

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

November 19, 2013

Issue No. 120 Mark Aites, Editor

### **A Living Letter**

"I have tried to be a man of letters in love with ideas in order to be a wiser and more loving person, hoping to leave the world just a little better than I found it." – Cornel West, *The Cornel West Reader*

"Imagine for yourself, a character, a model personality, whose example you determine to follow, in private as well as in public." – Epictetus

"The way to gain a good reputation is to endeavor to be what you desire to appear." – Socrates

"Open your eyes, look within. Are you satisfied with the life you're living? – Bob Marley

"Do we begin again to commend ourselves? Or do we need, as some others, epistles of commendation to you or letters of commendation from you? You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, or the heart" (2 Cor. 3:1-3).

It may be somewhat disconcerting to realize that you are a living advertisement for Christ. We often talk about how Christ lives in us, just as the apostle Paul did: "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Gal. 2:20).

Isn't it amazing how that businesses will spend millions of dollars to advertise a product? We see the billboards, the newspapers, the magazines, the television ads, the internet ads, etc. A tremendous effort is put forth to advertise a product in such a way that you are encouraged to buy it. And yet, when it comes to Christianity, we find that sometimes that living advertisement that is supposed to excite people to want to be a Christian, falls flat.

Our Lord, in the famed Sermon on the Mount, spoke of the importance of being the salt of the earth and light of the world (Matt. 5:13-15) And then added this very important thought, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven" (Matt. 5:16).

What are you known for? Do you consider yourself a good advertisement for the Master? Do people truly see Jesus living in you? Does your life glorify our Father who is in heaven?