

Too Busy

Recently a member of the church was approached about helping out in some program of work. The reply was one which seems to be right on the tip of our tongues. "I just don't have the time to give." There's little use trying to convince one who makes this excuse that he has as much time as everyone else does and even if you did, in all probability the task would never get done.

I am not at all sure who wrote the following words, but they are words expressed by almost all who teach, or preach the Gospel. "God never goes to the lazy or to the idle when He needs men for His service. When He has work to be done, He goes to those who are already at work. When God wants a servant, He calls a busy person. Scripture attests to this fact."

- Moses was busy with his flock at Horeb.
- Gideon was busy threshing wheat by the winepress.
- Saul was busy searching for his father's lost asses.
- David was busy caring for his father's sheep.
- Elisha was busy plowing.
- Nehemiah was busy serving the king.
- Amos was busy tending his flock.
- James and John were busy mending their nets.
- Matthew was busy collecting taxes.

Too busy to serve the Lord? Never! Too lazy, maybe, but never too busy.

- Author Unknown -

Beacon, Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL

I Can With God's Help!

God has always worked through His people who say, "With God's Help, I can!" For forty years the Israelites wandered in the wilderness because ten men said, "We can't." The wilderness of Arabia was scattered with the bones of thousands of Israelites who agreed with those two men who said, "We can't." "We can't" makes excuses and challenges every attempt. Out of those thousands of Israelites who came out of Egypt, only two went into the land of Canaan, we still remember those two men: Joshua and Caleb. These men had faith in God and said, "We can, with God's help!" "We can" make a way! "We can" attempts every challenge!

Paul was another man of faith who said, "I can." In Philippians 4:13 Paul stated, "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Paul like Joshua and Caleb is remembered for saying, "I can with God's help!"

Today, Christ calls His church to action. We are commanded to "go" into all the world, to seek, save, and serve. We too are given a choice as those Israelites were given. We will either be remembered as a person who said, "I can with Christ's help," or forgotten because we responded to God with "I can't." Which one will you be?

- Mark T. Tonkery, Norval Park church of Christ, Zanesville, OH (Bulletin Digest) -

The fire of God in your heart will melt the lead in your feet.

News & Notes

TODAY'S SPEAKER: Herman McHan of the Columbiana congregation.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Next Saturday, Oct. 14th, 8:30 a.m. at the Columbiana Church of Christ.

FALL FESTIVAL: Saturday, Oct. 21st, 5 - 7 p.m. at the Fellowship Building. Food, fun & fellowship for all. If desired, an appropriate costume may be worn. See Tracy Clutter or Latisha Brown for details.

LADIES INSPIRATION DAY: Saturday, Nov. 4th at the Hanoverton congregation. Registration & edibles 9:30 - 10:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. to lunch, devotions and inspirational message. Speaker: Karen Taylor, "Let's have tea with God." Lunch provided.

PANTRY: Baked beans.

SICK & SHUT-IN: At Home: Bob & Mary Helen Riley, Anita Hopwood, Linda Parkes, Melissa Rosohac, Peggy Linger, Nancy Cox, Blondenia Orr, Barbara DeLong, David Strum, Cheryl Renfro Walker, Lori Rowand (John Sprout's niece). **Fox - Chester:** Mary Johnson (Lois Hisson's sister).

GOSPEL MEETINGS

Newcomerstown	Oct. 8-12	Rico Brown
Weirton Heights	Oct. 15-20	Roger Rush
Lake Milton	Oct. 27-29	Aaron Burch

The Gold of Bodie

Dennis Doughty

During the California gold rush, two miners hit it big in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. In 1859, one of the miners, W. W. Bodie, died in a snowstorm, but his partner continued on. By the 1870's, Bodie, California had become a boom town of over 10,000 residents. During this time, the town boasted of having 65 saloons and no churches. By the mid-1880's, the gold was mostly gone, as were the people. Bodie closed in 1932 and is now a famous ghost town toured by many visitors.

In many ways, our nation is duplicating the history of Bodie. We discovered the gold of democracy and religious freedom, growing into a strong, materially blessed, deeply religious people. However, our "gold" is fast disappearing. Democracy has given way to worldliness, and our spiritual beliefs have vanished like the gold of Bodie. Our church buildings sit mostly empty or with their doors closed while casinos, saloons, sports stadiums and concert halls fill to overflowing.

Job argued to his friends, "***If I have put my confidence in gold... I would have denied God above***" (Job 31:24, 28 NASB). While our nation is denying God, the America I grew up in is fast becoming a ghost town.

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