



# TO SEE OTHERS AS CHRIST SEES THEM

by Jan Brunette

## Opening

Open by reciting LWML's "The League Pledge" ([www.lwml.org/the-league-pledge-and-songs](http://www.lwml.org/the-league-pledge-and-songs)).

Christ witnessed the blind, the lame, and the crippled. He touched the leper, the dead and dying, and those caught in sin. He forgave the unforgivable and those who didn't even know they needed it. He cared for family, for friends, and for the forsaken. No one was too low in status for Him or too high. His tender heart adored those who sat at His feet, but He never feared giving His loving admonition to those who struggled with the ways of the world.

"The League Pledge" is used by many because of its concise revelation of Christ's mission and purpose for our lives. Having received the blessing of salvation by grace, we are free to serve Him "wherever and whenever He has need of us." Arising each morning, we can honor Him with our praise and worship as we accept His assignments, no matter how challenging. Because Christ is in us, we are hidden in Him and can acknowledge that The Time is NOW to fulfill His calling for us.

A beautiful Scriptural example of our calling in Christ is in **Colossians 3:1-3**. Locate and write out the words of these verses.

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Discuss the significance of these verses when choosing to live for Christ.

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In the world today, the kind word and the gentle touch of forgiveness are desired by many lost in despair. Seeking to fill a void that only the living Christ can fill, they are grasping for it in ways approved by humankind. Read **Acts 17:26-28** to discover how the phrase "wherever and whenever" applies to us when we come in contact with hurting people.

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Realizing our need to share the Gospel with them, we can use Jesus as our example. Read and study the following, observing His tender but admonishing statements to the suffering and the forsaken. What lessons can we learn in dealing with others who are looking for His love in the wrong places?

**John 8:3-11** \_\_\_\_\_

**John 4:23-26** \_\_\_\_\_

When confronted with earthly-minded people, we can rely on Christ's heavenly perspective of love and wisdom when placed in similar situations. As with Jesus, it doesn't mean we condone or accept another's sin — but that, upon repentance, we lovingly reach out to them with His grace and forgiveness.

Read **Romans 13:11-12** to determine how that fits into the phrase "The Time is NOW." \_\_\_\_\_

The Time is NOW to give the Lord all we can give. The Time is NOW personally to share the Good News of Christ's sacrifice on the cross. The Time is NOW to use His resurrection power in us to become His faithful witnesses. No greater privilege can be given to us. No greater gift can be offered to the Lord than to show our "ferveat gratitude for the Savior's dying love and His blood-bought gift of redemption" and to "dedicate ourselves to Him with all that we are and have." The Time is NOW to be all that we can be for Him, in Him, and by Him.

On the trail to the Iguazu Falls in Brazil rests a plaque that is old and worn yet visible to those who pass by. A quote from **Psalm 93:4** (RSV) is imprinted on it:

**Mightier than the thunders of many waters,  
Mightier than the waves of the sea,  
The Lord on high is mighty!**

Under it is written this:

**God is always greater than all of our troubles.**

We are His vessels — His hands, feet, voices, lips and — yes — even silver and gold to extend His Kingdom. With our focus on the "great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him," He will use us to extend His Kingdom. The Holy Spirit will give us the words to share, the love to give, and the mercy to provide. And with our minds and hearts set on heavenly things, He will receive all the glory!

## Closing

Conclude with singing or saying verse one of "Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling" (*LSB* #827; *LW* #318) or "Hark! the Voice of Jesus Crying" (*TLH* #496).

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