Equipping The Saints

"...For the equipping of the saints for the work of service..." ~ Ephesians 4:12

July 12, 2015 **1.2**

Glory to God

(By Robert F. Turner)

The majesty of the soaring eagle or the gaudy splendor of a peacock assuredly declares the glory of their creator. What about the old black, baldheaded buzzard? He is ugly and repulsive. Does he glorify God? Beware! Do not confuse glamour and glorifying God. The buzzard's wide wings allow him to soar effortlessly over the countryside. His keen eye misses nothing on the ground. He is powerfully equipped with claw to hold and beak to tear. His demanding appetite drives him and he cleans the land of all carrion. The old buzzard lacks glamour, but he magnificently does his job. He glorifies his creator.

A woman appears on a TV talk show. She glides gracefully across the floor in a dress shockingly split up the sides and down the front. Soft curls fall across her bare shoulders and back. She talks of love nests, and jokes of her many lovers. She confides her scandalous indiscretion. She admits coyly to being a sex-idol. Glamorous she may be, but she perverts God's good design for woman. **"Glorify God in your body and your spirit"** (1 Cor. 6:20), but the body is not for fornication (vs. 13) — nor for lasciviousness. God is not glorified.

Look at another scene. The woman is wearing her old clothes and her hair is tied with a bandanna. She is working hard

at cleaning her house and washing clothes. She stops for a moment, as a crying baby demands his dirty diaper be changed. Neither the woman nor her work is glamorous, but she glorifies God. She is doing the work God assigned wives and mothers, God is glorified. There are two considerations for a creation to glorify its creator. First, it must have a worthwhile purpose. A machine has an impressive array of wheels, pulleys, belts, and chains. Lights flash; bells ring. It is impressive. *"What is this machine supposed to do?" "Well, nothing."* The designer is not glorified. Second, it must function dependably. If the machine repeatedly fails to run or if it simply will not do what it is designed to do, the designer is not glorified.

We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them (Eph. 2:10). We are designed as Christians to have a worthwhile purpose — unto good works. It is decreed that we should walk—manner of life, habit—in good works. **"...they may see your good works and glorify the father…"** (Mt. 5:16). Thus when we are **"fruitful in every good work"** (Col. 1:10), God is glorified in all things (1 Pet. 4:11).

Elders teach, encourage, and watch for souls (Heb. 13:17). No glamour. They may never be mistaken for corporate presidents, but they do a very good work (1 Tim. 3:1). They should be honored in their diligence (1 Tim. 5:17). And God is glorified. A local church worships, teaches, edifies, shows compassion on their weak and destitute. They may never make the news, but men are developing the stature of Christ (Eph. 4:13). God's wisdom is displayed (3:10), and God is glorified through the church (3:21).

[Plain Talk, 19.6.6, August 1982]

What Did You Do Today?

(By Andrew Dow)

It is common when exchanging pleasantries to ask someone what they have been up to. Most often the response is something like, *"Nothing too much, what about you?"* When making light conversation, it is not incredibly consequential that we explain every aspect of how we have used out time recently. One day, however, we will stand before the Lord and answer for how we used every second of our lives. In his epistle to the Ephesians, Paul memorably wrote, **"Therefore, be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil"** (Ephesians 5:15-16, NASB). So, let me ask you, what did you do today?

Did you serve others today? Did you check on someone who needed encouragement? Did you teach someone the gospel?

Did you serve the Lord today? Did you glorify Him by the way you lived? Did you thank and praise Him for His love?

Or, did you serve yourself today? Did you indulge your own desires, to the neglect of the needs of others? Did you study to pass your test, to the neglect of studying God's Word?

You don't have to tell me everything you did today, but one day you will answer to God—**"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."** (2 Corinthians 5:10). So, perhaps the better question isn't, *"What did you do today?"* but *"What will you do tomorrow?"*

News Concerning our Work at...

The Woodland Hills Church of Christ

REMEMBER: Bill and Jo Ellen McCarty, Leola Pence, Jim White, Bill Stone, Marilyn Farrell, Janice Billeri, Bertie Strokos.

OPPORTUNITIES: Ladies Bible Class — Monday, July 27th, 7PM @ the building. Check the bulletin board for upcoming opportunities in the area.

MISCELLANEOUS: Don't forget to utilize the inserted material as a teaching tool or an invitation this week!

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AM Lesson:

The Work of the Church

PM Lesson:

Make Disciples (Matthew 28:18-20)

"Go therefore and make disciples..." (Matthew 28:19-20)