

5-24-20
WHY PEOPLE GET WEARY SERVING GOD

Malachi 1:12 But ye have profaned it, in that ye say, The table of the LORD is polluted; and the fruit thereof, even his meat, is contemptible.

Malachi 1:13 Ye said also, Behold, what a weariness is it! and ye have snuffed at it, saith the LORD of hosts; and ye brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand? saith the LORD.

Malachi 1:14 But cursed be the deceiver, which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the Lord a corrupt thing: for I am a great King, saith the LORD of hosts, and my name is dreadful among the heathen.

Malachi 2:1 And now, O ye priests, this commandment is for you.

Malachi 2:2 If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the LORD of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart.

Malachi 2:3 Behold, I will corrupt your seed, and spread dung upon your faces, even the dung of your solemn feasts; and one shall take you away with it.

Malachi 2:4 And ye shall know that I have sent this commandment unto you, that my covenant might be with Levi, saith the LORD of hosts.

The work of the Lord in the minds of those who do not love Him becomes this invisible entity that is in their mind some kind of mooch entity.

Or the Church becomes a person rather than the body that God set up to represent Him.

Introduction: I am so glad that I have given my heart to the Lord. In these days that we live I would be beside myself like the rest of the world if I was living in the world and for the world. The world is filled with confusion and no hope. What is the blessed hope of a Christian? Is it not that there is something better than this life and that when we die we have the promise that we will be rewarded for living for our God making the sacrifices that He asks of us? Do we not believe in the resurrection of the just and the unjust? Do we not believe that God will be the judge of the living and the dead? Do we not believe that someday He will reward those who live for Him and he will recompense those who have done wickedness in eternity?

Every now and then we get doubtful and the devil whispers in our ear, "Is it really worth it?" Throughout history this has been a temptation for God's people. We could be tempted to look at the world and become sour grapes about sacrifices that the Lord may ask of us, and question whether those sacrifices are worth it.

This is why the apostle Paul had to write in his epistles such admonitions like this:

Galatians 6:8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

Galatians 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Galatians 6:10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

I Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Now the devil has no new tricks up his sleeves. What he wants to do is implant doubt in our hearts and minds as to whether it is worth serving the Lord and making any sacrifices for Him.

The Psalmist voiced this when he said,

Psalms 73:2 But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped.

Psalms 73:3 For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

Psalms 73:11 And they say, How doth God know? and is there knowledge in the most High?

Psalms 73:12 Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches.

Psalms 73:13 Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency.

The Psalmist expressed his dismay. While he tried to do right and be right it seemed that the world around him was prospering and compromising, doing wickedness and getting ahead. For a moment he started to think it was not worth making these sacrifices. Until he came to his senses by going to the house of God, and then his spiritual reset button kicked in.

Psalms 73:17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.

Psalms 73:18 Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction.

Psalms 73:19 How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors.

Where else are you going to hear the truth but in the sanctuary of God, in the house of God. God is the judge of all the world and remember it fared better for that poor beggar Lazarus than the rich man who fared sumptuously every day!

This morning I want to challenge you to hit your spiritual reset button and get your head screwed on straight and realize that it is worth living for God and making sacrifices for God.

I. CONSIDER PEOPLE GET WEARY SERVING GOD BECAUSE OF THE DARTS OF DOUBT THAT SATAN WILL CAST AT YOU.

Attacks on your mind and thinking:

II Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

II Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

II Corinthians 10:6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

Satan works in the mind and tries to confuse our thinking.

He has done it to all of us.

What is God's program today? It is very simple.

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Matthew 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

The vehicle the Lord chose to use to implement this program of recruitment was His church. That being the case, let me suggest this:

1. SATAN FIRST TRIES TO BLIND PEOPLES MINDS TO THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH.

THIS IS HIS FIRST DART:

Jesus is seeking to recruit citizens for his Kingdom, that is it. The vehicle He wants to use for this process is the local church. He said to Peter I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.

