

Pushing Back the Darkness! **Part 13: "Voluntary Misconceptions!"**

Lessons from Mr. Rogers!

1. You don't have to be a superstar to be numbered among them!
2. What matters in our life is what we do with it!
3. Chosen to be servants regardless of the roles we play!
4. Called to meet the deeper needs of those who will watch and listen!
5. To affirm that life isn't cheap and we need to "show and tell" what good is all about!
6. Called to bring courage to those whose lives are near our own!
7. Recognize the One, the ones, who have been our servants... helping us, encouraging us to become!
8. One life to live on earth with the choice to demean it or cherish it!
9. To do good in this unique enterprise that we have been brought into!
10. Your life matters and you can make a difference!

Last week on PBTD...

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!

The Church called to voluntary service that will be evaluated! "We must give an account of ourselves to God... for everything done in the body, whether good or bad!" **Rom 14.12** **2Cor 5.10** "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** "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**

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... Even if that "force" needs to be applied to our "self..." to be realigned with God's will and way!

Volunteer Misconceptions...

If I don't do it someone else will! All of us... are individual members of the Body of Christ! "So we being many, *are one body in Christ and every one members of another!*" **R12.4ff** "As the body is one, having many members, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body. The body is not one member but many. *And God, by design, sets every one of them as it pleases Him!*" **1Cor12.12ff** All of us... are individual members of the Body of Christ! "Endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. *There is one body and one Spirit, even as you are called in one hope of your calling. One Lord, one faith, one baptism and one God and Father of all!*" **Eph 4.4ff** What part can He do without? What part should He do without? "Not good enough without you!"

"They" just need help/looking for warm bodies! There is no "they" in B.O.C.! He needs warm hearts pounding in those warm bodies! Need your heart, brawn and brain! *Some of the best ministry, ideas, safeguards, comes from people on the front lines doing the job!* "It, I, just won't make that big of a difference!" So sure? Eternal difference to someone!

I'm doing it for free, so I don't have to take it seriously! It's not like it's a "real job!" Until you consider who you are working for! **Eph 6.5ff Col 3.22ff** Don't need to prepare! Don't need to pray! If something comes up I don't need to show up or even let them know! Someone else will pick up the slack! *If our words are our "bonds," then the tear leaves a gash!* **Ecc 5.4,5 Deut 23.21-23 Psalm 15.4**

If it was really important it would be a paid position! Tell that to the 75% of American Fire/EMT/First Responders... And the millions of people they save every year! Voluntary, volunteer, service to God is not an unpaid position... Just, *"Payment Pending!"* **Few are rerouted to care for the corporate Church (1 tribe) E4** *Ministry of Reconciliation is in hands of volunteer masses!* **2C5**

We are so conditioned by the force of Mammon, that voluntary service becomes "our benevolence" toward God! Are we willing to apply the "force" to our "self..." to be realigned with God's will and way?

In the end... Isn't it all a matter of my choice? Voluntary service to God and His people is a choice... But no one is exempt from the consequences of a bad choice... "The day will come when the Lord of the servants will appear unexpectedly and every mans work will be revealed by fire, and if it remains, he will be rewarded... and if it burns he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved..."

You were chosen, from out of the darkness, to serve God and His people... Freed to free!

Called to meet the deeper needs of people who will listen to you!

Called to do good in this unique enterprise called faith!

It is necessary to step up and into your role of voluntary service to God and His people!