

Pushing Back the Darkness!

Part 12: "Volunteerism with No Visible Means of Support!"

Last week on PBD... The all-importance of learning to hear, listen and obey God's spoken words to us! Discerning the Kairos, moments with God, in our Chronos, the time we have been given! Talked thru the reality and *PURPOSE* of freedom! "Not just free to be... but free to free!" Then opened up, "The Widget Factory" concept of the Church...

The Church is not a human construct but a God designed institution built of living stones!

***"You, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."* 1Peter 2.5 *"Present yourselves as building stones for the construction of a sanctuary vibrant with life, in which you'll serve as holy priests offering Christ-approved lives up to God..."* Message *"Of Him, thru Him and FOR Him are all things... so I beg you brothers that by the mercies of God you present yourselves a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God which is your reasonable service!"* Rom11.36-12.1**

The Church was designed as a mostly volunteer organization... Jesus put the "factories" in the oversight of "few..." Eph 4.8-16 And put the ministry in the hands of the multitude... 2Cor5.17ff Who work as unto Him, willingly, joyfully, voluntarily! **R14.8** But receive rewards from Him for their voluntary service! **John 4.36** Counterintuitive, but true!

Closed, sharing my own story, of participating as a voluntary servant of God! Though *my job* is pastor... Much of *my service* is "voluntary" because I am a Christian... "Who must give an account of himself to God... for everything done in the body, whether good or bad!" **Rom 14.12 2Cor 5.10** For my stewardship and my self!
"Every man's work will be made evident, it will be revealed by fire what quality of work it was, and if it abides, that man will receive a reward!" **1Cor 3.10ff**

The Church runs, *bottom to top*, on *voluntary, willing, cheerful* service to God... By people whose minds are made up to take His kingdom objectives by force... Who will not let themselves become weary or distracted, distressed or selfish in "well doing!"

Our Voluntary Service! Watched over and rewarded by Jesus!

"Servants, be obedient to those who have the rule over you according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of heart as unto Christ, not with eye service as men pleasers, but as the servants of Christ do the will of God from the heart – with good will, serving as unto the Lord and not men, knowing that whatever you do for Him you will receive the reward from Him!" **Eph 6.5-8**

Servants, obey your rulers according to the flesh; not with eye service, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God. *And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not unto men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the share of the inheritance, for you serve the Lord. He that does wrong will receive for the wrong he has done: for there is no respect of persons."* **Col 3.22-25**

Far too often we view our "volunteerism" as a dutiful drudgery that we perform at our will! When it is a designed and integral part of the kingdom of God and the function of those doing His will!

Voluntary service to God! Worship and serve Him only! **Mt4.10** Whoever wants to be the greatest, serve! **Lk22.26** If you want to be honored by God, serve Jesus! **John 12.26** Called to liberty, don't consume it on yourself but by love serve one another! **Gal 5.13** **Voluntary service is part and parcel of the kingdom of God!**

Volunteerism is anything but an imposing call for cheap labor... it is the encompassing service of those whose minds are made up! It is the difference between self-rule and Spirit rule, of exercising our will or utilizing the mind of Christ!

John Bevere...

Slave

Has to...
Minimum's...
Goes 1 mile...
Feels robbed...
Bound up...
Fights for rights...
Does duty...
Yearns to rule...
Nonchalant...
Carries attitude...
They need help...

Servant

Gets to!
Maximizes!
Extra miles!
Loves to give!
Free!
Lays them down!
Partners w/God!
Loves to serve!
Responsible!
Carries a smile!
My opportunity!

Paul's Paradigm...

"As one given oversight of the church I have the power to live from the fruit of the church... even as the Lord has ordained. But I am preaching this to you without charge... working with my own hands... taking from other churches to do you service... and no one can take this away from me!" **1Cor 9.1ff, 4.12, 2Cor 11.8-10**

Whether he receives income from work or by his own hands... Whether he is supported from one source or another... He uses everything and anything to see that the work is done... That he spends and is spent saving men's souls... Because His mind is made up to be like His Savior and advance the kingdom by "force!"

Our voluntary service to God is a matter of heart and focus, of gratitude and loyalty, of attitude and integrity... And when it comes to our volunteerism we can't separate it from the church and the "factory" we have been given... And we need to prepare and exercise our effective service, now, for the future space and place we are creating for others!

It is not good enough that others are doing it... it won't be good enough until we are all engaged...