

Southside Church of Christ

Bulletin

1220 E. Ferguson Rd. Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455

(903) 572-2148

Website: www.thesouthsidechurch.com

Volume XXI

August 24, 2014

Number 34

The Little Things

By Charles Willis

Mediocrity is the result of not paying attention to details. Precision, exceptionalism, and excellence are only achieved through great effort in getting details correct. This is true in any endeavor in life, and especially true in our service to God. The vast majority of people who claim to be serving God offer Him a mediocre service, just enough to soothe their own conscience. We must understand God's revealed word about diligence in our service to Him.

"He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much" (Luke 16:10). If we fail to get the details right, there is no way the overall effort can be right with God. While this is true in regard to the gospel plan of salvation, the application for this article is to the Christian and his service to God. We must not deceive ourselves but understand, if we are a Christian, we must be active, diligently doing the will of God. The little things cannot be overlooked nor dismissed.

We are to be "zealous of good deeds" (Titus 2:14), and Christians need to learn "to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful" (Titus 3:14). We know passages like this, but we get tired of being the one who always is doing when other Christians do not. We become discouraged by the lack of zeal in others. Nevertheless, "let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith" (Gal. 6:9-10).

Some do not have the financial means to contribute large amounts. They may be like

the poor widow who came and “put in two small copper coins, which amount to a cent” (Mark 12:42). She is praised for having given all she had to sustain herself, even though it was so small. The amount of the gift is not what pleases God, but the proper attitude to trust Him and obey Him even in the little things.

Our society believes throwing money at a problem is how you take care of it. Money is sometimes helpful, and as previously noted, should be given righteous attention. But the vast majority of passages about our service are really not about money, but doing little things that please God. Dorcas is praised for having helped widows with clothes she made (Acts 9:39). Those who will inherit the kingdom are those who gave something to eat or drink, gave someone a place to stay, gave some clothes, visited the sick and those in prison (Matt. 25:34-40). “And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward” (Matt. 10:42). “Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world” (James 1:27). All of us must be diligent to actively participate in doing such little things. We must get involved personally in doing for others. No one can do these things for you—not elders, preachers, deacons, nor any other Christian.

There will always be some who have

the ability to make money and thus contribute large amounts. There will always be some who cannot give such large amounts. My experience has been that those who can't give much money tend to give of themselves in service to others to a greater extent than those who have more financial means. I have also seen the opposite attitudes in that some who have little do little for others, and those who have much spend great amounts of time helping others. The lesson we must all learn is that it doesn't matter what your income is. God is not really interested in your financial success. God wants you to be holy, righteous and spiritually successful.

He tells us to pay attention to the little things. Don't let them slip. We must “be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless” (2 Pet. 3:14). We cannot be faithful in much till we have learned to be faithful in little. Consider the application of this concept to your prayers, teaching others, training your children in the ways of God, your relationship with your spouse, loving the brethren, attendance to the assemblies, and much more. We must not adopt a view of ourselves as a faithful person when we know we have failed to be faithful in some of the little things. The one who is faithful in the little things will grow stronger in faith and please God. Do a little something for God today, and everyday!

-New Caney church of Christ Bulletin

(6/22/2014)

Conformed To Our Image

By: Steven Deaton

The Bible teaches that man was made in the image of God (Gen. 1:26, 27). As such, we are inferior to Him. He is the Creator, we are the creatures, and therefore subject to His will. However, some do not see it that way.

People want God to conform to their image. They do not want a God of wrath, so they believe He is all love. They do not want a God who is strict and narrow-minded, so their God is one who is permissive and tolerant of a wide range of behavior—including small infractions of morality. They want a God who will accept their worship, no matter what, so they have a God who rejoices in man-made homage.

The Bible student will notice the attitude that conforms God to man's image is idolatry. Typical paganism has multiple gods. The people we are talking about (including friends and family), have one god that fits all. The Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Lutheran, and good Catholic are all acceptable to God—in their mind. He is a multi-cultural, pluralistic God.

Contrary to this erroneous thinking, the Word of God states that He is strict, narrow, and has one truth for all men (Matt. 7:13, 14). "Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it

necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3). There is only one faith, not many, just as surely as there is one Savior (Eph. 4:4-6).

Let us not try to conform God to our image, but let us be conformed to His.

From www.implantedword.com

Directory Information

There are several new sheets ready for you to pick up on the table in the foyer. More sheets will be coming.

NEWS (continued from back page)

- **Shawna Waldrep's** grandfather is currently in the hospital in Tyler due to internal bleeding.
- **Carla Chapman** was ill last Sunday night and unable to worship with us.
- **Boots Walker** continues to be very weak as he battles cancer. He is not able to attend services with us.
- Continue to remember **Relda Marshall, Michele Williams, Maurine Lee, Pat Brown, Dorothy Kyle, Judy Hinson, Deborah Brown, Tammy Willeford, Shirley Ferguson, Ronald Stringer, and Bob Arnold.**
- Remember our **Shut-ins:** *Clayton Bellamy, Loyd Clark, Maurine Lee, Irma May, and Lelda Thompson.*

