



# INSIDER

MONTGOMERY CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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## How Much Must I Give?

by Lance Logan

This new year I want to introduce you to the spiritual life through an introduction of several authors. These authors know that our God is not a God of half way there. Nothing short of absolute commitment will do. The first author, C.S. Lewis, Irish born, professor of medieval literature at Magdalen College, Oxford. He and his friend J.R.R. Tolkien, as well as others gathered once a week to share their writings. Out of those talks came *Mere Christianity*, a incredible work on apologetics or the proof of Christianity. C.S. Lewis answered the question, "Is Christianity hard or easy?"

Christians are like an honest man paying his taxes. He pays them, but he hopes that there will be enough left over for him to live on. This causes us to either give up trying to be good, or we become very unhappy. See, the more you obey your conscience, the more your conscience will demand of you. Forever giving, all the while grumbling and wondering if anyone notices.

The Christian way is harder, and easier. Christ says, I don't want your time, your money, or your work. I want You. I have not come to torment your natural self, but to

kill it. I will give you a new self instead. In fact, I will give you Myself: my own will shall be yours. Christ describes the way to follow as very hard and sometimes easy. "Take up your Cross"—in other words, you are going to suffer and badly. Next, "My yoke is easy and my burden light." He means both.



We try had to keep our personal happiness and at the same time, be good. We are hoping to make ourselves happy and that in spite of this still be honest, pure and humble. And that is exactly what Christ warned us we could not do. A thistle cannot produce figs.

We need to let him work in us. It is the difference between paint, which is on the surface, and stain which soaks right through. When he said, "Be perfect," He meant it. He wasn't full of hot air. It is easy to think the church is for education, buildings, missions, and services. It's more simple, "it exists to draw men into Christ, to make them little Christs." If it is not doing that, it is simply a waste of time. —*What do you find most difficult about giving all to God?*

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Thanks to Pam Winn  
 BRING FRIENDS TO CHURCH DAY IS SUPER EASY FOR ME ... ALL I NEED IS MY LAPTOP  
 01-04-2010

**Remove Rewards Until The Job Is Done:** An older couple marveled at how quickly their neighbors children unloaded and how well they cleaned their car after a recent family vacation. The dad replied, "it's easy, you just need a system. Nobody goes to the bathroom until all the car is unloaded and cleaned."

### >>UPCOMING MSFM EVENTS<<

**Teen Time Today!!** 3:30 pm till 7:30 pm. We will do a quick service project [leaf rake]//Devo//& Watch Bronco's vs. Patriot's at 6 pm

**\*\*Winterfest Registration is Due today!!** \$25 Deposit or \$85 Reg. Meet at MBCC this Thursday at 4:15 pm//We return 10 pm on Sunday, Jan. 22.

**\*\*Ski Trip Registration Past Due today!** Please turn in all late forms with deposits. Balance due Sunday, Jan. 29.

**SUPERBOWL PARTY!!!** Sunday, February 5 at 4:00 pm till end of game. Bring your favorite football snacks! Prizes at the end of every quarter. Cheer on your favorite team & don't forget the awesome commercial's and movie premier advertisements.

**Parenting Kid's:** Labor of Love, sometimes more love, other times more labor//Birth thru High School//Room D115

## ONE IN SPIRIT AND IN PURPOSE

"...make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose." Philippians 2:2

# Parenting FOR DUMMIES™

Anger is too often the first reaction of a parent. Why? Because they are not expecting their kid to do what they just did and usually it is the parent who cleans it up or pays the expense. So what? Stop, take several deep breaths, look at their sweet face, and smile. Anger is wasted energy.

Let your kids be kids. They goof up. They make messes. They aren't doing it just to "get you." Part of the joy of parenting is sitting back and watching your kids do goofy things your parents accused you of when you were a kid.

One more thing, you can't tell the funny story when it has the sad ending of, "and then I beat the *crap* out of him."

**USELESS FACT  
REAL FACT #700**  
Turning the faucet off while brushing your teeth can save up to 5 gallons of water.

## SKIING FOR THE PRESIDENTS

Registration forms due NOW

FEBRUARY 2011  
17<sup>TH</sup>—20<sup>ST</sup>

PRESIDENT'S DAY WEEKEND

Join us for **LIFT**

Wednesday's  
@ 6:30 pm



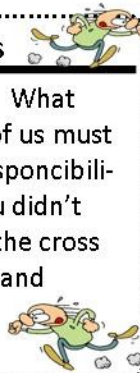
An journey to let Jesus REVEAL his character in us.  
@the TEEN HOUSE

**Sunday Morning Classes: 9:30am - 10:30 am**

6th—8th Grade//Troy//B125 Survey of the O.T.  
9th—12th Grade//Lance//Seminar// Luke & Acts

### Running with Jesus...Jesus Centered Prayers

Jesus, I'm told that everyone has a cross to bear. What does this mean? I think it means that each one of us must face the reality of our own calling, nature and responsibilities. You faced this reality without flinching. You didn't take the popular way or easy route. The way of the cross was your reality that ultimately defined your life and death. Help me bear my cross on the way of the cross, Jesus. Amen



Set your phone alarm to go off daily at **3:16 pm** as a reminder & pray to love like Jesus in your world.

### SACRED MARRIAGE: DEEPING YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Pray with me: Lord, enter into all areas of my marriage and grow the desire to give grace to my spouse. Remove my selfishness and teach me to become gentle, forgiving, gracious and kind. May I see all household chores, conversations, time and money as places to enter into a loving relationship with you. Amen.

### 4 THINGS YOU MUST BELIEVE ABOUT YOURSELF

1. I have been given power over the devil (1 John 4:4).
2. I have been given power over every circumstance in my life (Mark 11:23).
3. My body has been healed by the stripes taken on Jesus' back (Mt. 8:17).
4. I have the ability to control my mind and cast out evil thoughts (2 Cor. 10:4,5).
5. I hate sin but love all people and have favor everywhere I go (Proverbs 12:2).
6. I am poised for success and will not accept any defeat as final (1 Cor. 15:57).

## WINTERFEST 2012



January 20-22, 2012  
Arlington, Texas

We have a bus load of teens & parents ready to set sail for a spiritual rejuvenation! It will be a Christ Following Party Rock Anthem Weekend!

Theme: "12" You will learn about 12 of the spiritual disciplines and challenged to engage the yourself and your community in the Kingdom of God.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY/¡Feliz Cumpleaños!



Colton Logan 1/8  
Maddy Parish 1/12  
Raymond Chavez 1/25

## BEING A PERFECT MINISTRY DOESN'T MATTER. BEING A PRAYING MINISTRY DOES.

"...that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ..." Philippians 1:9-10