

WHAT IS REQUIRED?

“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful” (I Corinthians 4:2). *“...be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life”* (Revelation 2:10).

Many servants of God become discouraged due to the fact they have little success in leading the lost to Christ. They feel if they are unable to be successful, they will quit altogether. During the past several years success has been the name of the game. The successful preacher, as the world measures success, has been labeled as “great.”

Now I like to see responses as well as the next person, and I have had the privilege of seeing 60 or 70 people come forward during my meetings with 10 or 15 baptisms in one service. When this happens my heart is thrilled. On the other hand, I have worked just as hard, expending all my strength in preaching the Word without one response.

If we are not careful, we will begin to use the world’s standard of measurement, judging preachers by number of responses, size of congregation, and salary received. Just because a man’s name is constantly before the public and he is heralded before the world as great doesn’t mean he has made first string on the Lord’s team. A number of noble souls are laboring in out-of-the-way places in almost total obscurity. Only a handful outside of their communities know of their labor and sacrifice for the Lord. Perhaps in God’s sight, these faithful but unknown workers are the “great preachers” of our generation.

God nowhere requires us to be successful, but it is mandatory that we be faithful—he doesn’t demand that we be popular and a promoter, but he demands that we be faithful. He doesn’t ask that we draw a big salary, live in a fine house and have membership in a large congregation. God requires that we be faithful. In describing a congregation in the New Testament, the Holy Spirit says little or nothing about the building, the preacher, the leaders, the attendance, the number baptized, the number placing membership, the number asking

for prayers, the annual budget or the weekly contribution. The thing emphasized is their faith, labor of love, hope, soundness in the Word, etc. Faithfulness is the primary requisite of service, not apparent accomplishment.

Sometime back a brother wrote, “When all is said and done, a sermon is a success or failure depending on the results it produces.” That sounds good, but it is just not so! Ezekiel was called to preach to a rebellious people. God said, *“They will not hearken unto thee: for they will not hearken unto me.”* The prophet was told to go anyway so that the people could know of God’s warning and stand in judgment without excuse. *“And they, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, yet shall they know that there has been a prophet among them”* (Ezekiel 2:5). He was called to be faithful.

God told us to teach His Word. When we have done this task to the best of our ability, whether anyone believes it and obeys it or not, God is pleased with the faithfulness of the messenger. The Lord’s highest commendation in the day of judgment will be for faithfulness in fulfilling His will (Matthew 25:21,23). Let us stop equating faithfulness with success. Why not talk to Noah sometime about the difference between success and faithfulness?

Bobby Key *from The Informer*

CHRISTIANS MUST BE LABORERS

Work is a necessary part of a Christian’s life for Christians are to be *“zealous of good works”* (Titus 2:14; 3:1; 3:8). Paul writes that the inspired Scripture will thoroughly furnish the man of God unto *“all good works”* (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Not only does the Bible equip us for good works, it also motivates us to labor. Notice three great motivators to labor.

Faith is the first great motivator. James, the half brother of the Lord, wrote, *“Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works”* (James 2:8). Labor is the

difference between an active, living faith and a dead, lifeless faith. James wrote of a living faith when he asked, *“But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?”* (James 2:20). In context, James gives three examples to illustrate this point—the devils’ dead faith, Abraham’s laboring faith, and Rahab’s working faith. In this great harmony of faith and works, James concludes by writing, *“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also”* (James 2:26).

Love is a second great motivator. Paul writes, *“For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love”* (Galatians 5:6). Jesus said, *“If ye love me, keep my commandments”* (John 14:15). Further He said, *“If a man love me, he will keep my words...He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings”* (John 14:23-24). Not only should love motivate us to labor, our labors profit us nothing without it. In “the Great Love Chapter” Paul writes, *“And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity (love), it profiteth me nothing”* (1 Corinthians 13:3).

The end of this world is a third great motivator. 2 Peter 3:10-11 depicts the end when Christ will “come as a thief in the night” and “the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.” Notice the application Peter makes: *“Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness.”* On this occasion God, the righteous judge, *“will render to every man according to his deeds”* (Romans 2:6). Since *“we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ”* (2 Cor. 5:10), *“we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world”* (Titus 2:12).

Chuck Northrop *from Eastside Edifier*

BIRTHDAY

Cleo Stone, 07-31.

ILL

Sunday: Chris Edwards (AM); Joy Parish. Louise Dodson had carpal tunnel surgery on Tuesday of last week. Floyd Thrasher is in Cox South in Springfield, MO with heart problems. Kathleen Camp continues to recover from her foot surgery at her apartment.

Those battling cancer: Jamal Abyad, David Cole, and Ledgia Campbell. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams resides at Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

SYMPATHY

Our sympathy is extended to the Marcum family in the passing of Bo's sister Diane Cannon on Tuesday, July 24 and to the Nemechek family on the death of Jeff's uncle of Abilene, KS.

OUT OF TOWN

The Nemechek's were in Abilene, KS last weekend. Cindy and Chelsea Nelson were in Newton Sunday AM.

FBS THANKS

Our thanks to all those who willingly and joyfully served as teachers, helpers, song leaders, time keeper and refreshment workers and donors.

POT LUCK DINNER

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held next Sunday, August 5, following our AM worship. All are encouraged to come and enjoy the good food and company!

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 40; Sunday PM, 42; Wednesday PM, 46.

Those To Serve

July 29, 2007

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Nemechek

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Trent Thrasher
SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson
OPENING PRAYER Jared Nelson
PRESIDE..... Jeff Nemechek
ASSIST..... Allen Scott
ASSIST..... John James
CLOSING PRAYER..... Steve Brown

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER John Carter
CLOSING PRAYER..... Gary Cole
LORD'S SUPPER..... Jeff Nemechek

WEDNESDAY Aug. 1st

SONG LEADER..... Trent Thrasher
INVITATION Ted Thrasher

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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