

BE DEPENDABLE!

One of the hamstrings of most every church is a lack of dependable Christians. When Christians do show themselves undependable, they contribute so much to a church: much frustration, disappointment, and friction. We should all be dependable. You probably know little about Shelemiah, Zadok, Pedaiah and Hanon. Little is said about them. But listen to what is said. They were placed in charge of the storehouses because "they were considered reliable" (Neh. 13:13). What a glowing epitaph!

On the other hand, David wrote of some wicked individuals, of whom he said, "There is nothing reliable in what they say" (Psa. 5:9). Too many otherwise good people are leaving such a reputation for themselves. In frustration, sometimes elders may join Solomon in asking, "Who can find a trustworthy man?" (Prov. 20:6). But, good news! We can all be dependable. Why?

First, we are ABLE. God blesses us with talents, time, and treasure. With them, we can (as good stewards) use our resources to God's glory. If something hinders us from doing our duty, we can let others know and cover for us. But, whenever and wherever and however we can, we use ourselves as workers in the kingdom (Matt 9:37).

Second, we are DEPENDENT. God pours blessings into our lives (Eph. 1:3; Jas. 1:17). Without Him, we are nobody! Except God provided all our needs, we would be nowhere and have nothing. We are obligated, and our best efforts could never earn or repay God's graciousness (Lk. 17:10). But, surely, appreciating His grace, we will be workmen (Eph. 2:8-10). When needs are made known by our elders or other church members—food or teachers or folks to visit or calls to make or new Christians to aid or missions to encourage our elderly, shut-ins to help—let us remember our dependence upon God and be dependable for those dependent folks around us.

Finally, you are thereby DEEPENED. When we do what we can in the kingdom, giving it our best, we are enriched and strengthened thereby. Our relationship with Christ is deepened, for we are imitating Him. Our appreciation for God's blessings is deepened when we sacrifice and extend ourselves. Our faith is deepened by our interaction with those in need and by our participation in what needs doing. Our joy is deepened by being active and involved in the Lord's work.

One song in our song book asks, "Can He depend on you?" If He has no hands but our hands to do His work today, shall we allow our hands to sit idle? Christianity is a commitment. It's a wonderful commitment, but commitment nonetheless. Let us take it seriously and be a brother or sister upon whom our brethren and our God can rely!

- Neal Pollard, Bear Valley church of Christ, Denver, CO (via *Bulletin Digest*) -

Action springs not from thought, but from a readiness for responsibility. - Trevelyan

News & Notes

- THANKS:** To Ed & Linda Wiersbicki for their donation of 2020/2021 pocket calendars on the table in the foyer. Pick up a copy.
- FELLOWSHIP DINNER & EARLY AFTERNOON SERVICE:** TODAY about noon for dinner at the Fellowship Building then followed by our **early afternoon service at 2:00 p.m.** at the church building.
- WV CHRISTIAN PAPER:** Today is the last day to sign up or renew. Group rate: \$8. Give money to Jim Hadley.
- LARGER PRINT VERSION OF OUR BULLETIN:** Now available (in house only, inside pages of bulletin). If interested, sign up at the desk so we'll know how many copies to make each week.
- CARE & SHARE BEARS:** Resumes this Tuesday, Dec. 3rd at 9:00 a.m. All ladies are invited to participate in making small stuffed bears for kids.
- MEN'S ENRICHMENT BIBLE CLASS:** Each Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Men are urged to come and spend an hour with other brothers and be encouraged.
- MEN'S BREAKFAST:** Next Saturday, Dec. 7th, 8:00 a.m. at EJ's Restaurant in Chester.
- FOX NURSING HOME:** This devotional and visit has been **rescheduled to Saturday, Dec. 14th at 2:30 p.m.** This rescheduling is due to Christmas activities in Chester on Dec. 7th.
- LADIES WORKDAY:** Saturday, Dec. 14th, 9:00 a.m. at the Fellowship Building. This to assemble goodie baskets for our shut-ins. A sign-up sheet is on the desk.
- MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY:** Due to upcoming major renovations of our building, this effort must be expedited, **please make an appointment ASAP with Docie Moore;** your cooperation will be appreciated.
- PANTRY:** Peas and carrots.
- SICK & SHUT-IN: AT HOME:** Becky McKitrick, Bob Riley, Carol Stillwell, Emma Rine, Russell Martin, Blondenia Orr, Joann Webb, Doris Dunham, Alex Harless, Chris Lamb (David Roach's sister). **FOX:** Mary Jane Bowers. **CALCUTTA HEALTH CARE:** Sarah Miller (Room 11). **VALLEY OAKS CARE CENTER:** Fred Larrimore, (Room 210). **IN FLORIDA:** Ilene Rayl.

Five Things We Need To Do With The Word Of God

- 1. We need to listen to the word.**
Romans 10:17 says that our faith comes from hearing the word.
- 2. We need to read the word.**
Revelation 1:3 indicates that we are blessed when we read aloud the word.
- 3. We need to study the word.**
2 Timothy 2:15 challenges us to learn how to rightly divide the word through study.
- 4. We need to memorize the word.**
Psalm 119:11 talks about hiding the word in our hearts.
- 5. We need to meditate on the word.**
Joshua was encouraged to meditate day and night on God's word (Joshua 1:8).
- *Bulletin Digest* -