Why Do You Do It?

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: " 1 Peter 3:15.

Those people who don't know the Lord can't understand why Christians live like they do. We praise the Lord of troubles. Yes, believers have the same temptations, problems, trials, and most everything else that anyone faces. Jesus said, "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the un*just.*" Matt 5:43-45. As Jesus said here, Christians have joys knew the Lord then they would understand. and troubles just like all people do.

So, if believers have problems here like the unbeliever, along." Meaning that you have to compromise and agree coming of Jesus. That's why we do it – we believe God's word.

and to serve God as we do? The answer is really simple – we believe in God and what he said. That makes the difference if life, for we are not alone.

First of all, we have placed our faith in the God of cre-say, for he condemned their sins. ation. We live here on earth, subject to the things of life like all and without sin. It is what we strive for, but the reality is that we are in the flesh and have to contend with its weaknesses. "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that that the world can't see and give thanks even in the midst ye cannot do the things that ye would." Gal 5:17. We are in were some who asked why they would suffer like they did. a constant battle and will be as long as we are in the flesh. of the sinners. In addition the Christian has the pressure of or beheaded. Again some would wonder why they would striving against sin. We are tempted to take shortcuts to get face such things when all they had to do was to quit and to your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that ahead, or to get a profit. Some would call it good business, deny Jesus. but when it is doing wrong the believer can't go that way. The unbeliever will sometimes ask why you didn't take the to our day, suffer for their faith? The answer is simple. They easy route, saying that they would have. They don't see any harm in profiting from some one's else's mistake. If they man, knowing that they had the promise of life eternal. Why

the question would be, why do they, we, continue to believe with people to avoid trouble. That is an option to those who don't follow the Lord, but it is not for the Christian. Jesus told the truth to the Pharisees, scribes, Sadducees, and others that he spoke too. Often they didn't like what he had to

Then look at the Apostles and the Christians that came of mankind. No serious Christian would claim to be perfect after. They were persecuted about everywhere they went. Some were placed in prison and suffered the loss of their belongings. Why? They didn't go along with the world, but followed along after the example of Jesus. Some believers were beaten, in addition to being locked up. I'm sure there Others were killed, suffering cruel deaths for their faith. There is the same concerns in our lives as there is in the lives They may have been stoned, thrown to the lions, crucified,

So why did they in that day, and even through the years believed in Jesus and what he said. They feared God and not does a person put God first in life and follow the Lord's teach-I have heard people say, "You have to go along to get ingeachday? Hetrusts in the promises of God and looks for the

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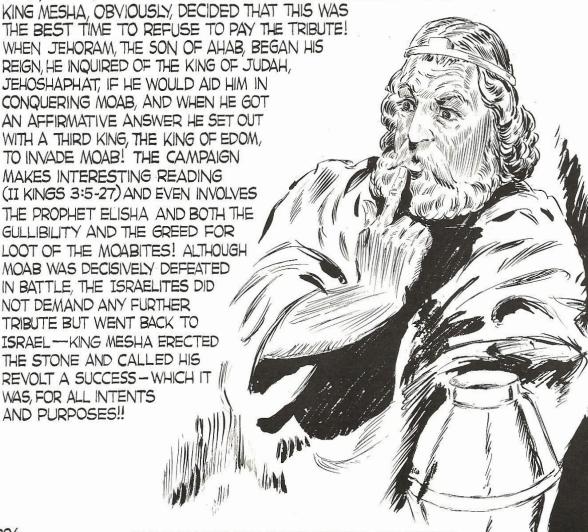
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