Articles by Geoffrey Bull

Geoffrey Bull

First published in Food for the Flock / Ministry in Focus (Food for the Flock, Inc., Ontario, Canada). Copied in Food for the Flock from Geoffrey T. Bull's The Sky Is Red.

KEE Ministry Library · Faithful Men
kee-ministry-library.netlify.app

Discipleship (October 1968)

From Food for the Flock, October 1968.

In the sunlit hills beyond Kowloon where the muddy little paddyfields begin to terrace the lower slopes of the mountains, there can be seen a huge boulder. Its appearance is unusual and its surface strangely smooth. No doubt it fell from a neighbouring crag some centuries ago and so today lies poised above a lonely valley that falls away to the coast of China. Near at hand is the home of some devoted Christians committed to the great task of winning Buddhist monks to Christ. Over the years they have come from the far corners of China seeking the true God. In the quietness of the hills, painstakingly they have been taught the great lesson of Christ Himself, until this lesson has become their master.

After long months of earnestly considering the Lord Jesus and His claims, some will come to the point of decision. Their choice is to abandon and then to embrace, to put off the man-made robes of Buddhism and to put on the God-given robe of Christ; to let go their idols and to lay hold on the Redeemer; to see what they yearned for in the Lotus is only furnished in the cross.

At such a moment as this a monk will be led out to the great stone. In one flank of it is a small aperture serving as a doorway, and through this narrow opening the monk now passes. As he enters into the very heart of the great boulder, he finds a room hewn out of the solid rock. The tiny domed chamber is hushed and still. Through a solitary window a shaft of light streams in.

There is no furniture but simply a place to kneel on the farther side. As the monk's eyes become accustomed to the twilight, he sees above him the beckoning words, "Lay down thy burden." The letters are written on a piece of wood. They express the deepest longing of his heart, and so he kneels. He has come to Jesus. For the first time in his life he knows the wonder of forgiveness. It is the total committal of his life to Him who bought him with the total price of death. This for him is a cruicifixion and a resurrection. As he kneels to Christ, he dies; as he rises in his faith, he lives again. The time slips by. At last he turns towards the doorway, and as he does so he notices some other words above it. They are the words of his new-found Master. "Take up thy cross," they say, and as he steps into the sunshine they are branded on his soul.

Christian discipleship is the forsaking of all that we have and all that we are to receive all that He has, and to be all that He desires. It involves a "taking up," not only a "laying down." A disciple is a man of one master and a Christian disciple is a man of the one Christ. Would you follow Jesus?

Copied from The Sky Is Red.