

Today is February 09, 2025

What is a successful ministry?

By Don Fortner

"Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful." 1 Corinthians 4:2

The desperate need of the hour is faithful men in the pulpits of our churches. We have an over-abundance of preachers. We do not need any more slick, polished, well-educated professionals in "the ministry". But we do, most desperately, need some faithful men - pastors after God's own heart, who feed His people with knowledge and understanding. Thank God, we have a few!

In this day of big business religion, when churches are measured not by their orthodoxy, but by the opinions of men; when a preacher's success is measured not by his faithfulness, but by the number of names added to the church roll - it might be wise to consider what a successful ministry is according to the measure of Holy Scripture.

According to the Word of God, those preachers and churches are successful who are faithful to the work to which God has called them. Never in the Old Testament or in the New was a prophet, apostle, or preacher measured by the opinions of men. God's servants never courted the favor of men, and were never favored by the majority of the people. The church of God has always been out of step with society. The servants of God have always been looked upon as peculiar, bigoted dogmatists, intolerant and incapable of compromise. But they were faithful - faithful to God, faithful to His truth, and faithful to the souls of men.

Do not be so foolish as to measure God's work by man's yardstick. Do not measure the success or failure of preachers and churches by men, by numbers, or by popular opinion. The only measure of success for churches and preachers is faithfulness. Those who faithfully seek and promote the glory of God, who faithfully proclaim the truth of God, and who faithfully serve the eternal interests of immortal souls are successful. Those who are not are failures. The one will stand the fire of judgment. The other will not.

The greatest blessing God can ever bestow upon any people in this world is to establish in their midst a faithful Gospel church with a faithful Gospel preacher as his messenger.

"Tychicus . . . is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord." Colossians 4:7

WELCOME TO THE SOVEREIGN GRACE

MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

*"Where the truths of God's word have been taught
For sixty-three years." Since October 21, 1961*

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Our Prayer List

"Pray without ceasing."

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Sister Zee Mink Fuller and Family, Her son's Bryan Armstrong and Hunter Hackie, Johnnie Stephens, Alecia Stephens, and children, Frank & Sonya Trusty, Frank & Dawana Reigel, Diane & Smoke, Andrew Preston, Larry & Martha Mollette and Her Family Juanita her daughter, Lana Paul, Larry Mollette II & Family, Kerry Adcock, Kim Reich, Danny Mollette, 12-year-old Lucas, Joshua Kidd, Ronnie and Sarah Henderson, Ricky Henderson and Family, James and Luann Reynolds, Timothy Fails, Jerry Hughes, Shirley King - Son David - and family, Little Cam Works, Sister Ann McSwain, Brother Justin Bookout and family, Little Weslynn McClelland, Adrienne Lavina, Pastor Nathan Hille and Sister Cassie and his family, Baby Titus Massey, Shane and Brook Sims, Ricky Bennett, Nick, Madison, and Baby Emory Patty, and Russell York, Brother Medic, Sister Mhalyn Lavina and children, Brother Jerry Dodson, Brother Gary and Sister White, Brother David and Sister Jevonna O'Neal, Sister Rebecca Sidders, Mark and Kathy Johnson, Pray for a month old baby boy, Sister Rebecca Johnson.

Pray For Our Church Supported Mission Works

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Act 1:8

Missionary Dan and Sunny Sullivan in Thailand, and Elder Raul and the Printing work Romania

Pastor's thought for the week.

"Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;" 1 Peter 5:2

"All things are of God."

2 Corinthians 5:18 *"And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;"*

What does God mean by "all things"? Here God is talking about us being "reconciled" therefore we must argue that that is the context here. But we must also agree that "all things are of God," period. The word "reconciled" means - *to change from enmity to friendship* – (Vines). With this being said, we must conclude that everything involving our change or repentance from enmity to lovers of God must be of God, not a few, but all things. God said of our change, *"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: (13) Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."* John 1:12 – 13 The word "receive" is not one of decision or choice but of a gift received. This example is found in Ephesians 2:8 *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:"* the words *"that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God"* is the very definition of what God is talking about in "all things are of God...in His reconciling us to Him". God did this in Jesus Christ His Son called the Son of man, "who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ..." How did God accomplish such a task, *"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."* 2 Corinthians 5:21. Jesus took our sins to the cross so God could accomplish the unthinkable task of changing us from enmity or hatred toward God to friends and lovers of God. People that believe in people changing themselves just do not understand that all things in salvation are of God, who gave it to us as a gift. As God put it, *"Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."* If you add all things together and it does not equal "all things are of God" in salvation, then you need to study more. *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (16) But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness."* 2 Timothy 2:15 – 16 It is our failing to "rightly dividing the word of truth." That hinders us from understanding the works of God in our life. However, it is the works of God in our life, which is our everyday life that is our true blessing from God.

Pastor's Thought Continue.

The more we see the works of God in our life, the more we see God's grace and blessings. What an unfortunate thing it is when Christians do not work enough to see those blessings of God. Jesus was once asked this especially important question, *"Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?"* No one can do the works of salvation, only God can redeem a sinner. *"Therefore we see this in Jesus's answer to them, "Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent."* John 6:28 - 29 A person's salvation is the one thing in life that cannot be wrong, it must be correct of hell will be your eternal home. Works voids Jesus, it also voids God's grace and Him accomplishing all things in your salvation.

Church information and Happenings

- Please be in much prayer for our dear brother in Christ Jerry Dodson as his time is limited.
- Please remember to be in much prayer for Brother Ronnie Henderson and Sister Sarah.
- Happy Birthday to Brother Timothy Fails Wednesday February 12th
- Happy Birthday to Sister Dawana Reigel Saturday February 15th

Wise excerpts From John Newton

"The same power which produced the planets, is necessary to the production of a single hair; nor can one hair fall to the ground without His ordaining it—any more than the stars can fall from their orbits! In providence, no less than in creation—He has ordained both the greatest and the least. Therefore, fear not—only believe."

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"If I am redeemed from eternal misery by the blood of Jesus, and if He is now preparing a mansion for me near Himself, that I may drink of the rivers of pleasure at His right hand for evermore; then the question ought not to be: How may I pass through life with the least inconvenience? Rather, the question should be: How may my little span of life be made most subservient to the praise and glory of Him who loved me and gave Himself for me?"