

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. **Galatians 6:9**

Store In My Heart Malachi 3:8

Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions.

God became weary with the priests and people of Judah. They had been brought back to the land of Promise after years of punishment in exile. They had rebuilt the temple in Jerusalem and begun again the worship of Yahweh and the celebration of the appointed feasts. God had blessed them with peace and prosperity.

Yet they had once again turned their focus upon themselves and away from God. Their worship and service had lost its urgency. They were going through motions without purpose. Their offerings were blemished, and they were slack in their tithes.

We should learn from their failure. God expects what He deserves, not what is left. Whether time, money, or service, give God your best.



Continued Devotion

Dan Henderson

In previous writings we have considered how one can realize their desire to have a relationship with God. Knowing of God and learning about Him comes by giving attention to what He has revealed of Himself. Such knowledge, to an open, seeking heart, will urge one to leave behind the world as he turns attention to God. Declaring belief in God and His Son who died for our sin brings one to the point of full submission. Our last article discussed the need for obedience through immersion in water to put to death the old man and rise a new child of God.

In **Acts 2** we see just such action taking place among the many Jews who heard and believed after Peter spoke to them. Luke records some three thousand gave themselves into the service of our Lord. He tells us in a later verse that this was only the beginning of those who submitted as the Lord continued to add those who were being saved.

Baptism Is A Beginning

In **Acts 2:42** we find that those who obeyed the urging of Peter to repent and be baptized were "continually devoting" themselves to the teaching from God. The example found here shows an attitude of ongoing service. There was no rest for those who heard the message of Jesus. They wanted to hear more about Jesus and what it meant to be a child in the family of God. As they learned they made changes in their activities. They sought additional opportunities to be with the ones Jesus had left to deliver His Message.

They seemed to understand that obedience was an ongoing requirement. Instead of returning to their previous way of life they sought to learn more about what God expected. They knew that an ongoing relationship with Jesus would require

them to keep doing what was pleasing to Him. This feeling of strong loyalty to Jesus became a dominating force in their life.

Giving attention to the teaching from the Apostles helped each of these new disciples learn more about God. The more they learned the closer they would feel and the stronger their faith and trust in Him would become. It is a self-promoting cycle. The more we learn, the closer we feel. The closer we feel, the more we want to understand.

Focused On Learning

Better understanding seemed to be more important than returning home. These early converts were from across the empire. Many had probably been in Judea for almost two months for the Jewish feasts. They stayed even longer because of the unique opportunity to hear the Word of God from the chosen messengers of Jesus.

Devotion to the Word is necessary for the newborn child of God. It is through the Word that we increase our understanding so that we can grow. Just as the Word teaches us who God is, it also teaches us what He wants for us. Feeding on the Word and practicing what we learn will exercise our senses and train us to recognize good and evil. (**Hebrews 5:13-14**)

Paul told Timothy that diligence in the Word would help him accurately handle it. (**2Timothy 2:15**) Later he stated that inspired Scripture was needed to completely equip us for the work God calls us to do. (**2Timothy 3:16-17**) In his earlier letter attention to Scripture was encouraged for progress and ensuring salvation for both Timothy and his hearers. (**1Timothy 4:13-16**)

Every Christian needs to focus on the Word. Without such focus we will never grow and thus we will not be pleasing to God. From hearing of God to our death we must remain in the Word if we are to be with God for eternity.

“Steadfast, Unmovable, Always Abounding In The Work Of The Lord”

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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The
CHURCH OF CHRIST
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

For Our Information

Jim Soliday is waiting to get his cardiac ablation scheduled.

Sue Soliday was doing a little better with her lymphedema.

Paula Laubach has diverticulitis and is on antibiotics.

Leta Rivera (Brandy Tolleson's Mom) is doing better.

Tanner Tombly (Paula Laubach's great nephew) is in remission.

Doctors say he will be wheelchair bound, but he is determined he will walk again.

Sunday Evening – **Malachi** Wednesday – **John 13:21**

Gospel Meeting – April 27-May 1 – Alan Blaylock