

volume li, no. 2, 2022

ISSN 03316629

ambassador

A PERIODIC MAGAZINE OF CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS EVANGELISTIC TEAM

FREE NOT TO BE SOLD



The CHRISTIAN

Editorial

The Christian

- Olayinka Oyelami

The term “The Christian” has over the ages evolved through different neologisms that adjust into various types of people that answer them. “Born again Christian” “Born again” “Strong Christian”, “Nominal Christian”, “SU” and a couple of others are examples of such neologisms. But while humanity embraces adoptive standards as to who a Christian really is, God’s standards stand sure and remain the same and His view of a person qualified to be called a Christian is established in the Scripture.

Who is a Christian?

A Christian is one born in Christ. To be born in Christ, which also means to be born again, is to believe and confess the message of the gospel (Roman 10:9-10). Hence, a Christian is one who believes and lives out the love of God as in Jesus.

The term “Christian” is associated with the Greek word Christos which birthed the word “Christianos” which means follower of Christ. The first recorded use of the term “Christian” can be traced to Acts 11:26. Whoever bears the name has to be one who follows and imitates Jesus Christ and must represent all that Jesus Christ stood for while on earth; a life epitomized by godly character.

Jesus says in John 14:15, “If you love Me keep My commandments”. Notably, His last command to His disciples is contained in Matthew 28:19, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”. Therefore a Christian is one who witnesses. Disobedience to this command amounts to unfaithfulness.

In conclusion, The Christian is a person who has experienced and witnessed salvation and who is ready to be a witness of this wonderful and amazing magnanimity of God expressed in and through His Son, Jesus Christ. He is one who is an embodiment of all that Christ is.

...a Christian is one who witnesses. Disobedience to this command amounts to unfaithfulness



Christ's Ambassadors Evangelistic Team

P.O. BOX 4075, IBADAN.

OUR AIMS

*To be a Service Ministry for the growth of individual members and the entire Church unto the measure of the fullness of the stature of Christ and shall not in any way constitute into denominational Church.

*To strengthen the faith of members and others in the Lord Jesus Christ.

*To hold up the standard of God's word for daily Christian living at home, school or work.

*To preach and teach the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ faithfully without addition, subtraction or partiality.

*To hold firm the faithful word as taught, and to be able by sound doctrine, teach, exhort and convince the gainsayers.

*To co-operate with other Christian bodies solely dedicated to the commission of our Master in the extension of God's kingdom on earth.

*To contend for the faith of the suffering, persecuted brethren anywhere in the world.

*To teach methods of evangelism and hold camps, retreats, crusades, open air gospel campaigns and house to house evangelism.

FELLOWSHIP WITH US

“If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another and the blood of Jesus Christ HIS Son cleanses us from all sin” - 1John 1:7

We beckon to you to have fellowship with us

Bible Study: Tuesdays -5.00 p.m.

Prayer Meeting: Thursdays - 5.00 p.m.

Venue:

GOODNEWS HOUSE, PLOTS 11 & 12
OLORUNSOGO LAYOUT
BEHIND PRECIOUS HERITAGE SCHOOLS
YANBULE, BASORUN, IBADAN

For counselling and help, call any of the following lines:

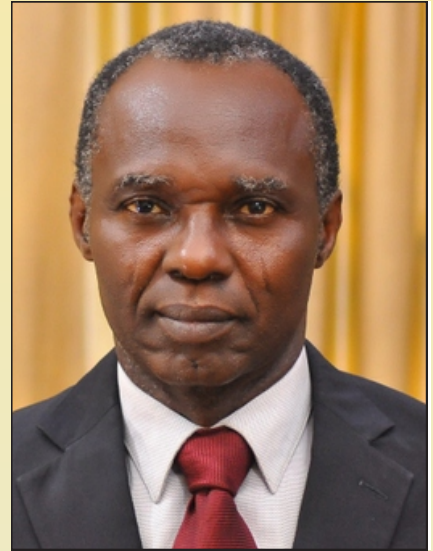
08032216831 08034917722 07038259056

08055305397 09091745197

EDITORIAL BOARD

President:	- Aderemi Salami
Publication Director:	- Gbemiga Adewolu
Editor:	- Olayinka Oyelami
Editorial Team:	- Bose Komolafe
	- Abiodun Oladipo
	- Taiwo Samuel
	- Seyi Akintola
	- Foluke Arinola
	- Annie Odediran
	- Bayo Adeyemo
	- Tobi Awolowo
	- Tunde Asunmo
Graphics:	- Segun Owopetu

