

(The ministry)

I want to share this letter from pastor Jack Shanks' bulletin.

Jack,

I was doing a little reading last night before falling asleep and ran across something Spurgeon told his students at his college about **men who would come to him wanting to be in the ministry** through his college. "One brother I have encountered--one did I say? I have met ten, twenty, a hundred brethren, who have pleaded that they were sure, quite sure, that they were called to the ministry-- they were quite certain of it, because they had failed in everything else..."

Spurgeon went on to answer this man, "My answer generally is, 'Yes, I see you have failed in everything else, and therefore you think the Lord has especially endowed you for His service; but I fear you have forgotten that the ministry needs the very best men, and not those who cannot do anything else. A man who would succeed as a preacher would probably do right well either as a grocer, or lawyer or anything else. A really valuable minister would have excelled at anything?'"

You, Milton, Don and others come to mind. And I would think that many times you have thought that your God-given skills would be better served somewhere else beside the ministry for whatever reason. Spurgeon went on to say, "There is scarcely anything possible to a man who can keep a congregation together for years, and be the means of edifying them for hundreds of consecutive services; he must be possessed of some abilities, and be by no means a fool. Jesus Christ deserves the best men to preach His cross, and not the empty-headed and the shiftless."

Before the Lord opened my eyes, I spent a many a year listening to the empty-headed and the shiftless. They preached, or so-called preached, a sermon about their god's. OH, but when He touched me and opened my eyes to His truth, reached down and ripped out that heart of stone, He replaced it with that truth which you and others preach. Now only the truth will do.

Before I fell asleep I asked the Lord to keep you men in my prayers, that He might bless your ministry by His mighty power and speak through you to call many to Christ.

I know there are many things you could have excelled at in the world, but I thank the Lord for saving the best for His ministry. My family and I will be eternally blessed because our paths have crossed.

Your friend in Christ

Pastor's Commentary And Outline

DON'T SETTLE FOR AVERAGE:

And he looked up, and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury. 2 And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites. 3 And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all: For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had. Luke 21:1-4

Salvation is by grace! We do not believe for a moment that Christians will be given different rewards in heaven according to their obedience here on earth. Such teaching is contrary to salvation by grace! The reason preachers teach this corrupt doctrine is they fear the teaching of salvation being all by God's grace does not provide sufficient motivation for obedience. It may not for a goat, but it does for a sheep! All of God's sheep love Christ, and want to please Him because they love Him! They have an ambition to glorify Him!

1 ¶ *Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia:*

2 that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. 3 For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, 4 imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. 5 And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God. 2 Cor 8:1-5

Child of God, don't settle for average! By the grace of God, seek to be the best believer you can be in every area. If God's grace in Christ does not motivate us to obedience and greater commitment, we have not understood His grace at all.

PASTOR TODD NIBERT

Sermon outline: David a “servant of kings”

1 Sam 16:1-23

1. Saul rises and falls in two years: 1 Sam 13:1 / Acts 13:21

Prop 1. *Saul's Kingdom represents the Church in a state of fleshly carnal pursuit of prominence.*

Marks of His kingdom: 1. *Severe strife.* 1sam 14:52 /1 Sam 7;13

2. *Irreverence in worship.* 1 Sam 13:5-9,13,14

3. *Taking the accursed thing* 1 Sam 15:1-3 /7-9

4. *Samuel's permanent departure from Saul, represents the departure of God the Holy Spirit.* 30,31 – 34,35

Isa 49:7-10 The Servant King! “ David foreshadows Christ”

David is chosen: 16:1 His qualifications distinctly different from Saul's: vs 7

His present occupation: Vs 11 / verses Saul's Father's lost asses:

His humble calling: last, and reluctant Father. Ps 27;10

His anointing among His brethren. Vs13/ mt 3:16,17 / John 1:29-33

The permanent residence of the Spirit of God / Verses God leaving Saul 13,14

Proposition: The anointing is for service, not self exaltation!

Application: Humble service is the only way to reign with Christ! Phil 2:5

The Weather is changing !

Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. 10 For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: **but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.** 11 Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: **but how can one be warm alone?** And if one prevail against him, **two shall withstand him;** and a threefold cord is not quickly broken. Ecc 4:9-11

The Weather is quickly changing . It appears we shall receive a faithful cooling down for this season. We may even be able to do the snow trip this year. This is a good time of year. Soon we all shall be celebrating our Saviors birth. Not the day, His birth into the world. His assumption of our humanity, that we might be saved. This time is good for both children and adults, for friends and family. This is a good time to restore and renew friendships. To fix conflicts and problems with loved ones. Before the year closes out seek reconciliation ! The weather is about to change, dress for the occasion, get plenty of rest, be wise this season. Stay warm. I'm speaking spiritually!

THE GOSPEL MINISTRY

“I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom, PREACH THE WORD.” (II Timothy 4:1)

Paul charges Timothy and every preacher, pastor, and elder before God, Who chose us, and before the Lord Jesus, Who saved us and whose Gospel we preach, to be diligent and faithful to PREACH HIS WORD! All wisdom, truth, and understanding is contained in the scriptures; and we draw our doctrine and instructions from no other source. We shall give an account of our ministry before our Lord when He comes. Therefore, it does not matter what men may think of our message and how they respond; it is our Lord to whom we are accountable and whom we seek to honor and please. H T Mahan