

4) The Precious Commodity Of Basin Theology

- A) We live in a busy, busy world. The most precious of all commodities over which we have influence is how we invest our time (Psalm 40:10).
- B) How we invest our time speaks, louder than any other thing, to our response to Jesus Christ. When we are under the greatest pressure -- what is the investment of our time?
- C) If you knew you only had a few more hours to live, what would you do? Jesus Christ chose to serve others (John 13:5-20). Rather than "washing his hands of others," Jesus chose to serve others during pressured times.
- D) When thinking of serving in the church, helping a neighbor, inviting over a couple or friend who you are trying to reach in Christ's name for dinner -- the common response is "I'd love to do that -- really, I would -- but I just don't have time..."
- E) Without judgment, guilt, and with no attempt to offend, if we are so busy that we cannot be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ (1st Corinthians 12:12-14), then we should deeply probe our priorities and ask, "Am I too busy?!"
- F) The great example of the church is that it is marked by teamwork and a mutual investment in the cause of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:42-47) which resulted in both personal and corporate life change (transformation).
- G) As Joshua asked, "choose for yourselves today whom you will serve" (Joshua 24:15) -- are we willing to make the changes and adjustments necessary to serve the Lord with our time?

Teaming Investment

Long Beach Alliance Church • May 13th, 2007 • Pastor Chris Lankford

THEREFORE I URGE YOU, BRETHREN, BY THE MERCIES OF GOD, TO PRESENT YOUR BODIES A LIVING AND HOLY SACRIFICE, ACCEPTABLE TO GOD, WHICH IS YOUR SPIRITUAL SERVICE OF WORSHIP. AND DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD, BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND, SO THAT YOU MAY PROVE WHAT THE WILL OF GOD IS, THAT WHICH IS GOOD AND ACCEPTABLE AND PERFECT. FOR THROUGH THE GRACE GIVEN TO ME I SAY TO EVERYONE AMONG YOU NOT TO THINK MORE HIGHLY OF HIMSELF THAN HE OUGHT TO THINK; BUT TO THINK SO AS TO HAVE SOUND JUDGMENT, AS GOD HAS ALLOTTED TO EACH A MEASURE OF FAITH. FOR JUST AS WE HAVE MANY MEMBERS IN ONE BODY AND ALL THE MEMBERS DO NOT HAVE THE SAME FUNCTION, SO WE, WHO ARE MANY, ARE ONE BODY IN CHRIST, AND INDIVIDUALLY MEMBERS ONE OF ANOTHER. SINCE WE HAVE GIFTS THAT DIFFER ACCORDING TO THE GRACE GIVEN TO US, EACH OF US IS TO EXERCISE THEM ACCORDINGLY...

~ROMANS 12:1-6 (NASB)

1) How Then Should We Live?

- A) In the past several months, we have inspected the "pillars" which support the Christian life, what the Bible refers to as our "spiritual service of worship" (Romans 12:1)
- B) In other words, worship is not something we do on Sundays (it's not simply singing). Worship is our total lifestyle, it is a "living offering" which we are making on a moment-by-moment basis.
- C) Whenever we speak of the Christian life, we are speaking of worship. Whenever we speak of worship, we are speaking of the Christian life. The two are synonymous, an overarching canopy description of following Christ.
- D) This lifestyle of worship is supported and developed through four key "pillars" or supports which contribute to our lifestyle of worship.

2) The Pillars Of A Lifestyle Of Worship

- A) As we studied in January, the first supporting pillar of the Christian life is our individual and corporate study of God's Word (2nd Timothy 3:16-17, Romans 12:2).
- B) In February & March we studied the second supporting pillar of the Christian life, our commitment and practice of evangelism. This includes the compelling and creative communication of the Great News about Jesus Christ locally and internationally (Acts 1:8, Matthew 28:18-20).
- C) Our study of God's Word and the call in our lives to testify of

the Great News about Jesus Christ, led many to follow Christ's example (Matthew 3:13-17) by being baptized in an extended celebration of "resurrection life" (Palm & Easter Sundays).

- D) For the remainder of April we studied the third supporting pillar of the Christian life, a deepening commitment to participating in the Kingdom of God through transforming prayer (Matthew 6:9ff, 1st Thessalonians 5:17).
- E) Today we begin our study of the final pillar of the Christian life, personal stewardship of our "time, talents, and treasure" as we invest in the Kingdom of God (Romans 12:4-6).

3) The Prerequisites For Stewardship

- A) Whenever "religion" speaks about investing our time, our talents/giftedness or our money/finances, I believe it is natural to become skeptical and critical.
- B) Before speaking of our investment in God's Kingdom, the writer of Romans (Apostle Paul) called the people to humility, to not think too highly of ourselves (Romans 12:3).
- C) After speaking to the Corinthian church about their investment in God's Kingdom, Paul (the writer) called the people to be unified with Christ, with each other, and in love (1st Corinthians 12-13).
- D) While speaking to the Philippians about their attitudes with one another in God's Kingdom, Paul (the writer) called the people to reject selfishness and maintain unity (with Christ and each other) and humility (with Christ and each other) (Philippians 2:1-4).