

New Life Riders

Motorcyclists Serving God and Community
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Dear Friends,

What a strange winter we have been experiencing, especially here in the Midwest! The temperatures have been fluctuating from spring-like fifties to frigid subzero days with ice covered roads that certainly prevent riding.

However, for bikers, winter also means myriad activities like indoor motorcycle shows, swap meets and frequent trips to our favorite dealerships. Due to some health concerns, my wife, Kathy, and I were unable to attend the Annual O'Reilly World of Wheels or the Motorcycle Expo at the Indianapolis Fairgrounds this year. We really missed seeing friends and vendors that we frequently catch up with at these events and the magnificent machinery and all manner of new products under one roof!

Often at shows bikes are listed as "fully dressed." There is a parallel thought in the in the "listing" God's Word gives concerning the Christian life. The biblical word is translated as "equipped" in the book of Hebrews.

"May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant, brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, **equip** you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." Hebrews 13:20,21 (New International Version)

After writing about the superiority and perfection of Jesus, the writer of Hebrews asks that the truths of the letter become practical to his readers. He wants them to be "fully equipped" and made ready for use. The Lord has made provision that we might be fully dressed as Christians. Our salvation does not come as a "stripped down" model but one that is fully equipped — loaded with all the extras! The Source of this equipping must be made very clear. It does not stem from our own efforts, but from God Himself. In this passage He is described as the God of peace, the Author of the Resurrection. Only He has sufficient power to make us what we ought to be. Not only is God the originator of the equipment for the Christian's life, but He is personally involved in the "installation." Verse 21 states that He is "working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight." A pleasing Christian is the result of the inward work of God rather than all kinds of self-help programs. We read in Romans 13:14, "Clothe yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah". (Amplified New Testament.) The Lord will see that we are equipped, "fully dressed" just like those bikes displayed at the show as we yield to His will on a moment-by-moment basis.

The Apostle Paul writing to the church at Colossae said, "Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him," Colossians 3:17 (New King James Version) A little further down in the passage, he says, "do all your work wholeheartedly, as for the Lord."

So, there we have our marching orders with God's promise to send us out equipped and "fully dressed" to do the work He is calling us to do!

If you are searching for something to believe in or belong to, you are not alone. We strive to open our hearts to the world and accept each person as a child of God. We are by no means perfect, but we take seriously Christ's call to invite all to accept salvation through Him. As Christians we place Jesus Christ at the center of all we do. Our mission is at the heart of all we do: To make disciples of Jesus Christ!

Looking ahead, Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you who will be traveling to Daytona March 6-14. May you have safe travels and many opportunities to share the love of Jesus with fellow bikers.

On the home front, on March 8th the Boone County Vintage Motorcycle Swap Meet, Located in the Witham Building at the Boone County Fairgrounds in Lebanon, Indiana. Time: 9am -2pm, Admission: \$7. Ages 12 and under are FREE. Door Prize Drawings, Good Food & More! For information visit www.bcswapmeet.com or call 765-659-8422.

We update our website <u>www.newliferiders.com</u> often. Please keep checking it for biking events and activities that you can attend and let your light shine for Jesus. Be a blessing! Don't underestimate your ability to make a difference in someone's life and don't miss any opportunity to make an impact on the world. May you be blessed as you ride, work and witness for Him.

The New Life Riders ride with the two-fold purpose of enjoying the wind in our faces and, more importantly, serving God and the Community. You don't have to join or belong to any particular organization to be part of our ministry. Please feel especially invited to come out and fellowship with us. We want you and your family to know that everyone is welcome. Take a night off from dinner responsibilities and join us for good food and great fellowship at our next meeting on Friday, March 6th at 6:30 PM at Bob Evans Restaurant, 6102 Cambridge Way, located off Route 267, just north of Route 70, Plainfield, Indiana 46168.

My wife, Kathy, and I pray you will be abundantly blessed during the Lenten season and as we look forward to celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus in April.

As always, I look forward to seeing you down the road. Until next time...

God bless Riding with Jesus, Bob Dillon

Jesus said, "Go into the world. Go everywhere and announce the Message of God's good news to one and all." Mark 16:15 (The Message)