

“Live Up To Your Expectations!”

by Wayne Goff

I was listening to a sports radio program this past week and the football coach for the University of Missouri was explaining **HOW** his team managed to defeat LSU, since he is a new coach, his program is in its first year, and they were considered underdogs in the game. Mr. Drinkwitz simply replied: “We expected to win.”

Later in the same interview he said that “you have to live up to your expectations!” He was *emphatically* stating what I have tried to impress upon others my entire life: “**Whether you think you can, or think you can’t, you’re right!**” (Emily has a cross-stitch with that message in the fabric and it sat on our coffee table the entire time that our children were growing up. I believe she has now framed it and placed it on a wall in our house.) This message applies to just about anything in life! And it certainly has a message for those who want to be the Lord’s disciples.

The apostle Paul stated emphatically that “*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*” (**Philippians 4:13**). The context of that statement is Paul’s affirmation that he can preach the Gospel whether he is well-supported, or poorly supported! **Circumstances do not dictate attitudes!**

When I first came to this congregation, we had to change the “culture” by affirming that we could be a larger congregation than what some might have thought. We had (1) good leadership; (2) a peaceful congregation; (3) a comfortable building; (4) an excellent location. Add to that scriptural preaching and teaching, and with God’s help (**1 Corinthians 3:6**) the church could grow. And it did. And it can grow again, if we apply the same ingredients.

Every preacher I know that has spent any time in a difficult work will tell you that in a business meeting they will hear repeatedly the words “We tried that and it didn’t work!” Many competent workers in the Lord’s kingdom sell themselves short by saying “I can’t” – when they well could! And dear reader, if that is you, then wake up to your abilities and opportunities, and find joy in serving the Lord in whatever realm your talents take you! There is so much joy in being fruitful.

Now ask yourself: “What are my expectations?” – for yourself as a Christian, and for this congregation.

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