

# The Writing Copy

1 Peter 2:21-25

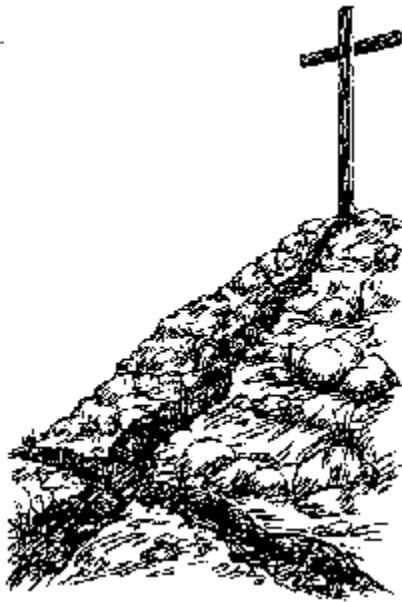
(1 Peter 2:21-25 KJV) "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example<sup>1</sup>, that ye should follow his steps<sup>2</sup>: {22} Who did no sin, neither was guile<sup>3</sup> found in his mouth: {23} Who, when he was reviled<sup>4</sup>, reviled not again; when he suffered<sup>5</sup>, he threatened not; but committed *himself* to him that judgeth righteously: {24} Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. {25} For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls."

## 1. For Whom Did Christ Leave An Example?

(1 Peter 2:21 KJV) "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example<sup>1</sup>, that ye should follow his steps<sup>2</sup>:

The entirety of this text speaks of Christ being an example<sup>1</sup>. This is the Greek word **hupogrammos**<sup>1</sup> {hoop-og-ram-mos<sup>1</sup>}, a very interesting word. The best way I know how to explain this is to go back to grade school. I remember when I was very young and in school, we had these pads of paper with lines and dots on them. The lines and dots were there so that us children could properly form our letters. The teacher would tell us to form the letter "A", then we would watch her as she formed the letter. We would try to

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copy her letter just as she formed it. In the very front of our writing pads we had a set of examples showing us how the letters should be properly formed. These examples were **writing copies**, or in the Greek hupogrammos {hoop-og-ram-mos'}.

**Jesus Christ is the hupogrammos, the writing copy.**

As our **Writing Copy** we are commanded to “**follow his steps**”<sup>2</sup>. This is the Greek epakoloutheo {pronounced ep-ak-ol-oo-theh'-o} + ichnos {pronounced ikh'-nos} = which means to **follow closely in the tracks or impressions of**. What is intended for us is that we *stay close to Jesus*, following so close to Him that our tracks perfectly fit in His.

Now, to **whom** is the command, for this is a command. Jesus Christ is the writing copy, the guide that we should closely follow. This command, however, does not apply to the general public or to the masses of unsaved people. This command is *for the Christian*, not for the world at large.

The entire time I went to school I **cannot remember a monkey or a dog or a cat sitting in the classroom** and tracing letters with me. Those who sat in the classroom were all those with *similar abilities* to myself. My classmates were made human like me, and had brain capacities similar to mine. Those who followed the writing copy all started on a level playing field, that is, we were all *able* to copy the

letters put before us. Some were *better able* than I .... as I said before, I'm not the sharpest tack in the pack - but each of us had the basic ability.

Jesus Christ is the *writing copy* for the Born Again believer, for those who are *made alive from the dead*. Those who are to emulate Jesus are **people who can choose to emulate Him**. We are told in the Scripture:

**(Romans 6:13 KJV) "Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God."**

The Christian, that person who accepted Christ as Savior, and who is subsequently **born again as a supernatural being is able to follow** closely behind Jesus. The unbeliever is unable to do this. In fact, the unbeliever is **not only unable** to do this, the **unbeliever is unwilling** to do this. Jesus told the *self righteous Pharisees* that:

**(John 8:42-47 KJV) "Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. {43} Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. {44} Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do.**

**He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. {45} And because I tell *you* the truth, ye believe me not. {46} Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? {47} He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear *them* not, because ye are not of God."**

Did you notice that? **Jesus** did not preach a *feel good* message. He **did not preach an *open mind* message.** **Jesus divided people into two categories:** those who understood His words, who loved Him, and who listened to the truth; and those who did *not*. Those who were "**of your father, the devil**" are, by our Savior's testimony, *absolutely unable* to understand or even hear His words. Those who are *supernaturally born again*, the Saved, the Christian - not just the professing, but the possessing Christian - these are able to understand Jesus' words.

