

Meeker Christian Church
November 3, 2024
KINGDOM SERVICE

1 Corinthians 3:6-8 *I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. 7 So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. 8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.*

Everyone who is called to be a Christian is called and equipped by the gifting of the Holy Spirit at baptism for Kingdom Service. No one is more important than another, all Christians are mandated for kingdom service in God's eternal plan. Paul is clarifying that for us in our scripture this morning beginning with 1 Corinthians 3:6 *I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.* Kingdom service means doing everything in life we can to bring others to the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Paul planted those seeds everywhere he went by every means he was inspired and gifted to do. In unity of purpose and inspiration of a fellow believer, - in this case Appolos watered by further teaching about God's righteousness. That is the spirit of unity I believe God desires between all His earthly kingdom servers all within and with the absolute understanding that God gave the increase. We have our part to do, but God gives the increase and with it the recognition, purpose, glory and honor due His name.

Right there as mentioned last week is why we must learn to identify and acknowledge satan's activity in the world. satan and his comrades try to convince us how great we are in what we do for the Lord through our kingdom service. Or he tries to make us feel guilty and in every way undeserving and hide from God and His Holiness. Acknowledge and then ignore satans stunts to entrap us into shades of wickedness that turn into tides of sin and corruption against Righteousness.

But it is not us giving the increase, we are literally soldiers of satan or of God! On earth we are soldiers in the army of God or the army of satan. When we get that defined and clarified in our mind and life activities it will build personal Christian character and cause us to grow in faith, enthusiasm, personal confidence and effectiveness in kingdom building. By learning to be a good soldier in God's army, we are used by God in His eternal plan God gives the increase!!! God Himself has intervened by working through Christian soldiers to do righteous acts on earth.

satan is active and powerful - but God is infinitely more active and His power is so much greater that it is incomparable. Hallelujah my precious family! And for reasons beyond our comprehension God has chosen to work through the unity of we, HIS chosen Christian Soldiers in His universal and through all ages Christian army.

You who have served in the military know the sense of comradeship and patriotism when marching. I remember as a recruit at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri in 1959 with the total command marching in review. A sense of pride welled up in our hearts as we passed the viewing stand where the

commanding officers and other guests stood. That sense of pride I pray you will have as I ask you to stand with me and sing Onward Christian Soldiers page 660...

Order arms, at ease... oops for a moment I almost forgot where I am!!! You may please be seated...

1 Corinthians 3:7 *So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.* Verse 7 repeats and summarizes verse 6. Recognize who we are and who God is in this earthly ongoing conflict And verse 8 is addressed specifically to each one of us Christian soldiers; *Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.*--- Do you see how united we are to be in kingdom service!!??

When we celebrate Christ in and through our lives & service, satan is repulsed and when we identify and glorify God for what He is doing you just cannot help being proud, get excited, express thankfulness, and rejoice in your eternal inheritance as you see people coming to Christ in response to your kingdom service. Frankly speaking - , to anyone who may think life is passing them by, or that their goals are not proving out to be that gratifying after all,---- then very seriously I counsel --- pray about your Kingdom Service. The Holy Spirit will take that heartfelt prayer and will inspire you, and enable your spiritual gifts and you will be encouraged and encourage others at the same time.. And your reward will include watching the kingdom of Jesus grow and mature all around you and our fellow soldiers. - that is prophetic and do not be surprised, just be ready to fulfill the plans GOD has prepared and designed for YOU...

I am sad because seldom a day passes when I am not asked to pray for some person suffering the consequences of ignoring or trying to personally replace God by the decisions and choices enacted in their lives. That is the bottom line of secular institutionalism. The soldiers of evil have gained the upper hand in much of the world right now but prophetically God is about to turn it all around. And be aware, work on being prepared. We Christians are an integral and available army to be some part of God's renewal plan..

When you have a part in rescuing or revival of helping prevent earthly destruction of someone with eternal consequence - then life makes sense and becomes proportionally gratifying. That is a fact.

The kind of Kingdom Service unity army of which I speak and invite you to be a part -- means you have encountered and answered this question: How big is Your God? -- When your answer has something to do with unlimited, and that you now acknowledge and identify that God can and has often done unbelievable and unexplainable things in your life and that you furthermore practice identifying that God does incredible things in your life and in the world today, and that Bible prophecy tells what next He is about to do? Then - how big is your God? Are you hesitant to think outside the spiritual box of the traditional and familiar?

Think about these attributes of God and ask yourself again, just how big is my GOD? — The kind of unified Kingdom Service we are talking about means you will “let” God do anything He wants to work with us and through us for His Kingdom Service and the souls of persons He has chosen for

us to plant and water seeds of faith and virtue. Paul defines it for us: **1 Thessalonians 5:15-25** *See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all. 16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise prophecies. 21 Test all things; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil. 23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it. 25 Brethren, pray for us.*

Just a couple of things from that declaration: verse 19 *Do not quench the Spirit*. I respectfully ask you and the Lord talk that one over during private devotional time. Oh so many times I have been given that verse by the Holy Spirit when faith waivers... Then verses 21-22 *21 Test all things; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil*. That means every decision in a Christians life be thought through and compared to the righteousness God has decreed, the Bible reveals, and that a righteous life requires for joy, peace, and comfort. Verse *25 Brethren, pray for us*. That means pray - to the point that prayer becomes an overflow of every aspect of living.

How big is your God? Is He in control of the universe and all that He created? Is He as powerful as the sun and all the energies collective in creation of the universe? Could he remove the oceans from the earth? (He is going to prophetically) Is Your God big enough to use you to lead

someone to the salvation of Jesus? ///Think on these things for He may be preparing you collectively with a group called Meeker Christian Church to do inconceivable things. Which seems from the Bible to be something God just loves to do with and through His chosen soldiers.

Paul puts into plain words the kingdom service attitude expected from us, using himself as an illustration: **1**

Corinthians 9:19-23 *19 For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; 20 and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; 21 to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; 22 to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. 23 Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.* I believe Paul is saying, if they are breathing, they need Jesus and we may His divine choice to have a part in that person's salvation.

Unity in all these expressions means we can recognize that we accomplish more together than alone. Here is specifically what I am thinking about for our community of believers:-- Look out for and care for each other... (Time and again I hear from our folks who have been sick, suffered tragedy or other problems, just how much they appreciate your visits, phone calls, cards, letters and other acts of concern.) Do you know how proud of you I am when I hear those things? ... Do you

know the scripture teaches us to care specifically for widows? Just a seed to be open to the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Like an email from a member who has household blankets and some furnishings and kitchen items to give away...

Meanwhile As a suggestion: It is easy to make a kingdom service soldiers habit by contacting at least one person every week and inviting them to come to Sunday School and church with you. It lets them know you care and think of them.