The Christian



Aderemi Salami

The disciples of Christ were first called Christians in Antioch (Acts 11:26). The name Christian came after the ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. He had signified in many ways during His earthly ministry what manner and characteristics of people His followers would be (Matthew chapters 5, 6 and 7).

In Matthew 5:14-16, He says, “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” Also in Matthew 16:24, He says, “If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself,

and take up his cross and follow Me.”

It is pertinent to note that believers were called Christians not as a result of any religious or ceremonial influence but, as a result of their observing the ways and patterns of life of Jesus Christ – So, Christians are not just religious people but people whose life is patterned after Christ. A Christian is called to make a difference in the midst of corruption and decadence. He is in the world, but not of

the world. He is the light of the world expected to shine. He is expected to make a difference in all spheres of life. He is not afraid of desertion and persecution from the world just like Christ. He is to proclaim the gospel to all nations of the world. He is the one representing Christ until His Second Coming.

Jesus says in John 14:1-3: “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto Myself: that where I am, there ye may be also.” It is the Christian for whom the mansion is being prepared. ARE YOU ONE?

Let’s keep shining the light so that we can reign with Him.

SHALOM!!!

A Christian is called to make a difference in the midst of corruption and decadence...He is expected to make a difference in all spheres of life

SALT AND LIGHT

(The Christian)



PERILOUS TIMES

Time of perils, dangers, frightening news and evil occurrences are really present. No doubt, perilous times are here (2 Tim. 3:1). Evils abound everywhere on a daily basis. The way evil is conceived, the dimension men machinate, conceptualise and do evil is beyond comprehension. Even demons who taught us evil are learning new ways of doing evil from us. They wonder how so quickly we have mastered the skill ahead of their running.

We speak lies and speak truth only to distort facts. Speaking lies with so much affirmation like it is the truth. Falsehood is celebrated at national levels – a common misdemeanor at work and home front. Truthful ones are flattered, liars are crowned, looters are applauded, embezzlers are recycled in governance. Every youth

Every one gets adapted to join the evil trend, and if you fail to, but endeavour to do what is right, you are perceived a misnomer



Do not just sit and watch others change, let your decision be your resolve. Follow resolve with positive actions that will provoke change in others, and this will multiply all across

develop or educate self to rise for personal turn to corrupt governance the more: self enrichment at national bankruptcy. These days, corruption is spreading over nations like wildfire with many suffering, dying in no small measure, and we accept it, and live with it.

Every one gets adapted to join the evil trend, and if you fail to, but endeavour to do what is right, you are perceived a misnomer. Therefore, in all these, Christians (as salt and light) are urgently, seriously wanted.

Wanted: Christians Who Are "Salt And Light"

The obvious decadence of morals, the increasing rate and

dimensions of corruption in church and our society today, makes demand for true Christians more real. Every facet of society needs Christians to intervene, shine the light, and savour the stinks. Christians are in high demand in schools, markets, countrysides, governance, homes, communities, leadership and global economy.

Let Change Begin With You

"Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness" (2 Peter 3:11).

Do not just sit and watch others change, let your decision be your resolve. Follow resolve with positive actions that will

provoke change in others, and this will multiply all across.

Learning To Be What Is Right

1. Renew relationship with God as at when we first believed. (Rom. 1:9).

2. Let the word of God dwell richly in you (Col. 3:16). The word of God in you is fuel to light you up.

Matthew 25:1-13; the virgins who did not trim (fuel) their lamps missed the bridegroom. Work on your word study – "If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you" (John 5:7).