Going back to our focal text, we can say - when we compare this text to what Jesus told the Pharisees - that the *unbeliever is unable* to follow the Writing Copy, and will *remain unable* until that person surrenders his or her life to Christ for salvation. Just as the Roman soldiers stood at the foot of the Cross and yet played games while our Savior suffered:

**(Matthew 27:35 KJV) "And they crucified him,**

**and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots."**

The unbeliever, until he admits his inability and surrenders to that supernatural new birth .... the **unbeliever is dead in his sins.** The Christian is therefore a person who is **able to follow Christ because he is empowered to do so by God.**

Jesus Christ left an example for the Christian, not the lost. We do not ask "What Would Jesus Do?", but we ask "What DID Jesus Do?", then we follow His perfect example. We do that which our Big Brother did first:

**(Matthew 12:48-50 KJV) "But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? {49} And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! {50} For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother."**

**(Romans 12:2 KJV) "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."**

So to answer our first question, “For Whom Did Christ leave an Example?” the answer is, “For the **Born Again, Supernatural, Blood Bought Christian**”. If you're not born again, if you do not hear Christ's words, if you love neither God nor others, then you need not seek to follow our Writing Copy Jesus Christ. You can't be good and get to Heaven. You have to be Born Again!

## **2. What Was Christ's Example?**

**(1 Peter 2:22-23 KJV) "Who did no sin, neither was guile<sup>3</sup> found in his mouth: {23} Who, when he was reviled<sup>4</sup>, reviled not again; when he suffered<sup>5</sup>, he threatened not; but committed *himself* to him that judgeth righteously:**

So now we understand, our text today is **not addressed to the unsaved** who are, by nature, unable to follow the Writing Copy Jesus Christ. This is a command for the Christian. **If you *do not want to or are unable to follow Jesus*, then you probably aren't saved.** If we have to force or coerce you to the Christian way of life, you probably need to be Born Again. Remember, Jesus Christ told the highly religious Nicodemus:

**(John 3:7 KJV) "Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."**

If someone as religious, as *good* as Nicodemus

needed to be born again, then we *all* must be born again! But after the New Birth, what then? Well, we are to follow in the footsteps of our Writing Copy Jesus Christ. What was Christ's Example? The Bible tells us of Jesus:

**“... Who did no sin, neither was guile<sup>3</sup> found in his mouth... ”**

**Jesus is sinless. Can I follow that act? No, not really.** Jesus Christ was born of a Virgin with God as His only Father. None of the sin nature that is so naturally ingrained into us was sifted into our Lord's earthly Body. Jesus Christ was and is sinless. Even the High Priests of Judaism were sinful men who had to make atonement or payment for themselves before they went in to make atonement for the people But Jesus is without sin:

**(Hebrews 4:15 KJV) "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, **yet without sin.**"**

Even the **born again Christian sins, at times**, but Jesus *never* sinned. We can attempt to *curb our sin*, however, **we can refuse to walk in it in as much as we are able.** Further, like Jesus we can avoid what the King James calls **guile<sup>3</sup>**, which is the Greek *dolos* {pronounced dol'-os}. This word means *deceit* or

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*subterfuge*. Jesus never sinned with His mouth. What He spoke was *truth*, and as Christians we can do the same thing.

It has been my experience that the beginning of **confusion in a Church starts in the mouth of a disobedient Christian**. Jesus, our Writing Copy, always spoke the Truth. The Truth of God has the ability to build up, whereas lies and deceit tear down the Church of God.

**(Ephesians 4:25 KJV) "Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another."**

Jesus spoke truth. Truth is not a precious commodity in the devil's world, but is often seen as a threat to the fabric of compromise that our society is built on. If you stand for Jesus, stand for Him without compromise, you will find yourself being persecuted. **Jesus Christ Himself spoke truth, God's Truth, and was reviled**<sup>4</sup> (Present Passive Participle of *loidoreo*<sup>4</sup> {pronounced *loy-dor-eh'-o*}), THAT IS, they "kept on heaping abuse on Him". Jesus Christ was terribly abused, much more so than any Person who ever lived. The Bible says:

**Isaiah 52:14 (KJV) "As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men:"**

**(Isaiah 50:6-7 KJV) "I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting. {7} For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed."**

Jesus went with His tormentors, but never fought back. He was terribly abused, but He did as He asked His disciples to do, and "turned the other cheek" (Matthew 5:39). So often we as Christians fall prey to the "blame game". We look for flaws in others. We reward their attacks on us with reciprocal attacks. Is this what our Writing Copy taught us? No, absolutely not! **They kept on heaping abuse on Jesus, but He never returned the same in kind**. As He suffered, He did not threaten - though Jesus could have threatened! As the Son of God Jesus had an innumerable host of angels who watched over Him:

**(Matthew 4:6 KJV) "And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in *their* hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone."**

**(Psalms 91:11-12 KJV) "For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy**

ways. {12} They shall bear thee up in *their* hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone."

Jesus could have threatened, but *did not*, knowing that God the Father would make all things come out right in the end.

