
The Messenger



"... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!" Romans 10:15

**A Weekly Publication of the Christians Meeting at
2291 Highway Z, Wentzville, Missouri
Dedicated to the Proclamation of the Truth in the Spirit of Love (Ephesians 4:15)**

Volume 11, Issue 3

**Evangelist and Editor:
Dempsey Collins**

Jan. 17, 2010

Listen to PROVE ALL THINGS on 730 AM WKRE, Sunday mornings from 8:15 to 8:30

It is High Time to Get Busy

by Mary Ann Palmer

Most of us have come in contact with people in this life who are just plain lazy. Lazy people do not want to exert the effort to do a job right the first time, and some just do not want to do the job at all. It is difficult to work with lazy people; I work with some every day and it certainly does not make my job easy. I preached to my children in their growing up years that they must not be lazy. Some time ago on a radio show I listened to, I heard results of a survey that I could only shake my head at. People will not even get up off their easy chairs to walk across the room for the TV remote control! The survey said that 25% of people they polled have tried to reach their TV remote with their feet or toes, and 30% have fallen off their couch while trying to reach their remote controls. Another 45% have asked their spouse to throw the remote across the room to them. We have become such a lazy nation!

I was reminded of those in Israel who were resting in their fine houses while the Lord's house lay in ruin. Why hadn't they gotten off their "easy chairs" and rebuilt the Lord's house? Then I began thinking about the Lord's house today – the church. Some of us need to get out of our easy chairs and get busy; we need to just stop being lazy.

Have we become content to just attend the worship services and to do nothing else for the Lord? Have we become lazy in showing hospitality, in our prayer and Bible study, in our attention to other Christians? God does not look lightly on lazy people. Proverbs 26:12 says that there is more hope for a fool than a man who is wise in his own eyes; verse 16 goes on to say that the sluggard is wiser in his own eyes. Proverbs 21:25 speaks of the end result of laziness, "The desire of the sluggard puts him to death, for his hands refuse to work." When I thought about these verses I thought that surely they did not apply to me. I don't refuse to work. I work forty hours a week at my job; I go to school to further my education; I take care of my home – I do not consider myself a lazy person.

Then I began to do some self-examination - that is the part where I ask myself questions and then answer them honestly; you know, the part that steps on your toes and really hurts? When was the last time I had a family that I don't know very well over for a meal to get to know them better? Hmm, it's been quite a while. Well why haven't I? Am I using fatigue or busyness as an excuse to keep from preparing a meal and being hospitable? Am I consoling myself with "God understands" how busy I am or why I can't? Or is it that I won't?

When was the last time I studied the Bible outside of my regular lesson studies for Bible class? When did I call to check on the ill last or see what needs I could meet for them? When did I approach someone at services to welcome them instead of waiting for people to approach me? Wow, this self-examination stuff is tough. Is it showing some laziness on my part?

In the parable of the talents, Jesus calls the one-talent man wicked, lazy, and worthless (Matthew 25:26, 30) and reveals that the servant was cast into the outer darkness. Paul urges us to present our bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, not lagging behind in diligence, but fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. . . contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality (Romans 12:1, 11-13). A lazy servant will not accomplish these things. The Hebrew writer encourages us to imitate the faithful and not to be sluggish in our responsibilities as Christians (Hebrews 6:11-12). I am always concerned that I am not doing enough for the Lord, and when I read such passages as Proverbs 24:30-34, I am reminded to get busy! "I passed by the field of the sluggard and by the vineyard of the man lacking sense; and behold, it was completely overgrown with thistles. Its surface was covered with nettles, and its stone wall was broken down. When I saw, I reflected upon it; I looked and received instruction. A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest. Then your poverty will come as a robber, and your want like an armed man." When it is time to meet my Lord in judgment, I do not want to be found in this way. It is high time to get busy!



News and Notes:

Reminder: Bible Study – Every Tuesday @ 10 a.m. (Old Testament) and @ 7 p.m. (Romans)

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

"...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

James 5:16