

Don't just get in - Go on!

How many people would join the WPRA or PRCA and just stay at home and never go to a rodeo? Sounds ridiculous doesn't it? That would be confusing to someone watching them. You would wonder if perhaps they didn't know where the rodeos are or how to enter themselves. You would wonder if they were reading their newsletter giving them the needed information.

It takes some planning and learning on their part to know how to participate in the association that they have joined. They have to find out where the rodeos are, how to get to them, what the entry fees are and when to enter.

When we accept Christ, we are sometimes like that person that joined the association - we don't know what to do next. There are a lot of folks like this. It is part of our responsibility as a Christian to guide them.

In fact, there is a direct order given to us called the Great Commission. Turn to Matthew 28 19-20 and read where Jesus said, "Go all of you into the world and make disciples of all men, teaching them to observe all things that I have shown you." That passage does not tell us to go out and try to convert people. It says to go teach them the things He taught.

Converts are people who have accepted Christ. They have gotten into the Kingdom of God. Disciples are people who got in and then disciplined themselves to go on. Accepting Christ is only the first step in running your race. It is getting you out of the chute and into the arena. You can never win a prize sitting in the chute. You must enter into the arena to win the prizes. There are many crowns and rewards awaiting you in the Christian life. You must learn how to get on the road that leads to them, just as you learn what it takes to win prizes in competition.

The word disciple comes from the root word of discipline. Discipline means: to train or develop by instruction and exercise; training that corrects, molds, or perfects the mental faculties or moral character; learning a pattern of behavior. Any goal that you reach in life will require discipline; both mental and physical.

You can find teaching tapes on any subject that you want to study. May I recommend some great teachers of the Word of God to you: Joyce Meyers and Bob Yandian. There are many, but these are two of my favorites. I have spent many hours driving down the highway with these two teaching me principles to live my life by.

Reading your Bible and being taught the Word of God is the most important aspect of growing as a Christian. As you grow, your roots get deeper and you will begin to see changes coming into your every day life. It is the Word that brings you light and your obedience to that Word that brings changes.

The Word does this for us: 2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for:

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| 1. Teaching | Showing us the road |
| 2. reproof | Telling us when we run off the road |
| 3. correction | Showing us how to get back on the road |
| 4. Instruction in
righteousness | Showing us how to stay on the road |

That the man of God may be complete and proficient and thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The next time you see someone who has joined the Christian family and doesn't know what to do from there, take time to disciple them and help them onto the road that leads to victory.