

PART-TIME HELP NEED NOT APPLY

- Eddie Howard, *The Biblical Messenger*, San Angelo, TX -

No one but a fool would consider leaping a chasm in two jumps. Here it is either complete commitment or total failure.

The same is true of Christianity. Too many of us are like the little boy who cut off his puppy's tail an inch at a time for fear of causing the dog undue pain by lopping off the whole thing at once. Our lives are lived in partial surrender. We seem content to stop with the verse of the song, promising "some of self and some of Thee", and we're ever searching for the elusive answer to what we consider to be life's single most important question: "What's the least I can do and still make it to heaven?"

We should know better. We should recognize this anemic attitude of half-hearted Christianity as running counter to what our Lord clearly demands: "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me. . . . but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it." (Luke 9:23,24).

Jesus is not in the market for part-time help. He seeks full-time, fully committed disciples.

The apostle Paul gladly answered the Lord's call to commitment. He counted all things but loss and as refuse that he might win Christ. (Philippians 3:7,8). He considered himself "crucified with Christ" (Galatians 2:20). He counted not his very life as dear unto himself (Acts 20:24). And he finally offered himself as a martyred sacrifice (2 Timothy 4:6,7). Paul was determined to live a "none-of-self-all-of-Thee" life. Are we? Are you?

None of Self and All of Thee

Theodore Monod, 1874

*O the bitter pain and sorrow that a time could ever be,
When I proudly said to Jesus, "All of self and none of Thee."*

*Yet He found me, I beheld Him bleeding on the accursed tree,
And my wistful heart said faintly, "Some of self and some of Thee."*

*Day by day His tender mercy healing, helping, full and free,
Brought me lower while I whispered, "Less of self and more of Thee."*

*Higher than the highest heavens, deeper than the deepest sea,
Lord, thy love at last has conquered, "None of self and all of Thee."*

*Unless there is within us that which is above us,
we shall soon yield to that which is about us.*

News & Notes

GUEST SPEAKER: Our speaker this morning is Bill Butterfield. His parents, Tom & Martha Butterfield were located here at one time. Welcome, Bill & Linda!

CONFESSIONS: Mike Harris, Jerry Miller.

SYMPATHY: To Crystal Spencer and family at the passing of her grandfather, Kelly Smith. God bless and comfort those who sorrow.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Join the ladies in this good work.

PANTRY: Pancake mix & syrup.

SICK & SHUT-IN: City Hospital (Skilled): Ruth Brewer. Weirton Medical Center (Skilled): Jean Larrimore. **AT HOME:** Blondenia Orr, Janet Malcomson, Lloyd & Virginia Ferrell, Lynn Duncan McCall (in Texas), Lloyd Cowdery, Mabel Sprout, Virginia Rickerd, Bette Gentry, Fred Larrimore, Sr., Fred Larrimore, Jr., Cheryl Stackpole, Betty Dunn (Pat Wright's mother). **NURSING HOMES:** Fox: Ray Baker. Calcutta Health Care: Virginia Clutter (sister-in-law of Eva Stefl). Nentwick: Ruby Kenny. Weirton Geriatric Center: Edna McKitrick, Ila Plum. Aspen Manor, Wellsburg: Ione Asher.

Are You Listening?



The story is told of Franklin Roosevelt, who often endured long receiving lines at the White House. He complained that no one really paid attention to what was said.

One day, during a reception, he decided to try an experiment. To each person who came down the line and shook his hand, he murmured, "I murdered my grandmother this morning." The guests responded with phrases like, "Marvelous! Keep up the good work. We are proud of you. God bless you, sir."

It was not until the end of the line, while greeting the ambassador from Bolivia, that his words were actually heard. Not quite knowing what to say, the ambassador leaned over and whispered, "I'm sure she had it coming."

How many times have you ever heard someone say, "Nobody ever listens to me!"? And how many people go through life frustrated because there truly is nobody who will take the time to really listen to what they have to say? Everybody wants to talk, but so few want to listen!

Benjamin Franklin once said, "A pair of good ears will drink dry a hundred tongues."

The Bible has much to say about the value of listening. Take to heart this instruction: "...let every man be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath" (James 1:19).

May I encourage you today to put down the newspaper, turn off the television set, and take the time and effort to listen to those around you. It will show that you care, and who knows, you might even learn something in the process!

- Alan Smith, *Bulletin Digest*