

LESSON ONE
ON
PERSONAL WORK

SCRIPTURE:
Deuteronomy 2:1-3

INTRODUCTION

1. Tonight, May 15, 1968, I introduce the first of several lessons that I want to teach having to do with our approach to what we call "personal" work in the church. Some suggestions that will help:
 1. In the church an individual cannot survive spiritually if he sets himself to the ruinous task of "doing nothing." Recently I read an advertisement for a co-operative apartment which read:
 1. "Have all the comforts of home with none of the work." The idea expressed in this ad seems to about sum it all up regarding "work" in the home or out of the home.
 2. We need creative work to stay alive.
 1. The front porch we build on to the house is more than a front porch. It becomes an outlet for the creative demands of the healthy soul.
 2. The basement room that we rework and furnish ourselves becomes more than a rumpus room. It becomes a source of creative joy.
 3. Concerning our "time" we have two choices:
 1. Killing time
 1. Killing "time" is devastating. It leaves us with a sense of futility and waste.
 2. Killing "time" we are going to seed when we ought to be flowering.
 2. Using it creatively
 1. There is no end to work that needs to be done. We must toil ceaselessly to get ahead in our church life or in our business.
 2. To be successful in any work a man must work hard, think hard and be willing to assume responsibility.

2. SOME PROBLEMS WE MUST FACE AND SOLVE

In every worthy undertaking there are certain problems that must be faced up

to and correctly solved if we are to be successful workers in any field. Some of the problems we must solve are:

1. POWER TO MANAGE YOURSELF

Proverbs 14:32

1. The road to responsible self-management is indeed a rugged one. Are you afraid to face yourself?
2. One step toward responsible self-management is honest recognition of your responsibility for you. Some suggestions:
 1. You cannot rest your life on the alibi that you are what you are because of circumstances.
 2. There is something in you that determines what conditions do to you.
3. Another step toward responsible self-management is the faith to believe profoundly in the great imperatives of character as revealed in Jesus and through his work. What we need to know:
 1. We need to know that there are four things, truth and beauty, goodness and love that are not mere electives in life's university. They are ultimate requirements for graduation.
4. Three things necessary to proper self-management:
 1. Honesty is not just the best policy; it is the only policy.
 2. Love is not simply a possible alternative to hate; it a compelling demand imposed by the love of God.
 3. Concern for the welfare of others is not a matter of expedience; it is a moral necessity.
5. No Christian can be happy:
 1. Count Christianity as a sort of MOON MULLIN'S BANK ACCOUNT: Putting nothing in but always trying to take everything out. Always overdrawn.
 2. Operating under the pent-up strain of serving nothing larger than "the little aims that end with self."

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2. SOME PROBLEMS WE MUST FACE AND SOLVE, Continued;

2. THE PROBLEM OF DISCOURAGEMENT

1. Discouragement comes not from doing, but from brooding and fretting about what we are trying to do.
2. Books are written a word at a time, one line after the other.
3. It may take a long time to convert just one person but if we become discouraged we never will convert a single person.
4. Remember, A sense of accomplishment is a vital antidote for discouragement.

3. THE PROBLEM OF HOSTILITY TOWARD OTHERS

1. We are prone to develop a mood of hostility toward those who seem to get in our way or who will not respond as we think they should.
 1. Hostility, once planted in the human spirit, has a habit of striking out without careful discrimination.
 2. Hating Communism too easily turns to hating anybody who dares to differ with us.
 3. Hostility views life with suspicion and slashes out toward all those with whom we do not see eye to eye.

3. TWO NECESSARY THINGS FOR THE CHRISTIAN WORKER

1. He must know that the Love of God does not save us from the hurts of our common life.
2. He must know that the symbol of the Christian faith is a cross, not a bed of roses.

4. TWO THINGS THE CHRISTIAN WORKER MUST DO

1. He must arm himself with the facts as they are in God's Word.
2. He must determine to see those truths from the point of view of the mind of Christ. Philippians 2:5 *John 13:15*
3. "Choose ye this day whom ye will serve...": *Joshua 24:14,15*
 1. Yourself and your own little aims,
 2. Or God in the great work that he would have you do in Christ.