

- Rev. Grant Mangold, Riverside Evangelical Free Church, www.RiversideChurchIowa.com

Follow that Disciple

The very practical letter of 1 Peter also includes very worshipful passages that encourage our personal devotion to the Lord.

Peter's admonitions to be self-controlled and to speak God's truth and to serve one another lead right into this doxology in 1 Peter 4:11 — *"in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To Him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen!"*

Having new life in Christ and being transformed by Him and being self-controlled and sober-minded and serving one another has a purpose – obeying and therefore glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the head of the church, our Creator and Redeemer.

Here's a great example of you can do that: "An African pastor was overwhelmed by rebels who demanded that he renounce his faith. He refused. The night before they took his life, he wrote the following lines on a scrap of paper:

"I am part of the 'Fellowship of the Unashamed.' I have Holy Spirit power. The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I am a disciple of His. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still. My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, and my future is secure.

I am finished and done with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tame visions, mundane talking, chintzy giving, and dwarfed goals!

I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded, or rewarded. I now live by presence, learn by faith, love by patience, lift by prayer, and labor by power.

My face is set, my gait is fast, my goal is heaven, my road is narrow, my way is rough, my companions few, my Guide reliable, my mission clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, diluted, or delayed.

I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of adversity, negotiate at a table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I won't give up, shut up, let up, or burn up till I've preached up, prayed up, paid up, stored up, and stayed up for the cause of Christ. I am a disciple of Jesus. I must go till He comes, give till I drop, preach till all know, and work till He stops.

And when He comes to get His own, He'll have no problems recognizing me. My colors will be clear."

WOW! There's a disciple to follow! What a great example – to make your own life a personal doxology that brings praise and glory to our Lord and Savior.