

Lack of Desire

Paul expresses, in simple terms, the meaning of the term "desire" in his letter to the Romans: "Brethren, my hearts desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved" (Romans 10:1). The salvation of his Jewish countrymen was his most ardent wish. He really wanted to see them saved. He had a longing--an insatiable craving for that outcome, and his works throughout his life attest to that desire.

The Lord's church suffers immensely today for lack of desire in those who should be the stalwarts in the faith. For instance, it is not a matter of not having qualified men to serve the church as elders. It is a matter of men not having the desire, which is a qualification in itself (I Tim. 3:1). . Too many men just don't want to serve.

The same is applicable to teaching and preaching. Capable people just don't want to do it. They don't have the desire (I Pet. 2:2). Failure to give, attend services, and all the other things that Christians should do have the same underlying problem--a lack of desire. To the contrary, God's people are to be peculiar and zealous of good works (Titus 2:14). A lack of desire kills initiative for all future growth of the church and her mission (Mark 1:15-16).

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The Worker

3108 Hamburg Pike, Jeffersonville, IN 47130 Ph. (812) 284-3125

Volume 5 Issue 1

www.hamburgpikecofc.org

January 03, 2016

Listening When I Should Have Been Singing (But I Wanted To)

My wife and I attended a gospel meeting at a nearby congregation. It started like most. There were some songs, a prayer, and then the preaching. I was asked to lead the opening prayer. But I couldn't. I was hoarse due to some allergies. As a matter of fact, I could hardly speak. So, I couldn't sing either. As a result, I just listened to the singing.

While listening I learned some very important lessons.

First, the singing doesn't have to be spectacular or showy in order to be good. So much "gospel singing" today is done as a performance. The singing at this meeting was simple. The singers were not professionals. Yet, it was beautiful.

Second, I thought of how an instrument would destroy the meaning of the songs. Is it any wonder that Paul wrote: "speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" (Eph. 5:19)? What Paul wrote was not just his opinion. It was a command from God (1 Cor. 14:37). He repeats the message in Col. 3:16. God knew that singing without the instrument is the best way for songs in church services to be sung.

Third, I felt bad I couldn't sing. How many people can sing but don't. Some will say, "I can't carry a tune in a bushel basket." It really doesn't make any difference, does it? God wants us to sing. When a congregation sings, you hear the whole group, not just the individual. The singing is to be done with the spirit, and with understanding (1 Cor. 14:15). Whether or not the singing is on key or exact is a mute point. We think it has to be just right because of our entertainment mindset. God hears the song that comes from the heart.

I was bothered that I couldn't sing that night. However, I was glad I was able to learn some lessons. Actually, I already knew them. What happened just helped me to again see God's divine directive to SING.

Bill Brandstatter worships with the Church of Christ in Vienna, IL.

Leadership

Elders Hayward Blanton, Jerry Casey

Deacons Clint Smith Sr, Clint Smith Jr,
Robby Stocksdale, Joe Sweeney

Pulpit Minister Eric Welch

Associate Minister Irvin F. Williams

Panama Mission

Pablo Sanchez

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Class 10:00 AM
Morning Worship 11:00 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 PM

We Offer Free Personal Bible Studies and Bible Correspondence Courses - Phone (812) 284-3125

Visit Our Website: www.hamburgpikecofc.org Email: church@hamburgpikecofc.org

Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning: "The Fate of Satan" Matthew 25:31-46

Sunday Evening: "The Call of Jeremiah"

Those Privileged to Serve

AM Service

Song Leader Michael Hawkins
Opening Prayer Hayward Blanton
Scripture Rick Martin
Sermon Eric Welch
Lord's Supper
Message Irvin Williams
Attendant Greg Blanton
Attendant Clint Smith Jr
Closing Prayer Jerry Casey

PM Service

Song Leader Steven Cravens
Bible Reading Harold Tincher
Selection 52
Prayer Matt Johnson
Sermon Eric Welch
Closing Prayer Nathaniel Welch
*If you are unable to serve, please
call Art Patrick 502-819-9481
or Harold Tincher 502-409-3511*

AM & PM Services

Announcements Clint Smith Sr
Lord's Supper Robby Stocksdale
Offering Leon Stocksdale
Usher Grover Blanton
Count Offering Hank Tincher
Assist Count Harold Tincher

Keys to Happiness in 2016

By Eric Welch

The New Year, 2016, is upon us. “Happy New Year” is a greeting full of joy and excitement, but do Americans have the keys to joyful living in 2016? The Christians in Philippi were the first to receive these practical suggestions from Paul's pen that will give blessing to our lives. He writes,

“⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things” Philippians 4:4-8

1. Rejoice! Sadness is often inevitable. It is often the result of loss—the loss of a friendship or health, the death of a loved one or a financial reversal. In the midst of these we can find wonderful joy. We can remember that we are God's children and the object of His tender love. Rejoice!

2. Think before we say or do. Will my words or actions be a sin? Will they cause another to sin? Will they hurt my influence? Will they glorify God and His Son? Remember, the Lord is “at hand” or “near.” We are always in His presence.

3. Pray! Make it a habit. Prayer brings peace of mind that will relieve anxiety about things beyond my control such as the economy and politics.

4. Be Positive! Dwell on pure, good, beautiful; positive things because lasting joy and peace come from these things. Feelings come from our thoughts and we can choose what we think about.

This small list from the Lord can be a great opportunity to start things anew in 2016.

Hamburg Pike Happenings

The Monday Night for the Master group will meet January 4th; the meal theme will be pizza.

The young men's training class is scheduled for Monday January 4th from 6:00 to 7:00 PM.

A New Years Eve fellowship is planned from 9 p.m. to midnight. A signup sheet is in the foyer.

Workers are needed to prepare the communion trays for 2016; a signup sheet is on the bulletin board. Please signup if you're interested in this much needed and important work.

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