President Trump just decreed that it was ok for churches to meet. I rejoice that he decided that. But I was not going to wait for president Trump to decide, or Governor Wolf, or Mr. Health Secretary Levine, to tell me it was ok. I decided over a week ago that it was ok for us to start meeting. You see, never did the authorities say that this stay at home order was to prevent people from getting the virus, it was to lessen the

curve and slow down the spread so our hospitals would not be overrun. It is impossible to completely stop a virus. Well from what I understand the goal was achieved and hospitals were actually so slow that they are laying off nurses. Nurses are dancing in the empty isles of the Hospital and making youtube videos with their free time. Hospitals were not overrun.

Then I learned that states and countries that are not following all this social distancing are sometimes doing even better than places that are going through all this nonsense. You see wearing a mask alone can make you sick it is like taking the exhaust pipe of your car and putting back into your cab.

Look, you can lie to me once and I may believe it, shame on you. Lie to me twice and I still believe you, shame on me. Folks, it does not take a genius to see that the so-called experts are either in confusion, or are intentionally lying to us.

In my experience, once you give something to the government they do not like to relinquish it so easily. They do not want to relinquish control.

So I did not wait for the president to say it was ok to start meeting in church. If you can go to Wal-Mart, Home Depot, Sams Club, and a host of other places where there are more people in tighter areas than the church and you can't come to church there is something wrong with your thinking.

Satan, first of all, wants to blind people minds to the purpose of the church.

What of course he is telling a lot of people is that Church is not necessary.

In fact the liberal media has gotten some people so riled up over this issue that a church in Mississippi was burnt down for opening.

Assembling together is necessary because Jesus said it was necessary.

The Church is not a social club.

The Church is not Pastor Bissol's business.

The Church is not a building, an organization, or just an organization.

The Church is a divinely instituted group of people who manifest themselves by assembling together in obedience to Christ's command. The word church means assembly. When we assemble we are having church.

We assemble to be taught and encouraged and provoked to obey Christ's commands.

He commanded us to do many things: first to preach the gospel message, to baptize those who receive this message, to partake of the Lord's supper, to teach everything He commanded us to do. The church is called the body of Christ. Think about that, the

BODY OF CHRIST. The church should be the physical manifestation of Christ in this ungodly world.

Satan tries to redefine what the church is.

Satan tries to make people think the church is a social club, a human institution, something just to suck your time and money. Something optional for a Christian.

After all, the critics say can't you just pray on your own at home, read your Bible on your own, worship on your own.

Yeah, that's what Israel started to think and they started to worship in high places, a religion that was more convenient. And what happened? God punished them for it. Dispersed them and sent them into captivity for 70 years.

Do you realize that even as we gather together in the safety of this building there are Christians around the world that are risking their lives to identify with God's people and His church?

I have article after article documenting how Christians around the world are giving their lives and risking their lives to be associated with Christ and his church.

We can just gloss over a few.

Ugandan Muslim Father Burns Christian Daughter 05/23/2020 Uganda (Morning Star News) - A young woman named Rehema accompanied her father on a business trip from Mbarara district to Mbale district in Uganda earlier this year. They stayed at her paternal aunt's house in Nawuyo village, Mbale where she started listening to Christian programming aired on an FM radio station. Rehema then reached out to one of her father's business friends, who is Roman Catholic. Rehema explained to Morning Star News the following about how she converted to Christianity, "She explained to me about Christ and the way of salvation, and I got convicted and accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior. As she was sharing Christ with me, I was so overjoyed, and my father heard my joy and woke up, came from his bedroom furiously and started beating me up with blows, slaps and kicks." Rehema goes on to say that her Muslim father was angry and shouted at his 45-year-old sister who was sleeping in another room, stating that he was going to kill his daughter because she converted to Christianity.

The father eventually started burning his daughter and until Rehema was shielded by her aunt, who carried her out of the house with the help of a Christian neighbor. Rehema was taken to a Mbale Regional Referral hospital where she received immediate treatment. She is expected to remain at the hospital for more than a month due to the serious burns on her legs, stomach, ribs, neck and back.

Police Arrest Eight Christians Falsely Accused of Violating COVID-19 Lockdown in India 05/20/2020 India (International Christian Concern) -

According to Morning Star News, eight Christians were arrested in late April after being falsely accused of holding a worship service in violation of India's COVID-19 restrictions. However, these Christians were in fact gathered at the church to prepare aid packets for poor people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

A total of 10 Iranian Christians are waiting on verdicts for their appeals expected in the coming days and weeks. Since the COVID-19 pandemic struck prisons in Iran-becoming a coronavirus hotbed-the country has released more than 80,000 prisoners, including seven Christians serving short-term sentences. Christian political prisoners serving long-term sentences remain incarcerated-and at risk for contracting the virus.

Churches closed in Iran; church explodes in Iran.

The church in Iran exploded in growth over the past 10 years as the people of the Islamic Republic have lost faith in their Islamic government - and also in Islam itself. In 2013, Tehran's Assemblies of God church building was closed - one of the last "building churches" holding services in Farsi that remained open in the country.

Today, all building churches are closed. All Christian meetings occur in private homes, in parks or some other location, and all of them are illegal. **House church leaders are arrested, interrogated and imprisoned, yet the Church continues to grow. There are estimates that as many as 1 million Iranians are now following Jesus Christ.**

Changes in China

The past 10 years have seen an alarming increase of persecution of Christians (and Muslims) in China, spearheaded by Communist Party Chairman Xi Jinping. New laws on religion took affect at the beginning of 2018 and have led to marked increases in church demolitions, arrests of church leaders and control over all religious activities in China. Concurrently, China has created a surveillance state that tracks every Chinese citizen everywhere in China, making underground Christian work significantly more difficult.

Numerous unregistered churches have been closed down, and several well-known Chinese pastors are in prison. In addition to persecuting Christian citizens, China has attempted to force out foreign Christians, with numerous foreigners finding that their visas have been revoked or won't be renewed.

Pakistan: Many a Christian has been killed using the Blasphemy laws.

During the 1980s the blasphemy laws were created and expanded in several installments. In 1980, making derogatory remarks against Islamic personages was made an offence, carrying a maximum punishment of three years in jail.

In 1982, another clause prescribed life imprisonment for "willful" desecration of the Koran, the Muslim holy book. In 1986, a separate clause was inserted to punish blasphemy against the Prophet Muhammad and the penalty recommended was "death, or imprisonment for life", in that order.

Critics say the fact that minorities figure so prominently in the cases shows how the laws are unfairly applied. Often the laws are used to settle personal scores and have little or nothing to do with religion.

Correspondents say the mere accusation of blasphemy is enough to make someone a target for hardliners, as is defending those accused of blasphemy or calling for the laws to be reformed.

As we realize the church is important enough for people to suffer and give their lives for, let us not think it a light and unimportant thing.

2. *Secondly, Satan tries to make you feel church is a waste of time.* ANOTHER DART OF DOUBT.

Malachi 1:6 A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?

Malachi 1:7 Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD is contemptible.

Malachi 1:8 And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 1:13 Ye said also, Behold, what a weariness is it! and ye have snuffed at it, saith the LORD of hosts; and ye brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand? saith the LORD.

Malachi 1:14 But cursed be the deceiver, which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the Lord a corrupt thing: for I am a great King, saith the LORD of hosts, and my name is dreadful among the heathen.

Malachi 2:1 And now, O ye priests, this commandment is for you.

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Malachi 2:4 And ye shall know that I have sent this commandment unto you, that my covenant might be with Levi, saith the LORD of hosts.

Notice what God's people started to say way back then:

Malachi 1:13 Ye said also, Behold, what a weariness is it! and ye have snuffed at it, saith the LORD of hosts; and ye brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand? saith the LORD.

Look, can you see God? Where is He?
How will you give your honor to Him who you cannot see?

Throughout History God did not leave it up to His people on how to show Him honor and reverence.

In the Old Testament he initiated a sacrificial system, and a place to offer those sacrifices. He was very specific about how to come to Him. He did not leave it to whim, or every man to himself. He did not want us to redefine how to do it.

In the Old Testament His people started to think all these sacrifices and offerings were weariness and a waste of time.

Today we could start thinking the same things.

In fact, the Lord told them exactly how they were dishonoring Him.

Don't buy into Satan's lie.

Think about what our Lord suffered for us. It is only our reasonable service to live for Him.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

- 3. THE DEVIL WILL TRY TO MAKE YOU THINK ALL THAT THE CHURCH IS AFTER IS WHAT THEY CAN GET FROM YOU, YOUR MONEY, ETC. A DART OF IMPUTING EVIL TO GOD'S CHURCH AND SERVANTS.**

When you give, remember that you are only giving back a portion of what is already God's. God gave you everything you have. When people think that the church is trying to rob them, it is they who are robbing God. Note what it says,

Malachi 3:8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

Malachi 3:9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

Malachi 3:10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Note, since it is God who gave you everything, for you to be worried about what you are going to give God is foolish. It is He who gave you everything, will you not fear Him? He who gave it could easily take it. Mal. 3:11 talks about the devourer who can rob you of what is given to you.

Malachi 3:11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 3:12 And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.

Those who are worried about giving too much of their time and money to God are very foolish. It is God who gave you everything, you had better fear Him. How will you show Him the respect due His name? Will you buy yourself another car, another house, will you take yourself on a vacation? Even if you help some people out, became a good neighbor what does that do for God?

He said how you do it.

Malachi 3:8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

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God wants His work to be furthered in this world. Today, that work is to be furthered through His local church.

IF GOD IS INVISIBLE THE CHURCH IS THE VISIBLE MEANS BY WHICH YOU SHOW YOU HAVE HONOR AND RESPECT FOR YOUR GOD.

In the Old Testament God ordained that His people would bring their tithes and offerings to His house, this was the way they showed their honor and respect for Him.

He said, if I am a father where is my honor, if I am your king?

He said, to them, give your governor and rulers the gifts that you are giving me and see how well they receive them.

Serve your employer with the diligence you serve the Lord and see how well things will go for you at work.

Do we put the things of God 2nd to our own? If God comes first how do we show it?

4. THE DEVIL BLINDS PEOPLES MINDS TO GET THEM TO THINK THAT WHAT THEY GIVE TO THE CHURCH THEY ARE GIVING TO A GROUP OF PEOPLE. THIS IS A DART OF MISDIRECTION, LOOKING AT MEN RATHER THAN GOD.

I don't understand how it is that people get this idea that the church is some parasitic organization that just wants to take from you.

When you give a tithe to the church you are not giving it to a man, to an organization, you are giving it to the Lord.

Again, can you see God? How did God ordain that you honor Him? God ordained that what you do for the church you do for Him.

GOD HAS CHOSEN TO BE REPRESENTED BY HIS CHURCH. WHO ARE YOU TO BELITTLE IT?

Jesus rebuked Saul when he was persecuting the church when he said,

Acts 9:4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

Acts 9:5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

What you do to the church you do to Christ. What you give to the church you give to Christ. When you speak against the church you speak against Christ. The Church is called the body of Christ, the bride of Christ.

What you give to the Lord, no man should discourage you from giving it.

Look, if you do something for the Lord and someone else does not do something will you be sour because others did not do as you did? If you give and someone else does not give will you feel you were taken advantage of? You will not feel you were taken

advantage of if what you give and what you do you have done for the Lord. Why look at what others do, or not do?

Years ago I and another fellow were the only ones that showed up for work day. Just two of us. He started to complain that no one else showed up. I said, why are you complaining, we're getting the work done. We should be thankful the Lord is allowing us to get done what we need to get done. Sure more people working would be better but what we do we should do as unto the Lord and not as unto men. Throughout the church age the Lord's statement rings true: "**THE LABORERS ARE FEW..**" Has anything changed?

In the Old Testament, when they gave they were to give their best and it was burnt up. Who got any benefit from a burnt offering? It went up in smoke. Was that a waste? What you do for the Lord, look at it as a burnt offering to Him! Up in smoke!

These people started to think their burnt offerings were a waste and God rebuked them for that. They were saying, OH WHAT WEARINESS IT IS..."

**5. CONSIDER THE DART OF SELF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND SHAME.
WILL YOU BE ASHAMED OF HIS CHURCH AND THINK YOURSELF TOO
GOOD TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THAT GROUP?**

Some people think just being a good person is going to please God. They think themselves above those who are part of the church. Sinners saved by grace.

If you are honest, you are honest towards men, what does that do for God?

If you are giving you give to men, and it helps men, what does that do for God? If fact there are a lot of people that take pride in how honest and good they are towards their fellow man, which is admirable in the eyes of men. But how do you show you fear and reverence God? The only thing you can do for God is believe in Him and His word, and obey Him!

Many times people like to be honored by men, therefore they live honorable lives. Yet in the eyes of God no matter how good you live you are still a sinner and are bankrupt before God.

The Church is a group of people who gather together and humble themselves before Christ and his Word and we declare that we are a group of people saved by grace who now are seeking to serve Christ.

Those who deem themselves above that group of people are declaring they are better, and have no need to be associated with such a group of redeemed people.

I mean, they are not like Matthew the tax collector, and Zaccheus, the publican and sinner, and

Mary Magdalene that immoral woman, and
Peter the rough necked fisherman, and
Paul the persecutor and murderer of Christians.

I mean they want no association with such people. After all ,they have a higher standard, and are well known and respected in the community.

FOLKS, THE CHURCH IS AN ASSEMBLY OF REDEEMED PEOPLE SAVED BY GRACE WHO LOVE JESUS! Sure they are flawed and have blemishes, but they are God's people!

When I was first saved, the devil had blinded my mind to this truth. Charlie Ware, a preacher at BBC at the time, asked me if I was a member of a church when I was first saved. I said, Charlie, churches are for families, not a single guy like me. He looked at me and said, yeah, church is for family, the family of God, are you part of the family of God? He was right. We have people who think they don't need church because they are of this group or that. Teens look to see if there are teens in the church, singles look to see if their are singles, etc..

What you need to look for is if you are part of the family of God, you will fit in.

PART II

THE SOLUTION TO NOT GROWING WEARY SERVING GOD.

II. CONSIDER HOW YOU CAN SHOW GOD YOU LOVE HIM AND BELIEVE IN HIM, COMBAT THIS ANEMIC CHRISTIANITY, WEARINESS IN HIS SERVICE.

What can you give to God:

If you gave all that you have to the poor what benefit will that give to God?

Does God need anything you have or can do?

Does he need your sacrifices, does he need your worship? He has no need at all.

But what He wants from you is another issue.

Consider King Saul when he thought he needed to make a sacrifice to the Lord. He was rebuked of Samuel for his impulsive behavior.. He took it upon himself to worship the way he wanted to worship thinking this was the way to please God..

I Samuel 13:11 And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that thou camest not within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash;

I Samuel 13:12 Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering.

I Samuel 13:13 And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever.

You would think he would have learned his lesson.. but not long after this when he was commanded to destroy the Amalikes, he was told to destroy everything, kill all the sheep the oxen etc. He decided to save the best of the sheep and oxen to sacrifice to the Lord. Again here is what Samuel said to Him:

I Samuel 15:20 And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.

I Samuel 15:21 But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal.

I Samuel 15:22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

I Samuel 15:23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

In both these cases Saul thought he was doing something that would please the Lord and the Lord said, to obey is better than sacrifice.

Let me just say, God does not need anything we have or can give Him, but what He wants from us is our love, faith and obedience. Saul actually thought the sacrifices in themselves were what God was pleased with. No, it is obedience that He is pleased with and the sacrifices are an outward show of our obedience. OBEDIENCE. This what God seeks for us to give Him.

Why do we assemble ourselves together? We do so because God said to do so. Why should you do things in service for the Lord? You do so out of a heart of love, of devotion, not grudgingly, or out of necessity. OBEDIENCE.

I Corinthians 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

To obey is better than sacrifice.

To obey is what our God wants from us.

God has no needs. There is nothing you can add to God. Does he need your tithe? No, He wants your obedience. Does He need your service? NO, HE WANTS YOUR OBEDIENCE. In the book of Job:

Elihu the only one of Job's friends that made sense said this.

Job 35:7 If thou be righteous, what givest thou him? or what receiveth he of thine hand?

Do you think coming to church makes you right in the sight of God? No, you come to church to obey His command. Look, let's say you came to church and got nothing out of the message. Did you waste your time, will you say, oh what weariness? NO NO NO. if you did it to impress men you wasted you time, if you did in obedience to God you will be rewarded.

III. CONSIDER, ALL YOUR OBEDIENCE WILL BE WORTH IT SOME DAY.

Galatians 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Galatians 6:8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

Galatians 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Galatians 6:10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

1. CONSIDER THAT THOSE WHO ARE LOOKING FOR REWARD IN THIS LIFE WILL BE DISAPPOINTED IN CHRIST.

If you are looking for a reward this side of the grave you may become disappointed in your walk with the Lord.

Paul said,

I Corinthians 15:19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

Truth is God has given me far more than what I deserve in this life. But when I gave my heart to the Lord I signed up not expecting things to go so easy for me in this life. When you read the whole Bible and you read about how God's people have suffered to serve Him, you cannot go away from reading this book without realizing that in this life we shall have tribulation.

Jesus told His disciples very plainly what this life is all about:

Matthew 16:21 From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

Matthew 16:22 Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

Matthew 16:23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

Matthew 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Matthew 16:25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

Matthew 16:26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Throughout history God's blessing has been on His people but for the greater part His people have suffered for their faith.

From Abel, to the prophets, to Jesus to His disciples, has there ever been a group of people who have suffered more for doing right?

Listen to what Paul the Apostle says,

II Timothy 2:9 Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound.

II Timothy 2:10 Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

II Timothy 2:11 It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him:

II Timothy 2:12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:

II Timothy 2:13 If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

He suffered leaving us an example:

I Peter 2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

As He is so are we in this world. If you think being a Christian is for the faint in heart you are foolish.

What if, in the course of following the Lord and obeying the Lord, you may get hurt, may be persecuted, may get sick and die (today it is fear of coronavirus)? I say as long as you are obeying the Lord and not foolishly doing your own will you have to believe it is all in God's plan. Do you really think that in the course of serving the Lord there is no risk and things may not go well for you? Every time you get in your car there is a risk.

The truth is the number one killer of people in the world is heart disease and cancer, are we to cower in fear of heart disease and cancer? Yet we cower over coronavirus. I am not saying to not take precautions, but you can't stay locked up and cooped up in your house forever. Yes wash your hands often, be more careful, take some extra vitamins, eat healthier. I decided last week it is time to come to church. There needs to be a decision on your part also to decide when you will come out of hiding and start serving the Lord as you should. I cannot make that decision for you. The reason I will not make that decision for people is because in doing what God wants you to do there is always a chance you will suffer for doing this. You need to decide discern what the Lord wants you to do.

I just read an article about a Pastor in Africa who was going around praying for people with the coronavirus, and he contracted the virus and died. Did he get out of the will of God? That's for him and God to decide, not me. I personally think that as long as I am doing what God wants me to do, then my life is in God's hands. Someone will say to me, preacher maybe you should not be meeting in church or doing this or that while at the same time they are headed to Walmart to buy groceries. Which is more dangerous? I would rather die in the service of the Lord than in the service of self.

This life is not always fair. Remember John the Baptist when he was in prison waiting to be killed by Herod, he sent a messenger to Jesus saying,

Matthew 11:3 And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?

Wasn't this the great John the Baptist that when he saw Jesus said boldly, "behold the lamb of God who taketh away the sin of world." This same John the Baptist now cowers and shyly asks are you the one or do we wait for another? How often it is we doubt when things are not going well for us, when we are sick, when we are persecuted when we are going through trials.

DON'T GET YOUR HOPES UP IN THIS LIFE YOU WILL BE OF ALL MEN MOST MISERABLE.

2. HOW DO YOU GET YOUR EYES ON ETERNAL HOPE AND NOT TEMPORAL?

Look, it is in our physical nature to want to survive and prosper in this present life.

Which of us wake up in the morning and say, Oh goodie I can't wait to get sick and die today. Or oh goodie looking forward to persecution today.

How does this work? How can I come to the point that I am willing to face trails and difficulties in my service for the Lord? This can only happen in my heart and mind.

Colossians 3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Colossians 3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Colossians 3:3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Colossians 3:4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Where is your affection? If your affections are on earth you will be earthly, and have earthly interests. If your affections are above your affections will be heavenly where Christ is right now.

A. WE SHOULD HAVE NOT EARTHLY AGENDA BUT TO OBEY CHRIST.

Colossians 3:3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Dead people have no agenda, our life is hid in Christ, for us to live we should live for Christ.

Paul had this attitude when he said,

Philippians 1:21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Do you live for Christ? Is Christ living in you and through you?

B. WE NEED TO REALIZE THAT EVERYTHING IN THIS LIFE IS PASSING AWAY.

Matthew 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

Matthew 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Matthew 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

We set our affections on things above as we meditate on these things.

Look at how easily everything can be taken from us, this current coronavirus crisis is an example how fast events can change and all can be taken from us, our health our wealth, our country, our material things.

The only thing that can never be taken from you is your relationship with the Lord.

C. WE NEED TO MEDITATE ON HIS PROMISES FOR US WHO LOVE HIM.

Focus on loving the Lord.

Put the Lord first in all matters.

Don't have any expectations in this life and you will never be disappointed.

Paul put it this way,

Philippians 4:11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

Philippians 4:12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Last week we opened the church and I heard reports of cars stopping by and one person pulled over counting how many cars were in the parking lot.

Look I was not concerned, what if someone walked into the church and wanted to arrest me for meeting, I was willing to take that chance. I had no idea President Trump was going to declare that churches are essential and exempt from closure. It didn't matter what men said, I prayed about it and believed it was time to start meeting. But I would not be surprised at what men would try to do against Christ and His church. I am willing to be abased for Christ.

I put these messages on the internet for all to hear and I sometimes say a lot of things that are not politically correct. That is the chance i will take.

But on the other hand, if someone handed me a check for 1 million dollars for the church I would not jump up and down and be overly excited. I have no false expectations that with having much comes much responsibility. I hope I can say with the Apostle Paul "I know how to be abased and how to abound."

The Christian life should not consist of highs and lows, we ought to be steady and stable, not having ups and downs in our walk with the Lord. We need to be steady and going forward at all times.

Let us mediate on the goal that is set before us.

Let us run the race with patience.

Let us set a goal to be able to say as the Apostle Paul someday!

II Timothy 4:6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

II Timothy 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

II Timothy 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Conclusion:

I hope none of us would grow weary in well doing.
Let none of us say, serving the Lord is weariness.
Let's get our eyes off of men and on our blessed Savior.

I don't know about you but my goal is to hear these words someday.

“WELL DONE THOU GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT...”

Matt. 25:21