

Diligently Seeking God (Hebrews 11:6)

PRAIRIE VILLAGE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church Bulletin Articles from September 18, 2011 Hear sermons online at www.pvchurchofchrist.com

Scripture of the Week



Romans 12:3-5

“For thru the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. For just as we have many members in one body & all the members do not have the same function, so we who are many, are one body in Christ, & individually members one of another.”

The Apostle Paul had the credentials to boast about a good many things. His pedigree was one to be envied among the Jews (Philippians 3:4-6). His list of good works and accomplishments for Christ Jesus was unparalleled in the faith (2 Corinthians 11:23-28). And yet Paul stressed in the selected text that a person must be careful to not think too highly of himself and not have an exaggerated sense of his own worth. Everything we have in this world and everything we do for the Lord is only possible because of the measure of faith allotted to each of us by God. We can only serve God because he has endowed us with gifts to do so, therefore there is no place for boasting. Paul even wrote that he could only bring these

matters to their awareness by the grace given to him. But while we must be careful to not have an overly high estimation of our own, personal worth, we should also be careful to not underestimate our value either. We are many members of the same body, and individually members of one another. That makes each one of us important to the Lord, and that the skills, resources and efforts that we bring to the Christ's body is vital to its health and wellbeing. Everyone in Christ's kingdom is of equal value and worth to Him. The position you fill in the family of Christ is no less or no more important than that of any other member. He died for each one of us and He will equally reward each of us eternally for faithful service rendered.

Adding Value to the Kingdom

We learn from Romans 12:3-8 that every redeemed soul adds value to the kingdom because of what God, through Christ Jesus, has done for them. Anyone who has been redeemed by the priceless blood of the Lamb has been bought and covered with the most precious substance available to man. There is no room for boasting. All of our brothers and sisters in Christ are precious in His sight. We learn in verses 6-8 that we all have differing gifts and we should utilize those endowments in a manner that is proportionate to the strength of our abilities. When we all employ our gifts dutifully and efficiently, the result is Christ's body functioning at a level

of optimum health (verses 4-5). Sometimes a Christian can feel as if he doesn't have anything of value to add to the body because of varying circumstances. Let's consider some things not necessary for you to add value to Christ's church. You don't need an impressive education. When the Apostles were arrested in Acts 4 for preaching about Jesus, the council observed, *“the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men”* (verse 13). If you have the opportunity to advance your education, go for it. If not, just spend as much time as you can with Jesus and He will equip you for service and help you

realize your potential. You don't need a lot of money. The poor widow in Luke 21:1-4, who put two small coins in the temple treasury, was praised by Christ for her contribution. You could never impress God by being loaded, and you will never disappoint Him by being broke. Give what you can and serve Him according to your abilities. You don't need to be physically healthy. The Apostle Paul said, *“when I am weak, then I am strong”* (2 Corinthians 12:10). God's grace is sufficient to make you valuable even when your body isn't cooperating. What you do need to bring to the table is a good heart, a diligent faith, a love for people and a willingness to serve.

Please Come Visit Us At...

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Times of Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study.....9:30

Sunday Morning Worship Service.....10:30

Sunday Evening Worship Service.....6:30

Wednesday Evening Bible Study.....7:30



Faithful Sayings

One of the phrases repeated by the Apostle Paul in his letters to Timothy and Titus is, “it is a trustworthy statement.” The King James Version of the Bibles uses the words “this is a faithful saying.” Even though it is true that everything we read in the pages of Holy Scripture is truthful & trustworthy, when the inspired writer uses this phrase, he really stresses the importance and truthfulness of the revelation. When God, through Paul’s pen, qualifies the intended message in this fashion, He does so to cause it to make an impression upon us and have it stick in our minds for as long as we live. This phrase is employed by the Apostle on five separate occasions in his letters. Let’s consider all of those verses.

- 1) **1 Timothy 1:15**—“It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.”
- 2) **2 Timothy 2:11-13**—“It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him; if we endure, we will also reign with Him; if we deny Him, He also will deny us; if we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.”
- 3) **1 Timothy 4:8-9**—“For bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. It is a trustworthy statement deserving full acceptance.”
- 4) **Titus 3:8**—“This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men.”
- 5) **1 Timothy 3:1**—“It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do.”

Taken together, these sayings summarize the thrust of the Gospel in a few words. Jesus came to earth to die for us because of our sinfulness. We have to die to our sins if we want to live forever with Him. We must live godly lives that are full of good works while on earth. Appropriate leadership is needed in Christ’ church.

OUR GOSPEL MEETING WITH GERRY SANDUSKY

If you missed any of the lessons from our Gospel meeting of August 15-17, they are posted on our website at www.pvchurchofchrist.com. Click the tab that indicates that meeting, and you can either “left click” the “play” button and listen to the sermon from your computer, or you can “right click” and save that sermon to file and listen to it elsewhere. Thanks to everyone who attended and prayed for our special meeting.