**(Psalms 94:1 KJV) "O LORD God, to whom vengeance belongeth; O God, to whom vengeance belongeth, show thyself."**

Jesus **trusted His Father to settle the score**. We as Christians are to follow in that same step. God *does judge* and *does take vengeance* on those who do evil. The Bible tells us:

**(Hebrews 10:30 KJV) "For we know him that hath said, **Vengeance belongeth unto me**, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, **The Lord shall judge his people**."**

that Vengeance *belongs* to Him. Jesus took no action at no point in His lifetime to return evil for evil. He never called out for judgment, even when His calling out would have been justified. Instead, He committed Himself to God in the worst of times. Jesus chose to overcome *evil with good*:

**(Romans 12:19-21 KJV) "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, *Vengeance is mine; I will repay,***

**saith the Lord. {20} Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. {21} Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."**

And in so doing caused a greater good. If Jesus had done as all other ancient leaders did, His name would be little known today. Few people ever speak of **Alexander the Great, or Atilla the Hun, or even of Caesar** at the height of Roman power. Each of these men were great, and managed great empires in their day. We know about them, and speak of them with awe at times - but none of them even came close to effecting the world like Jesus Christ did. Jesus trusted His entire life, to include His time of suffering, to God the Father. That was the example He left for us. When attacked, He loved. When beaten, He prayed for. When bled, He forgave.

### **3. What Was The Outcome Of Christ's Example?**

**1 Peter 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.**

The third question is simple. What was the outcome of His example? The **salvation** of all who believe in Him. Jesus Christ, our Writing Copy, bore our sins.

He took our hell so we could enjoy His Heaven.

The **Christian is a person who is, literally, “alive from the dead”**. The Bible tells us this. We are told:

**(Romans 6:13 KJV) "Neither yield ye your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness unto God."**

If you are among those who are “**alive from the dead**” then the challenge that God gives you is “**yield yourselves to God**”. Jesus could have yielded Himself to vengeance, but did not, because He considered the greater good that comes when we yield to the plan of God. Jesus yielded Himself to righteousness, and in so yielding secured eternal salvation for all who believe in Him.

If you are saved by faith in Jesus Christ, and *if* you are a supernatural creature, one *born again* from the dead, *then* you are called to yield yourself to God. Not to vengeance, not to the ways of the world, not to murmuring and grumbling, not to selfishness - but to God. An unbeliever is unable to do this. A *professing* but *spiritually dead* person is unable to do this. The dead cannot do the things of life. **Yield yourselves unto God, as those who are alive from the dead**. Walk closely to Jesus, our Writing Copy. Follow in His footsteps, if you are born again. Jesus followed after

righteousness, and in so doing brought a wonderful salvation to all who believe. If we, as God's Church, are going to effect a change in our community, we cannot follow the ways of the world. We must follow the Savior. Jesus Christ, our Writing Copy. Our focal text ends with this:

**1 Peter 2:25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls."**

Jesus, our Great Shepherd, calls His sheep - everyone who has been born again by faith in Him - to come home. As we close let's think about sheep. Sheep are creatures with no *natural defenses*. They rely on the Shepherd for their safety. Sheep apart from their Shepherd are tasty morsels for the wolves and other predators to feast on. Sheep apart from their Shepherd have a tendency to get stuck in places they should have never been. They get bogged down in mud holes, their wool quickly leaching up water, their very beauty becoming that which binds them to death. The Shepherd watches the sheep for He knows that, if they go astray, they are not going to do very well in this world of grief.

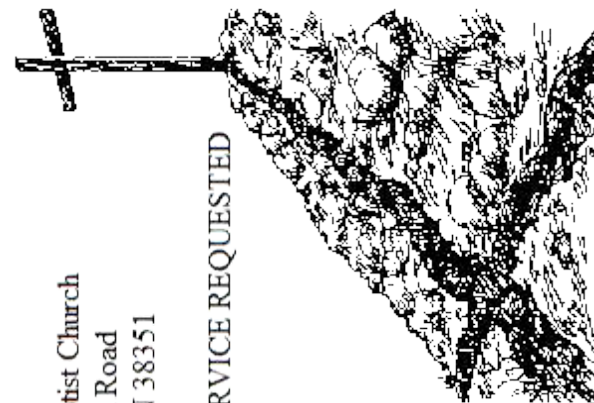
If you're born again, a child of God by faith in Christ, then you are not a predator. **You are not a lion, a beast of prey, a mighty destroyer. You are God's sheep**, and God wants you to follow His example.

God showed us His example when He *yielded to death for us*. God yielded to God, that is, God the Son yielded to God the Father, and the outcome was indeed glorious. Yield to God the Son, just as God the Son yielded to God the Father.

Yielding to God our Shepherd. This is the way of peace as the Sheep of Christ. So we who believe are commanded to follow His example. Why? Because Beloved, this example will ultimately bear fruit in our lives, in the lives of our families, and in the lives of those around us. Alexander, Caesar, Atilla ... their examples are long since forgotten, purposely forgotten, for their examples leave visions of horror that we'd rather not see. But the example of Jesus ... Oh Beloved, that example stands as the best example of love the world has ever seen. Share in that example!

**Rock Hill Baptist Church is located between Parsons and Lexington, Tennessee, on Highway 412. Look for our sign! We have services on Wednesdays (Adult, Youth, and children's Bible studies) at 7:00 PM, Sundays at 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM. Rock Hill is a family oriented Bible believing Church - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever! Our Pastor, Brother David Buffaloe, will answer any questions you have about our Church if you contact him at 731-845-6104, or through his website at [bibleteacher.org](http://bibleteacher.org);**

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