



FRANKLIN ROAD

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NEWSLETTER

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UNCOMFORTABLE



LIFE IS NOT ALWAYS EASY. WE ALL HAVE ENDURED DIFFICULT OR STRESSFUL EVENTS. I THINK OF TIGHT SHOES, DENTAL PROCEDURES, COLONOSCOPIES, JOB INTERVIEWS AND FUNERALS AS ALL BEING POTENTIALLY UNPLEASANT TO VARYING DEGREES. BUT WHAT ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN LIFE? ARE WE WILLING TO BE UNCOMFORTABLE CHRISTIANS?

IN PHILIPPIANS 3:10 PAUL EXPRESSES HIS DESIRE TO KNOW CHRIST BETTER THROUGH THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SUFFERINGS. FURTHERMORE IN I CORINTHIANS 9:27 PAUL INDICATES THAT HE DISCIPLINES HIS BODY TO MAKE IT HIS SLAVE AND THEREBY BETTER SERVE CHRIST. JESUS HIMSELF SAID "IF ANYONE WISHES TO COME AFTER ME, HE MUST DENY HIMSELF, AND TAKE UP HIS CROSS DAILY AND FOLLOW ME." (LUKE 9:23).

THINK FOR JUST A MINUTE ABOUT SOME OF GOD'S FOLLOWERS WHO WERE UNCOMFORTABLE.

1. ABRAHAM LEFT UR OF THE CHALDEES FOR AN UNKNOWN DESTINATION. (GENESIS 12:1)
2. JOSEPH WAS SOLD INTO SLAVERY, FALSELY CHARGED, IMPRISONED AND FORGOTTEN. (GEN 39-41)
3. MOSES WAS MISUNDERSTOOD AND MALIGNED BY THE MULTITUDES HE WAS CALLED TO MANAGE. (SEE FOR INSTANCE EXODUS 15:24, 16:2 AND 17:3)
4. THE PROPHET NATHAN WAS TOLD TO CONFRONT KING DAVID'S SINS. (II SAMUEL 12:7-9)
5. JEREMIAH WAS UP TO HIS ARMPITS IN MUCK BECAUSE HE PREDICTED ISRAEL'S DEMISE. (JER 38:6)
6. HOSEA WAS TOLD TO TAKE A PROSTITUTE AS HIS WIFE. (HOSEA 1:2)
7. SHADRACH AND COMPANY REFUSED TO BOW TO AN ARROGANT AND IDOLATROUS KING AND THEN FACED HIS FURY IN A FIERY FURNACE. (DANIEL 3)
8. HEBREWS 11:35-38 TELLS OF FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS WHO WERE TORTURED, SCOURGED, STONED, SAWN IN TWO AND KILLED WITH A SWORD.
9. ANANIAS WAS SENT TO THE FORMER PERSECUTOR AND NEWLY CONVERTED SAUL. (ACTS 9:10-17)
10. PAUL MET WITH MULTIPLE PERILS INCLUDING SHIPWRECK, ROBBERIES, SLEEPLESSNESS AND HUNGER AS HE MINISTERED FOR CHRIST. (II CORINTHIANS 11:24-27)

REMEMBER TOO CHRIST'S SUFFERING AND DEATH IN WHICH WE ARE CALLED TO SHARE.

1. THE GETHSEMANE AGONY. (LUKE 22:39-46)
2. JUDAS' BETRAYAL WITH A KISS. (LUKE 22:48)
3. A CROWN OF THORNS. (MATTHEW 27:29)
4. HIS HANDS AND HEELS SPLIT WITH SPIKES THAT HELD HIM TO THE CROSS. (JOHN 19:16-18)
5. THE MOCKING, SPITTING, TAUNTING CROWDS AND CRIMINALS. (LUKE 23:35-37)
6. FORSAKEN BY THE FATHER (MARK 15:34) AND MOURNED BY HIS MOTHER (JOHN 19:25).

AS CHRISTIANS WE MUST NOT BE COMFORTABLE BUT RATHER COMMITTED, NO MATTER THE COST. THERE IS NO PLACE FOR THE SOFT AND SENTIMENTAL CHRISTIANITY BEING PROMINENTLY PROCLAIMED AND PEDDLED BY SOME PASTOR/PROMOTERS.

MIGHT WE LOOK UP, LISTEN UP AND LEARN TO BE UNCOMFORTABLE.

PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE