

“I WANT TO BE INVOLVED” Continued from page 1.

be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine” (II Tim. 4:2). Children, all young people, and all elder people need to learn that to be obedient, respectful sons and daughters, living as good examples to others in the community, is a part of Christianity.

Often we hear complaints by some of the younger folk that there is nothing being done to interest the young folk to keep them from going back into the world. Well, rest assured that God expects the same work of the young people as is expected of aged. Their main trouble is that they don't want to be content with the Lord's business.

Some more mature young people have not yet learned that to go about their “own business,” providing the necessities of life for their families (II Thess. 3:11), and bringing up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4) are Christian acts and ones that are sorely needed in this age. Some of them would rather be busybodies, as were some in the church in the days of the apostle Paul (II Thess. 3:11), and trying to tell others how to run their affairs.

However, the matter of minding their **own** business does not gain them recognition in the eyes of the people that they are seeking. They “want to be involved” in something that will cause them to be looked up to as being a great leader in the eyes of the public. They “want to be involved,” but the fact of the matter is that hardly any of them who like such fanfare will volunteer to do the menial, daily tasks that need to be done. That isn't what he means when he says he “wants to be involved.”

Too, there is a disposition on the part of some to think that, unless we are involved in “group” activity, we cannot practice Christianity. In other words, “I won't do it unless we can get a group together to do it.” We are so afraid, I suppose, that we will be found doing “more than our share.” But the Bible says that a cup of water given in the name of Christ will bring reward in Heaven (Matt.10:42; Mk. 9:41). One does not have to do his benevolent acts as a group activity. We are all going to be judged individually before God. The Samaritan didn't have to call the leader of his “group” to get his assignment. He, when he saw the need, fulfilled his obligation as neighbor to the man who fell among thieves (Luke 10:30-36).

Now, lest someone might be disposed to think that I am turning my back on all that I have taught in times past about our doing benevolence through the church treasury, let me point out that there is Biblical example for such. The apostle Paul said, “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye” (I Cor. 16:1). There is a place for collective action, yes. But we must also assume our individual responsibilities as well. We must not wait for others to do what we can do individually!

W. L. Totty
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BELVEDERE BEACON
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Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
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“I WANT TO BE INVOLVED”

The apostle Paul, through inspiration of the Holy Spirit, informed us that when he became a man he put away childish things (I Cor. 13:11). We are all aware that in this instance he was using that example to teach that, when the Gospel message was completed, the childhood age of bringing the Gospel was to be done away, such as the use of performing miracles, speaking in tongues, etc., in order to prove they were sent from God.

However, we can make an application from this principle taught here, as well as from Hebrews 5:12, “For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk and not of strong meat.”

Some members of the church **never** grow past the childhood era, even though they may have become Christians in their youth and have matured bodily to reach the threescore and ten years that God says we may expect to live upon this earth. That type of person still needs “toys” to play with in the church. He cannot conceive of being a Christian without all the paraphernalia found in some elements of the body of Christ, such as ball games, all sorts of entertainment, every gimmick imaginable, and all varieties of “made work” and “programs” to try to make him act like a Christian should.

Some churches hire a “youth director” or “youth minister” (whatever that is, I find nothing in the Bible authorizing such) whose main duty is to instigate “programs” to “keep the youth involved.” But all the time they are merely involved in “programs” which in reality are no part of the “church” activity. The young man Timothy assisted the apostle Paul. However, his job was not to organize ball teams, hay rides, picnics, etc. He was charged by Paul to “Preach the word;

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WHY DO I GET SO LITTLE OUT OF WORSHIP?

My cousin, returning from World War II, stopped off to visit with us and attended worship with us. He had come from a non-religious background, and it is doubtful that he had ever attended the services held by the chaplains, weak as they were. I have seen few people so miserable in my life as was that cousin when we were in worship. Hardly any verse could be mentioned or read that he had ever heard of; he knew nothing of the New Testament church or the proper divisions of the Bible. He had no idea as to the items of new Testament worship, or that Christianity was a life to be lived outside the services. He indicated he obtained nothing from the Bible study and worship. Of course he put nothing into it either.

Well, in his ignorance of all things pertaining to the Bible, it is understandable that he “got nothing from the worship.” Of much more concern are those in the kingdom, some for years, who will still state, “I get so little out of worship!” We firmly believe the same point is true that relates to that cousin of mine; we get something out only when we put something in! There is no excuse for a child of God to come to worship and study with nothing, putting in nothing, and then expecting nothing!

Just think of these points as we approach worship and study as a child of God. (1) Every song sung can remind me of Biblical truths and my need to feel more appreciation for God and His efforts for me. (2) Every Bible verse given in classes and worship has a lesson for me, and should remind me of similar verses, and especially of my own need to know more of the Bible. (3) Everything expressed in prayer should remind me of my own blessings, and of my own praying and how I can improve it. (4) Every point made in song, prayer, and remarks at the Lord's table should cause me to be more thankful for the sacrifice of the Christ, and make me more appreciative of His death and shed blood. (5) Participation in giving to the Lord's cause should awaken in me greater appreciation and love for the kingdom, its work, and for the part I can have in it. Even in the announcements made, I can see opportunities for service in seeing to the sick, shut-ins, and the bereaved, to say nothing of opportunities to greet and welcome visitors and newcomers. Getting nothing out of services??? You should be ashamed of yourself.

The fact is, I get something only when and if I put in something! If I come to worship with an empty bucket, want nothing in it. and by lack of interest block anything that starts to enter it, I will leave with an empty bucket! Keep it up, and the bottom will rust out completely!

*Bill Jackson
Deceased*

Ken Chumbley

NEWS AND NOTES

Keep in your prayers the following: Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett, Lavonne McClish, Linda Chumbley, Maomi Aaron's sister, Leann Rogers, who is having health problems, and Lanny Niver together with his daughter and son, and Tim Smith.

Lanny Niver was sick Sunday and unable to be out. He is still awaiting a date on further surgery. Helen Culpepper remains in critical condition. Please keep her and brother Les in your prayers. Ken Chumbley is scheduled to leave for England Monday and to return March 26, 2010.

Baptizing the Wallet

A big man came forward to be baptized. The country church building had no baptistery, so they took him out to a creek. He emptied his pockets to get into the water, but one noticed a lump in his back pocket. “Sir, you forgot to take out your wallet.” The man responded, “I didn't forget. I figure that if I baptize that part of me, then everything will be okay.”

That expresses a great truth. If we are willing to give our possessions to God, then God will most likely have us with them. Too many are possessed by their possessions and are unwilling to part with them for any reason. God owns us, and all that we, have is His. We are simply stewards, with the obligations to be found faithful (1 Cor. 4:2).

Will we be?

Author Unknown