3. Keep right associations. Evil communications corrupt good



manners (1 Cor. 15:33). Salt loose savour while light loose shining (goes dim) when corrupted by evil peers and bad friends (2 Sam. 13:1-9).

“He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed (Pro. 13:20).

4. Live consistent prayer life. (Lk. 21:36, Eph. 6:18).

Prayer is the needful environment to help your salt savour and your light shine. Fight whatever will hinder your prayer life. Practical way is to schedule your time to segmented period allotments for prayers. In the bible times, the disciples and Hebrews generally had hours of prayers – the third, sixth, ninth

and so on. No one will ever get results better than he prays.

Answers to prayers itself is mysterious spiritual miracles. For they are said simply in faith (including when you appear casual), yet results follow, those times very amazingly. ENDEAVOUR TO PRAY WHEN CONVENIENT AND WHEN IT IS NOT.

5. Embrace Correct Values.

Trust in what money can do is not the best. Neither too much reliance on position, affluence, connection, riches or wealth, beauty, eloquence, trade or skill, pretentious ability to scheme or influence others, etc.

Evolve and impart right values, live by it. Such as verity,

character, honesty, integrity, fear for God and spiritual things (songs, praises, worship).

Cherish helping others, especially those in need around you. Be committed to giving out than you receive for “... it is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35).

6. Do Regular Self Reappraisal

“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?” (2 Cor. 13:5).

Daily up keep with how we fare in morals and our worship to God is the key savouring like salt and shining like light. Please keep eyes on the light and God in you, let it remain an influence during the perilous times of the moment. God will help you live out like salt and shine on as light everyday in Jesus name.

“ But let a man examine himself, and so let him...” (1 Cor. 11:28).

To shun daily self appraisal while you preach to others or simply live assumably is to be careless and naive. Please, take redress so you do not miss heaven like the five foolish virgins of Matthew 25. God will arise a mighty help within you in Jesus’ name. Amen.



Yinka Olufayo

As Unto The LORD



The Bible makes it clear, that anyone who claims to be a child of God must live in a way that reflects the nature of Jesus Christ

The very fundamental place of self-assessment as a Christian

living as unto the Lord, is the home. Apostle Paul addressed the Colossian church on this fundamental issue in Colossians 3:17-24 specifying the duties and responsibilities of family members.

He counsels the wife: "Wives, submit to your own husbands as it is fitting unto the Lord." Every Christian wife needs to understand the fact that, the above instruction is NOT an instruction from the husband but from God. Therefore, the person of your husband is not the determinant of your response to this instruction. As long as you are a wife, set to live as unto the Lord, you have to look and live beyond your husband's human failings to submit to him in obedience to God's instruction.

Paul says to the husband as he continues with his admonition in Col. 3:19: "Husbands love your wives and do not be bitter against them". Why did he talk of bitterness in this regard? Many husbands after discovering the weaknesses of their wives, tend to become critics. They begin by highlighting and emphasizing such to the detriment of the joy of the wife and harmony of the couple. Then comes



bitterness which brings in various forms of disaffection that opens the door to the devil. Paul, therefore, in Ephesians 5:25-29, encourages the man to love his wife as Christ loves the church and gave Himself for her. This is quite explicit and instructive. Every Christian husband should take a cue from the way Jesus loved the church to the extent that He gave Himself for her.

Paul extends his admonition to the children: "Obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing unto the Lord" (Col. 3:20). Every Christian parent must be committed to nurturing children with the fear of God as to learn obedience in and from the home (Prov. 22:6).

Children that are brought up in the nurture and admonition of the word of God and prayers will find it easier to obey their parents. Paul also counsels children in Ephesians 6:1, 2 to obey and honour their parents for the blessing of graceful longevity. Obedience to your parents signifies your obedience to God who actually gave the instruction.

In conclusion, Paul now summarizes all his instructions to everyone, including you and me – Whatever you do in word or deed, do it heartily, as unto the Lord and not to men. My earnest prayer is that we shall not just know these things but be doers so as to be beneficiary of the reward of obedience.



