

Are You Too Busy?

We live in busy times. Most of us with children at home find ourselves coming and going all the time. The calendar is full of activities. There is very little "down time" or quiet time. Our busy schedules often keep some of us from helping out in the kingdom of God. For instance, the elders may ask a man to consider serving as a deacon. Without even thinking about the great service that he could render, the person declines saying, "I can't right now, I'm just too busy." Or, someone is asked to teach a Bible class. The opportunity is turned down because the person is too busy. Being "too busy" can be an easy excuse for simply not stepping up and doing what we should. Saying "I'm too busy" sounds so much better than saying, "No, I just don't want to." Being busy is assumed to be the banner of a successful parent. Being busy means you are not lazy, bored, or dull. We are just busy people.

But Have You Ever Considered That: -- Moses was busy tending his flock when God called him to service. Gideon was busy threshing wheat when God called him to service. David was busy caring for his father's sheep when God appointed him king. Nehemiah was busy serving the king when he decided to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Peter and John were busy fishing when Jesus called them to follow Him. We do not find God using the lazy or idle. He goes to those who are already at work and busy. Consider Saul of Tarsus.

Take Note, Brethren: -- It takes time to teach a class or open your home to hospitality, or to write a card of encouragement, or have a home Bible study, or to serve as an elder or deacon. Those that are busy doing those things have families, jobs, hobbies, and commitments just like everyone else. In fact, you will find those that are very busy in the Kingdom of God have to fight time commitments, juggle their schedules, sometimes miss activities they like to go to just like everyone else. There are times they feel pulled in more than one direction. But they have found some things that others fail to see. They have found that being busy in the Kingdom of God is worth the sacrifice they must make. They are making a difference and what they are doing is a good work. They have found that making time for the Kingdom teaches their children a valuable lesson. You don't do everything you want to do first and then if you have any extra time, find something to do for God. You make time for God. You work your schedule to include God. You make time for the work of the Lord. The Lord found time to die on the cross for us. The Lord finds time to bless us and answer our prayers.

There are many busy folks in the Kingdom. You are making a difference and we are thankful for that. Being busy is not an excuse for not doing what God wants of us.

- by Roger Shouse

Dumbing Down of Christianity

Did you know that 10% of church goers in America believe that Joan of Arc was Noah's wife? That really should not surprise us, since less than 20% of "church goers" will attend Sunday school this week. A lack of biblical knowledge in churches seems to be a sign of the times.

As frustrating as this may be for church leaders, we need to ask ourselves, "Are we seeking ways to reverse this trend or are we contributing to the problem?" It seems churches have resorted to entertaining the masses instead of educating. You may be more likely to get a drama or extravaganza when you "go to church" than a Bible class or a sermon. In fact, a local news station recently ran a story on a church that had replaced all preaching with plays.

Jesus was faced with a similar dilemma during His ministry. He knew people were not following Him for the right reasons. So, He refused to feed them. "Most assuredly I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate the loaves and were filled. Do not labor for food which perishes, but for food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you" (John 6:26-27).

Instead of seeking to emulate theaters and concert halls, maybe churches would have better attendance and more commitment if they looked and acted like a church. In its infancy, Christianity was grounded in teaching and preaching the gospel of Christ. Young evangelists were admonished to "Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching" (1 Timothy 4:2). Why was there such an

emphasis on education? Because the gospel, and only the gospel, “is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes” (Romans 1:16).

However, if we do not preach it, people will not learn it. Biblical faith begins with the word of God (Romans 10:17). That is why the apostle Peter said, “Beware lest you fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen” (2 Peter 3:17-18).

- by Phil Robertson

Things to Learn

No matter how old we are – whether very young, middle-aged, or elderly, there are still many things to learn.

But it is worth noting that there are some things we should NOT learn. Jeremiah warned God’s people to “learn not the way of the heathen” (Jer. 10:2). Certainly this counsel is much needed in today’s world. All sorts of wickedness and immorality are being promoted in our culture. Be careful! Don’t let the influences of a sinful world take you on a path to eternal destruction. Pray for the wisdom to realize that the things of this world are temporary (1 John 2:15-17) and the pleasure they bring won’t last (Heb. 11:25).

On the other hand, there are definitely some things that we need learn. “Learn to do well,” so said Isaiah (1:17). And Paul added, “learn to maintain good works” (Titus 3:14). These things do not come naturally, so you must work at learning them. Spend some time thinking seriously about what you can do that will help the cause of Christ, promote His church, and assist his disciples. There are many opportunities, but you must be looking for them – and you must learn to use them.

Of course, the most important thing to learn is obedience to God. It is said, even of Jesus, that “though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered” (Heb. 5:8). His example is the one we must follow (1 Pet. 2:21). When we learn from Jesus, we find “rest for our souls” (Matt. 11:29).

So, beware of the bad lessons out there. Avoid them! Commit yourself to learning the good things of God. You’ll never regret it.

- by Greg Gwin