THE CHALLENGE OF CHRIST

(Isaiah 55:6-9)

(1 Peter 2:21) "to this life ye have been called (challenged): because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps."

1. TO LIVE AS CHRIST LIVED

He lived for others: (Matt. 20:28); and to do the Father's will: (John 6:38). The apostle Paul applied it with these words: (Gal. 2:20) "... but Christ lives in me ... "

2. TO GROW AS CHRIST GREW

(Luke 2:52) "Jesus increased in wisdom (knowledge), stature (physically), and in favor with God (spiritually) and man (socially)."

Our challenge: (2 Peter 3:18) "grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord ..."

3. TO THINK AS CHRIST THOUGHT

That's a huge challenge because: (Isaiah 55:8-9)
It is the challenge: (Phil. 2:5) "Let this mind be in you ... "

4. TO OBEY AS CHRIST OBEYED

(Heb. 5:8-9) "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience ... "
Challenge of obedience: (Luke 6:46) "Why do ye call me Lord and do not the things I say?"

5. TO LOVE AS CHRIST LOVED

(Rms. 5:8) "God commends his love toward us ... Christ died for us"
(John 13:12) "This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you"
(John 14:15; John 13:34-35)

6. TO FORGIVE AS CHRIST FORGAVE

(Col. 3:13) "Even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye" (Matt. 6:14; Eph. 4:32)

- 7. TO ENDURE AS CHRIST ENDURED: (Heb. 12:1-3) "... consider Him that endured ... "
- 8. TO OVERCOME AS CHRIST OVERCAME: (John 16:33; Rev. 3:21)
- 9. TO FINISH OUR WORK AS CHRIST FINISHED HIS: (John 19:30; 2 Tim. 4:6-7)