Ronke Kumapayi

YOUTH



STAND OUT

It was a beautiful morning and I sat at my usual corner quietly waiting for the lecturer after observing my routine of praying and reading the Bible. The lecturer entered into the class about 30 minutes later and decided to give an impromptu test. He wrote the questions on the board and was waiting for the answer sheets to be submitted after fifteen minutes. At this point, I didn't know what to write and a few students around me brought out their textbooks to copy the answers. I decided to join them and started looking for the textbook to use. I approached the sister sitting next to me to lend me her textbook because I saw her reading the textbook before the test. She looked at me and said, "Brother, I saw you when you were reading your Bible: do you think this action will glorify God? How do

To stand out, you should always identify yourself as a child of God. Let your behaviour, way of life, conversation, etc., show that you are a child of God.

you want to tell your classmates about Jesus Christ if you join them in doing this?" As you can imagine, that actually hit me like a thunderbolt and it reset my brain. She, however, offered me the textbook but I rejected it and submitted the little I wrote. This is an example of how Christians yield to pressure and do things that do not glorify God instead of them to stand out for Christ. Fortunately, the Lecturer cancelled the test later as the malpractice was too much.

To stand out, you should always identify yourself as a child of God. Let your behaviour, way of life, conversation, etc., show that you are a child of God. (Eph. 4:29). Let everyone know what you stand for. A good example is in the book of Daniel where four outstanding young men chosen from among the captives of Judah: Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego stood out. The king assigned them a daily portion of food and wine from his table, but they decided not to defile themselves with the royal food. (Dan. 1:18-20).

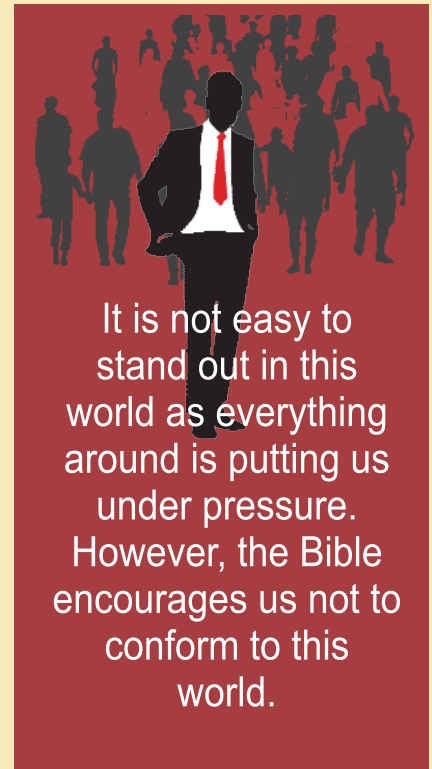
That you are not doing what they are doing does not make you an anathema. Your friends may try to talk you into joining them in what they are doing or they may try to show you that something is wrong with you if you don't join them. I remember when I was in secondary school and was told that if I didn't have a girlfriend by that time, it would be difficult for me to have a wife when I am ready to get married. Another one is that if you are still a virgin in higher institution, you will find it difficult with your spouse when you eventually get married. All these are lies of the devil from the pit of hell and you should not fall for any of them. Peer pressures can come in any way and at any time. It could also be at work. I was opportuned to travel to work in a foreign country some time ago and when we got there, people were just doing all sorts of evil things that they could not do at home – partying, drinking, sleeping

with each other, etc. I decided to be different, and God really helped me throughout that period. You may not be where people that know you can see you, but know that your Father in heaven can see everything that you are doing. Ask yourself, if Jesus is in this situation, **What Will Jesus Do (WWJD)?** Don't join them to do evil: stand out for Christ. Be different.

It is possible that not joining them or standing out has put you in a difficult situation, you still don't need to join them. You should know that Jesus Christ is in that boat with you (Mk. 4:38-40), Jesus Christ is with you in that situation. When King Nebuchadnezzar said that everyone must worship the golden image and anyone that does not worship the golden image will be thrown into the blazing furnace. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego decided to stand out and refused to worship the golden image (Dan. 3:16-18).

