

GOING FORWARD

Int.

1. Aim: To show that we must take advantage of the opportunities before us.
2. Phil. 2:12-13 ESV “Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ”
3. Paul believed in moving ahead - not falling back
4. If the Church is going to move forward there are OPPORTUNITIES TO TAKE
5. Now that we are in the 21st century, the church should take note of what Marketing Firms are now saying: “The future belongs to those who see possibilities before they become obvious.”
6. **OPPORTUNITIES MISSED**

There was a very cautious man
 Who never laughed or played
 He never risked, he never tried
 He never sang or prayed
 And he one day passed away
 His insurance was denied
 For since he never really lived
 They claimed he never died.
7. The church has many, many opportunities before us - we must take advantage of them and make something of them

Discussion

I. THE ABILITY TO SEE OPPORTUNITIES IS A KEY TO ANY SUCCESS

A. Mark 1:16-18

1. Jesus saw an opportunity to encourage others to be soul winners
2. Some might say, "They are busy - I'll not bother them now" - but Jesus saw an opportunity

B. Mark 12:42-44 Poor widow who gave two mites

1. Jesus saw an opportunity to teach about giving
2. Do we take the opportunity to teach as various situations arise

C. John 4:35 Jesus taught his disciples to open their eyes and look at the

opportunities surrounding them "Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."

II. PRINCIPLES INVOLVED IN TAKING OPPORTUNITIES

A. We need the ability to see possibilities

1. We must be looking
2. Many can't see opportunity because it goes around disguised as hard work

B. We must eliminate negative thinking and attitudes

1. Some say, "I can't do it"
2. Others say, "It won't work"

C. We need to be willing to risk failure

1. Some are afraid to try
2. Someone said, "Can't never could do nothing"

III. OPPORTUNITIES BEFORE US

- A. An article in the Harvard Business Review called "Market Myopia" talked about how some people didn't understand what business they were in.
1. For example: The railroad people didn't realize that they were in the transportation business; they thought they were in the railroad business. Had they realized they were in the transportation business they would have invested in airplanes.
 2. The telegraph people thought they were in the telegraph business instead of the communication business. In 1886 they could have bought all the telephone patents for \$40,000. So obviously these people didn't know what business they were in.
- B. I use to think that these guys were really dumb because they didn't know what business they were in. Then I asked my self, "What business am I in?"
1. We need to ask the same questions concerning the church - what business are we in?
 2. That question should get us to the core of our purpose for existence
 3. It should help us focus on what we are to accomplish
 4. What business are we in? Are we in the entertaining business? NO!
- C. We are in the business of building the kingdom of God - That involves numerous things:
1. Evangelism - Mark 16:15-16
 2. Developing spiritual maturity - Ephesians 4:11-15
 3. Accomplished by Teaching God's word 2 Timothy 2:2

IV. Goals Before us Present an opportunity

- A. We all need to be involved
- B. Every member has an opportunity to do his/her part.

CONCLUSION

1. We need to think, dream and act bigger than we have in the past
2. The opportunities will amaze us if we will but look for them and take them.
3. Phil. 2:12-13 ESV "Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, "

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday Evening July 19, 2009
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