



CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA YOUTH MINISTRIES

Prayer Requests:

- Finding the right location for a CrossFit gym
- Direction for new potential ministry developing new ministry location
- Direction with how to maximize and effectively use my time
- Finding a space to live, rent, or buy as I am nearing my wedding date

My needs:

- Location for CrossFit gym (empty open space)

taught but took it to the place of making it their way of life. These early Christians were mocked and persecuted for their faith in Jesus Christ. Why? Because they lived the way that Jesus the Messiah instructed and told them would lead to life. This was new. This was different. And in this time, it was blasphemy. They didn't talk as if they had faith in Jesus but live by the Jewish customs.

If that was the case, I am doubtful that Jewish

It appears the term Χριστιανός, the Greek word that we translate as Christian, or a follower of Christ, has lost its true meaning in this generation. I love the origin and history of this word because it is where the Christian faith was first distinguished as its own separate religion. I won't go to deep into it but before the term "Christian" found its origin there was only "Jew" and the Jewish religion/ customs (in terms of relation to YHWH). In 70 A.D. the war between Rome and the Jewish people led to the destroying of the temple yet again in Jerusalem. Because of those during this time who chose to follow the ways of Jesus the Messiah over the old Jewish traditions the term "Χριστιανός" (Christian) was given to them as an insult. Unfortunately, for those insulting the followers of Jesus they took a liking to this term and received it more as a compliment per say. Think of it in modern terms as someone calling us a "Jesus freak".

It was because the early Christians in Jerusalem did not fit the mold of the Jewish religion that they became separate from that very religion all together. They did not only talk about what Jesus did or who Jesus was or what Jesus



Picture during our Memorial Day CrossFit workout "Murph"

religion and Christian faith would have been distinguished as two different religions.

Sadly, this is the case of a large portion in this generation, ones who claim to be Christians yet live as the rest of the world in the ways that they choose and decide for themselves are right. Believing in God is not acknowledging his existence or speaking of His presence, it is so much more and so much deeper. Early Christians used a word that captures a much more in-depth picture of what it meant to believe. It looked like having the assurance of things hoped for or the conviction of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1). This faith we talk about means turning our lives over to God and allowing Him to be the Lord of our lives. This faith means it is no longer us being our own master but a submission to the Holy Spirit in the lives within each one of us.

When we truly live as Christians we do not submit to the old ways of life, and it is not just talking about the Christian faith or “talking like a Christian” ought to talk. Living as a Christian means the transformation of our life with fruit that can be seen (Galatians 5:22). We believe this in CPYM... Sharing the truth of Jesus by mouth is not separate from living the way Christ told us to live. They must be married together in a perfect balance with us discerning the opportunity for each.

As I have talked about before I have a passion for doing CrossFit and training people in CrossFit. Little did I know in my earlier days that this would become a wide-open door for ministry. I have found it to be an attraction to the people who are not part of the church and draw for those who do not know Jesus. Some of these people are open to hearing the gospel and some are not. For those who are against hearing the gospel, it serves as an opportunity to show them Jesus through my life and the culture of the gym.

I have found through my time as a Christian that if my view of ministry is sharing the gospel by word of mouth alone, I miss so many opportunities to pour into people simply by the way of life in being a Christian. It sometimes may take time and effort to minister until someone is open and receptive to hearing the gospel, but if we do not live it in our own lives first, they may in fact never have an interest at all to hear it. I am grateful to have CrossFit as a door for ministry that I can not only share truth with others by mouth but to also treat them the way that Christ has called us to treat each other.

Thank you and have a blessed rest of your day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Seth Little". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Seth" on top and "Little" below it, both starting with a capital letter.