I love the response of the Hebrew children and that should be your response when you find yourself in a difficult situation just because you decided to stand out for God. You should know full well that God is able to deliver you from any difficult situation because you decided to stand for Him.

It is not easy to stand out in this world as everything around is putting us under pressure. However, the Bible encourages us not to conform to this world. Romans 12:2 (AmpC) says, "Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned



after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, *even* the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you]." You should not just copy the behaviour, culture and customs of this world. It is very easy to copy. It is very easy to adjust to the way things are being done around you but you should not. You should stand out instead and allow God to transform you from inside out.



Olusegun Akinrinade

To be different is simply to stand out. To dare to be different is to break the norm, to refuse to conform to the status quo. It is the unwillingness to accept the popular opinion but to move to defend one's opinion and beliefs. The world, as we know it, has its own standards and expectations widely popularized now by technology and social media. This is directly affecting our lifestyles and belief systems, hence the need to stand out as Christians. To dare to be different is to refuse to conform to the world standards and expectations but to establish our own system. In 1 Corinthians 2:1-4, Apostle Paul states his mode of preaching the gospel: it was neither "in excellence of speech or of wisdom" nor "with the persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power". This tells us that there is a way to preach the gospel and another way that it can or has been done.

A Christian understands that he has been saddled with the responsibility of spreading the good news, first in his locality where he finds himself and then if he is called to do so, as a missionary sent to specific regions and territories (Mark 16:15). When it comes to taking the gospel to your neighbour, friend, co-worker or the uttermost part of the earth (Acts 1:8), communication is key. With sharing the Good News, we are concerned with presentation which the receiver understands and living out the gospel in its best form to 'draw them' to the Cross.

When you switch on the television set, you scroll through the reels on your social media page or visit a new church, you come across several doctrines and modes of 'preaching the gospel'. There is this new wave of inclusion going on which attempts to cater for all categories of people to give a wider reach. This aim in itself is right, since the gospel must be preached to everyone. The society has however admitted and 'included' all forms of vices such as get rich quick schemes, kidnapping and ritual killing, embezzlement, religious 'tolerance', embracing the Universe the LGBTQ+, this has gradually



We must make a conscious effort to ensure that we are not conforming to the norms of the society in which we find ourselves (Rom. 12:2)

seeped into the mode of preaching the gospel. For the gospel to be socially correct, we see all forms, shades and types of the gospel being preached. We should not allow this to go on. Ultimately, God's mind is that we preach the gospel. The gospel in its pure form is about the Person of Jesus, His power and His work which we must respond to (Rom. 1:1-4). Using 1 Corinthians 2:1-4 as our guide, we can highlight how to preach the gospel:

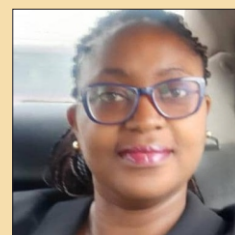
- ❖ **Simple** (vs 1): Apostle Paul was a lettered man but chose to speak simply to reach all classes of people. His reliance was not on his wealth of wisdom or education. He declared the testimony of God (gospel) in simple terms.
- ❖ **Focused** (vs 2): It is not about the audience as much as it is about the subject. The focus of the gospel is JESUS and must remain the same regardless of the status or standing of the hearer.
- ❖ **Consistence** (vs 3): The gospel must be preached regardless of ourselves and without bearing in mind the cost of our lives. In season and out of season, whether it is convenient or not, if the condition seems right or not; we are to preach

this gospel of Christ. The gospel does not factor in political correctness or societal acceptance.

- ❖ **God's Power** (vs 4): The power of the gospel does not manifest by our grand speeches or grammar. The ability to accept and understand the full gospel is only by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 3:6; Acts 1:8). We must rely heavily on God's power to minister and be made manifest to see changed lives (Ps 110:3a; Acts 2:41).

