

FROM THE PAGES TO THE PEWS AND FROM THE SEATS TO THE STREETS

A Call for Dedication and Service to God's People
Dr. Greg Tyree, BBC, AM, September 12, 2004

INTRODUCTION:

The other morning my son, Stephen, who is nine years old, was talking to his “imaginary mother.” Lois, my wife, who will have no other mothers before her, told Stephen to get his “imaginary mother” to make him breakfast. Stephen replied, “I guess I’ll have some ‘imaginary’ food!”

That is the way it is with some Christians. They say, “I will be there [church] in ‘spirit’.” Or, “I cannot make it, but I will be thinking about you.” As Rick Warren says, to be there in spirit means nothing. It means you are not there!

When it comes to serving others, statistics (and real life experience!) tell us that about 20% of the people do 80% of the work! In business, this is known as the Pereto Principle (after the man who first recognized the principle), or the “80-20 Rule.”

Twenty percent of the people do 80% of the work; 20% of the people give 80% of the money; 20% of the people attend 80% of the services; 20% of the people do 80% of the witnessing, etc.

I want to take this opportunity while we are recognizing teachers and workers to challenge you to change all that. I am going to challenge each of you to hear this message (from the pages of the Bible to the people in the pews) and do something of service (from the seats to the streets).

PROPOSITION: We need to consider five truths concerning each Christian’s call to Christian Service.

I. CONSIDER THE REASONS FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE.

A. We Should Serve Because of Our ***Example***. Heb. 12:1, 2.

¹Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let

us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

1. The **Savior** Served Us. Matt. 20:28.

...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

2. The **Saints** Served Us. Matt. 25:40.

And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.

B. We Should Serve Because of **Eternity**. Mark 16:15, 16.

¹⁵And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

1. Heaven Awaits Those Who are **Reached**.

2. Hell Awaits Those Who **Reject**.

C. We Should Serve Because of Our **Enthusiasm**.

1. Enthusiasm Will Help Us Fill a **Gap**. Matt. 9:37, 38.

³⁷Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. ³⁸“Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”

2. Enthusiasm Will Help Us Fulfill a **Goal**. Matt. 28:18-20.

¹⁸And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰“teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

II. CONSIDER THE RECRUITS FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE.

A. Note the **Character** of the Recruits. John 4:23, 24.

²³“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

B. Note the **Charge** of the Recruits. John 13:34, 35.

³⁴“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

C. Note the **Challenge** of the Recruits. Phil. 2:12-15.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. ¹⁴Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.

III. CONSIDER THE RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE.

A. God’s **Salvation** is a Resource for Service.

1. The Blood of Christ Makes Us **Pure**. Isa. 1:18.

*Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow;
Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.*

2. The Blood of Christ Makes Us **Passionate**. Eph. 4:30-32.

³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. ³²And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

3. The Blood of Christ Makes Us **Powerful**. Heb. 13:20, 21.

²⁰Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, ²¹Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working

in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

B. God's **Spirit** is a Resource for Service.

1. The Holy Spirit **Enlightens**. 1 Cor. 2:13.

These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

2. The Holy Spirit **Encourages**. John 14:16, 17.

¹⁶*“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—* ¹⁷*“the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.*

3. The Holy Spirit **Empowers**. Phil. 4:13.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

C. God's **Scriptures** is a Resource for Service.

1. The Word of God is Our **Weapon**. Heb. 4:12.

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

2. The Word of God is Our **Way**. Ps. 119:105.

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

3. The Word of God is Our **Water**. John 4:13, 14.

¹³*Jesus answered and said to her, “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, ¹⁴“but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”*

IV. CONSIDER THE RESISTANCE TO CHRISTIAN SERVICE.

A. **Satan** Will Resist Our Service. Matt. 13:36-39.

³⁶*Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field.” ³⁷He*

answered and said to them: “He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.
³⁸“The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. ³⁹“The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels.

B. **Sinners** Will Resist Our Service. Romans 8:7.

Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

C. The **System** Will Resist Our Service. John 15:18, 19.

¹⁸“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. ¹⁹“If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

D. Some **Saints** Will Resist Our Service.

V. CONSIDER THE RESULTS OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE.

A. Godly Service Results in a **Pleased** Lord.

1. Note the **Commendation** of the Lord. John 25:21.

His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.

2. Note the **Crowns** of the Lord. 1 Cor. 9:24-25.

²⁴Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. ²⁵And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

B. Godly Service Results in a **Productive** Labor.

1. Our Service Results in **Saved** Souls!

2. Our Service Results in **Serving** Saints!

3. Our Service Results in a **Seen** Savior! Matt. 5:16.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

C. Godly Service Results in a **Perfect** Life. John 14:1-3.

¹“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ²“In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”

1. Eternal Life is **Quantitative**.

2. Eternal Life is **Qualitative**.

APPLICATION: There are four things you can do to get out of the seat and into the street!

1. See the **Vision!**
2. Make the **Decision!**
3. Accept God’s **Provision!**
4. Do It with **Precision!**

Song: My House is Full”

Verse One:

There is peace and contentment in my Father’s house today
Lots of food on the table, and no one is turned away
There is singing and laughing as the hours pass by
But a hash calms the table as the Father sadly cries

CHORUS:

My house is full, but My field is empty
Who will go and work for Me today?
It seems My children all want to stay around My table
But no one wants to work in My field
No one wants to work in My field

Verse Two:

Push away from the table; look out through the window pane
Just outside the house of plenty lies a field of golden grain

And it's white unto harvest, but the workers, where are they?
In the house, can't the children, hear the Father sadly say

CHORUS:

My house is full, but My field is empty
Who will go and work for Me today?
It seems My children all want to stay around My table
But no one wants to work in My field
No one wants to work in My field