

MOTIVATION

In obedience to the Lord, Paul went with the gospel, the message from Christ, and the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16), to foreign lands, even to the rulers in whose prisons he was bound (Ephesians 6:20). As in Paul's day, taking the gospel to the lost is the greatest and most needed work in the world (Mark 16:15-16)! Doing so requires motivation — but how does one stay motivated?

With the task of evangelism, instructing others in the way of the Lord, comes weighty responsibility (James 3:1), and the demand for our most fervent labors (Romans 1:15). Ever looming is the possibility of discouragement (which some have characterized as Satan's most effective device), the archenemy of motivation. How can we overcome discouragement, and maintain the motivation to keep on keeping on in this most important work? We need to understand and apply the internal, external, and eternal aspects of motivation, if we would live the Christian life and teach others the truth, in order that we and they might be saved (1 Timothy 4:16).

The internal aspect of motivation comes from the Christian's heart-felt concern for the salvation of souls (cf. Romans 10:1). The saved should realize they are debtors (Romans 1:14), and be motivated by the real obligation to help others be saved. God's children understand that the world is in sin, yet God has provided for salvation for all men through Christ (John 3:14-17), and that salvation is conditional upon the sinner's being taught the truth and obeying it (Matthew 28:18-20). The problem of sin requires a plan for salvation—God's plan (2 Timothy 2:2). Thus, hearts filled with compassion motivate those in Christ, who are forgiven, washed by

His blood (Ephesians 1:7; Revelation 1:5), to do all they can, to teach all the truth they can, to all the people they can (cf. Mark 6:34). While God's commands, and man's faithful response to His commands (1 John 5:3), promote internal motivation, workers in the vineyard of the Lord also need encouragement from their brothers and sisters in Christ.

All need encouragement — especially those fighting the good fight of faith (1 Timothy 6:12)! In the local church, elders can help motivate by leading the flock in the paths of righteousness (Acts 20:28). Insuring that gospel preaching sounds forth from pulpit and classrooms is another way elders can help members get moving, and stay moving. The gospel will motivate (cf. Galatians 1:23-24). Likewise, when well planned, properly managed programs, with specific, challenging, yet attainable goals, are in place, members will be encouraged in their labors for the Savior. Clearly defined work which makes good use of the abilities (and time) of individuals provides a major impetus in motivation. Along with these, support for those who stand fast in the faith, joined with appreciation expressed for a job well done, will provide the external incentive which propels faithful workers.

The eternal aspect comes from the knowledge that instructing people in the Bible opens the door for them to enjoy the greatest life in this world, and in Heaven after a while (John 10:10). Teaching one about Christ will make the greatest difference (from lost to saved), for the greatest "time" (eternity). Therefore, teaching the gospel to others fills the greatest need in the world. Knowing this makes our efforts a blessing, not a burden. The salvation of one soul makes all the time, energy, and resources expended, as well as all the problems faced, and difficulties encountered, worthwhile.

As we live the Christian life and teach others the truth, we are instructing minds with the doctrine of Christ, helping mold lives into what they should be, building up knowledge, giving purpose, instilling hope, and putting into place the principles to save souls that will live eternally (Ecclesiastes 12:7; Matthew 25:46). There is no more important job than changing lives for the better, giving them direction for both present and future living, strengthening the church, helping brethren to be better equipped for God's service, and preparing the present and future church for its task. Knowing this should help us stay on course, motivated to faithful service.

May God bless faithful brothers and sisters who are willing to give, to serve, and to be used in the Lord's service. Humble servants of God are not motivated by love for worldly acclaim, by just a compelling sense of duty, or by the desire to be seen, or to be in charge. They are motivated by love for souls and willingness to work for the Lord. They have grasped what many have missed — a correct view of eternity and the urgency of the present. Let us all work together to be properly motivated in the greatest work in the world!

Bobby Liddell from Vigil

"But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." **Ephesians 4:15-16**

BIRTHDAYS

George Thomas, 05-04; John Cody Carter, 05-08.

ILL

Sunday: Millie Robertson (PM); Debbie Schleif.

Wednesday: Millie Robertson.

Ralph Franklin fell and fractured his shoulder and hip on Wednesday. He had surgery on his hip on Thursday and is recovering in Overland Park Regional Hospital, Room 2105-B. Cleo Stone was admitted to the Hoeger house, Room 5, on Wednesday to regain his strength following his hospitalization at Olathe Medical Center. Jeff Nemechek's sister was in the Salina Hospital last week.

Those battling cancer: Ledgia Campbell, David Cole, Shauna Heck, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers.

HOME BOUND

Kathleen Camp is in Room 101 at the Royal Terrace Nursing Home in Olathe. Barbara James' Aunt, Evelyn Marquardt is at Sharon Lane in Shawnee. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Stanley and Judith Anderson left Monday last week to visit their friends in Austin, TX. John and Louise Dodson left Tuesday last week on a two week journey to visit relatives in Arkansas. Monica Nemechek left Wednesday last week on a business trip. Chris Edwards was out of town last weekend on business.

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held this month on the third Sunday, May 16, following our AM worship. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend this meeting.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 45; Sunday PM, 41; Monday PM, 32; Tuesday PM, 54; Wednesday PM, 32; Thursday PM, 29.

Those To Serve

May 2, 2010

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Parish

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Joel Nelson
SONG LEADER..... Trent Thrasher
OPENING PRAYER George Thomas
PRESIDE..... Jared Nelson
ASSIST..... Jeff Nemechek
ASSIST..... Dave Parish
CLOSING PRAYER..... John Cody Carter

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Stanley Anderson
CLOSING PRAYER..... John Dodson
LORD'S SUPPER..... Jared Nelson

WEDNESDAY 5th

SONG LEADER..... Ted Thrasher
INVITATION George Thomas

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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