Bearing the above in mind, we find that what obtains in the society is different. The prosperity, grace doctrine, not paying tithe and other forms of perverse doctrines are on the rise in the Church. This is where we **MUST** dare to be different. We must without fear, maintain the standard given by God in love.

We must make a conscious effort to ensure that we are not conforming to the norms of the society in which we find ourselves (Rom. 12:2), but to dare to take a stand for the truth by preaching and teaching the gospel of Christ not with the aim to be accepted or popular but that Christ, the Risen Lord, might be preached. The harvest is still ripe and the genuine labourers are few, God would help and strengthen us to remain faithful to the very end.



Aderinsola Oyediji

Not to Be SERVED

*“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many”
(Mk 10:45, NIV)*

Knowing that whatever Jesus says and does is the standard, let us further explore what He said in this verse. We need to consider what happened before Jesus Christ called attention to this principle as critical to the Christian life. The sons of Zebedee had asked that they sit at the sides of Jesus in His Kingdom, on His throne. Jesus had given them a reply that is not the focus of this discourse now. However, when the other disciples heard, they were angry with James and John. How could they have thought about such a selfish ambition, as if it is only they who have been following Jesus? Jesus knew that all of them had a wrong conception of His Kingdom. Jesus clarified that there was a world system of leadership, but for those who belonged to Him, the leadership principle was opposite to what the world operates. To be great according to Christ, you must become a servant. He went further on to support His assertion, saying, that He did not come to be served.

The path to greatness as a leader is **not to be a slave master**, not to **position yourself** such that service is rendered to you, **not expecting** to be served. However, you must arm yourself with **a mind** to serve and indeed **do the act** of service.

Seeing what Jesus has said and done, what is He expecting of us as Christians?

First, He washed His disciples' feet in John chapter 13. Jesus had to bend down to wash the feet of His disciples. We need to bend low, to

the ground at times, to render service. We need to go down from any level of arrogance or pride or self-importance to be able to touch lives of people. We need to shed title, position, experience, superior skills that we have acquired, otherwise we would never be able to serve others.

How then can this happen?

Jesus told Nicodemus – whatever is of the flesh is flesh and whatever is of the Spirit is spirit,

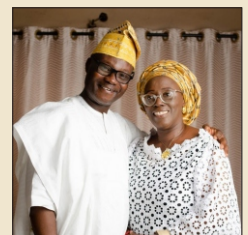


marvel not therefore that I say unto you, You must be born again (Jn 3:3-6). Being born again is carrying the nature of Christ – the New Man. Only then you can have the capacity to serve others and not desire to be served.

If you don't carry the nature of Christ, you cannot act like Christ, at best you would struggle day-by-day to do the acts. But remember that anything done by human flesh, does not please God. He that is in Christ JESUS, CARRIES A NEW NATURE. The old nature, would always seek to be served, it is only Christ's nature that can meet the standard of Christ.

We have seen that whatever Jesus says and does is the standard of Heaven. So if Jesus says, you are to serve and not be served, then that is the pattern to follow. We have also seen some applications to a Christian life. It is both in mindset and in actions. If we have the mind of Christ, we would be able to do the acts of Christ.

God bless you.



Kehinde
&
Ayotola
Aremu

"I beseech you therefore, brethren,
by the mercies of God, that you
present your bodies a living sacrifice,
holy, acceptable to God, which is your
reasonable service.

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."

ROMANS 12:1 & 2

Dear Editor,

I want to share in the financial burden of this magazine.

I enclose ₦ cheque / I have transferred

₦ to your Bank Account.

Name

Address

.....

Please make cheques payable to:

CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS EVANGELISTIC TEAM" and post to:

The Editor, CAET, P.O. BOX 4075, IBADAN, NIGERIA

or make direct Bank Transfer to:

UBA - 1000192117 or ACCESS - 0034046724

IMPORTANT

Because this ministry is supported through tithes and freewill offerings of readers and interested people of God, you can have a part in bearing the financial burden of the publication.