little “crip sheet” and think they will pass the test on judgment day. Look at it, the answer is correct. It says “JESUS.” It’s not that “Jesus” is not the Answer, He is. The problem is that these people have no idea what is the question.

You can cheat your way through school. You may graduate. You may even cheat your way into medical school, but woe to your poor patients. We would not want to go under your knife.

I remember remembering the answers for my Catechism Class. I had the questions and the answers from which to study. I passed the test and took my “first communion,” but was no closer to God than Pluto is to Mars. This world is filled with religious people who have memorized their answers. Millions are “looking very busy” these days with all their temple building or tabernacle tending. Thousands were “looking busy” when Jesus came the first time. When God came into His Temple disguised as a “nobody,” speaking words of love and grace, He was rejected by those who had all the “answers.” They had no idea what the questions were. Jesus called them hypocrites. They failed the test of kindness. They failed the test of humility. They failed the test of simple child-like faith. They said they loved the Word. They claimed to be men of “letters,” yet failed to recognize the Word Himself. They crucified Him instead.

Yes, we are to be “busy” doing good. Blessed will be that servant whom is found “so doing” at His coming. But as in the game called Jeopardy, knowing the answer is not enough. Each day God wants us to understand His questions.

Adam where are you? What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul? How can a man be born when he is old? Who are you Lord? What would you have me to do? What shall I do with Jesus? The Bible is not just filled with answers, it is filled with questions. The great minds of men have set out to answer questions. In this quest, they have discovered, explored and invented. People who don’t ask questions never leave home. They don’t plant flags at the South Pole. They don’t discover electricity or set sail on the Santa Maria. George Washington Carver kept asking questions of the peanut and it gave three hundred different answers and uses for its little existence. Our little peanut brains often fail to ask the questions that make life large and lovely. Religious extremists and bigots who cling to their crip sheets only cheat themselves. ☹

## Seeker

*“And ye shall seek me and find me, when ye search for me with all your heart.”*  
Jer. 29:13

Jesus said “seek and ye shall find.” Some are seeking adventure and they will surely find it. Some are seeking fortune, others seeking fame. Some look for pleasure, and they will find it too (but only for a season). Eventually we find what we are looking for, or settle for something less.

Some seek life, liberty, and happiness. The writers of our Declaration of Independence spoke of the “pursuit of happiness.” They were wise. Happiness is in the “pursuit.”

Those who think they have found it often try to freeze it, save it, hoard it, or even sell it. That is impossible. Like the glory cloud of God, it moves and we must follow.

Happiness is found in following Jesus. Finding first, yes, but then following.

Some think they have found God. Then they neglect Him like the wife they sought and found. The wife does everything possible to try to get his attention again. She goes to the beauty parlor, puts on the new dress, dyes her hair (he does not notice). She does special things like the candlelight supper, puts on soft music, bakes his favorite pie. He gulps it down and turns on the

basketball game. Someone should give that husband a technical foul. Worse, some treat God like that.

They sought Him and think they found Him (in Jesus) and now they are off seeking other things. The Christian Life is a relationship. Some need to work on that relationship. This is our mission. Seek God and Find God. Find Him every day. That was Adam’s mistake.

The shelf life of happiness, like daily bread is very short. God will give us enough of Himself for today. We must come back for more tomorrow. I must look for Him each day

**1. Look for Him in the Word.** I must look for Him each day in my Bible. He is there waiting. When I find Him, I must fall at His feet and worship Him — and because He said “learn of me,” I must sit at His feet and learn.

**2. Look for Him now.** I must also look for the Omnipresent in the present. He is in the news, He is in the weather, He is in the wind (as He told Nicodemus). He is everywhere. “Blessed are the pure in heart,” said Jesus “for they shall see God.”

**3. Look for Him there.** He can be found in every situation. He is in the Emergency Room, the Courtroom, and Newsroom.

**4. Look for Him in others.** God does not live in temples made with hands. He

lives within our hearts. If we remembered that, we would look more deeply into another’s eyes. He walks through our lives everyday in some disguise. He may be found in that man who is thirsty, or in that hungry person, or that lonely soul. Because we can never really know for sure or always recognize Him, we must treat everyone with care and kindness.

**5. Look for Him with all your heart.** We must search with “all our Heart.” Here is the difficulty. Our heart. Our hearts were made for Him and man would rather give Him anything else. Our hearts are His. Long before there was a thing called GOOGLE (used to find things on the internet), God gave us a search engine of our own called the heart. We must use it to look for Him.

### 100%

Jesus, you are the answer,  
The way, the life, the key  
And sin an evil cancer  
From which we would be free

Jesus, Thou Truth and Teacher  
Who “is” and came from God  
To join Creator with the creature  
Thy Word, Thy Staff, Thy Rod

Thy Life, itself, a wonder  
Our minds too, made for thought  
To ask not, itself a blunder  
We end with what we sought

We ask, we seek and also knock  
‘Tis good to know the Door  
But better if we dare unlock  
and enter to find more

Most of what he says is way  
over our heads, right?



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Right, but let’s keep in mind that  
I am only four feet tall.



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Editor and Author- Ingimar DeRidder  
5523 Newberry Dr. Raleigh, NC 27609  
www.ingimar.com e-mail idr@ingimar.com



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