

LET US DO GOOD UNTO ALL, ESPECIALLY THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH And a Report of Harvest Activities

The paper immediately below is by George B. Wilmott.

How meaningful and important to the Church of this period of time (the closing days of the harvest of the Gospel age and the dawning of the Millennial age) are the words of the Apostle Paul as recorded in Galatians 6:9, 10. "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

The test of time has indeed been necessary to prove the saints all down through the Gospel age. For more than 100 years (the Gospel age harvest) it has especially been an important means of developing character in God's consecrated people. The prophet Habakkuk (chapter 2, verse 3) wrote that though the vision would seem to tarry, "it will surely come, it will not tarry." Though at times the path to the goal seems especially narrow and the time unusually long, yet in the final analysis as we look back upon our consecrated walk, the time has swiftly passed by.

No wonder then that Paul wrote "let us not be weary in well doing". It is the tendency among God's people to expect results to our efforts. Indeed the heavenly Father does reward our efforts with blessings beyond description. How often, however, the results are now such that there is no visible evidence. We are assured that in our efforts to proclaim God's plan, his word will not return unto him void but will accomplish that for which it was sent forth. When our efforts seem so small and insignificant to us, let us take note of the fact that primarily these privileges of service were given to us to enable us to develop a character pleasing to the Lord and to prepare us if faithful for the grand and glorious work of blessing all the families of the earth in due time.

When the heavenly Father accepts one's full consecration to die to human hopes and aims and ambitions, he in turn gives back to us all that we have given to him to test us to see how we will use it in his service. We will be tested to see if we can be entrusted with immortality for all eternity. Our real love for the groaning creation and our desire to assist in the work of blessing all the families of the earth will also be tested.

Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 12 that it is the heavenly Father who sets each member in the body of Christ as it pleases him. Each member has his particular part to perform in the body of Christ. While still here in the flesh each prospective member of the body of Christ will have his particular privileges and opportunities of service. All will not be doing the same thing.

It should be an encouragement to each consecrated one to realize that it is not the amount of work that one does in proclaiming the truth, but it is doing whatever the Father has placed within his reach. There should be a constant desire to always use each opportunity as it comes to us. There should be a watchful disposition to look for and seek for opportunities of service.

Actually, the heavenly Father does not need our efforts to accomplish his plan. He gives us so many privileges and opportunities. To make use of the opportunities is an indication that we are interested in the things which are pleasing to the Almighty God. His word is still being sent forth to find one here and one there who will take the place of the one here and one there becoming careless and overcharged with the cares of this world or sinning against the holy spirit and denying the Lord who bought them. This work of testing all the consecrated will continue until the bride has made herself ready.

Let us not be weary in well doing. Let us do good unto all but especially to the household of faith. There is a jingle about doing good which has been a blessing to many. We quote: "Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can, In all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

It is with thankful hearts that we note the blessings from the heavenly Father to his consecrated people still here in the flesh. By means of a co-operative effort by his people, the good news of the kingdom is still going forth world wide. This is by means of truth literature, personal witnessing, magazine advertising, fair booths, radio, television, and the like.

During 1975 over 800 copies of "Studies In The Scriptures" (the six volumes and "Tabernacle Shadows") have been mailed out. Some of these are being used by the brethren, but many are being used by those newly interested in the truth. Many thousands of the magazine edition of the first volume have been distributed by the brethren in various ways.

Activities directed to assisting and upbuilding of the brethren should also be mentioned. Some of these services include printed discourse service, the recorded lecture service, and the Newsletter for Bible Students. These services are indeed building up the brethren in the most holy faith.

January, 1976, will begin the fourth year of broadcasting "The Divine Plan Radio Program". At present the kingdom message goes forth each week world wide over more than 50 stations. As of date more than 150 programs have been recorded.

January will also mark the beginning of the third year since the first "Divine Plan TV Program" was taped. There are now 26 different subjects available on 2" highband tapes in color which are 30 minutes in length. Two subjects are recorded on 3/4" Cassette tapes. Some of the brethren have obtained free time on Cable TV stations.

In addition to "The Divine Plan TV Program" being televised on a few stations from the time it first started on a paid and public service basis, Modern Talking Picture Service, Inc. has obtained time on many stations on a public service basis. For this service Modern is paid a reasonable fee. They estimate that since they started using the programs, as of November 30, 1975, approximately 4,323,600 people have watched "The Divine Plan TV Program".

Each month interesting letters from readers of the truth literature and listeners to "The Divine Plan Programs" are printed. Many of these in turn are reprinted in the Newsletter. Because of this we will only quote from a part of one letter recently received: "Dear Sir: I am 24 years of age. I have requested your 'Divine Plan' book and 'Studies In The Scriptures' ... I listen to you on WHAS and WRBC (I tape WRBC). Please send me 'Where Are the Dead?' and 'The Truth About Hell' and your card listing all the stations you air. Please rush! I can't tell you how much your program means to me and my family. Thank you (the 'truth' seekers) for your material. Keep the truth coming. Sincerely, Tenn. P. S. Enclosed is some cash to aid you in your effort."

Letters like this cause one to humbly bow his heart to the heavenly Father and renew his consecration and determination to do God's will. The radio and television harvest efforts have continued from month to month as a ministry of faith as the heavenly Father and our reigning King have directed. We thank God for his faithful people who are sacrificing their means in proclaiming the truth to others. Even though there are just a few of the consecrated left on this side of the veil, yet these still have marvelous privileges of proclaiming the truth worldwide.

We are reminded of the scripture which reads: "For who hath despised the day of small things?" (Zech. 4:10) A small number of consecrated ones unknown in the eyes of the world for the most part are privileged to let the light and truth shine forth. True, there are not many hearing ears at the present, but we are confident that the Lord's word is accomplishing that for which it is being sent forth. "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

As we enter upon a New Year may we be more determined to be faithful to the Lord, the truth, and the brethren. May we indeed realize that the time is short for the making of our calling and election sure. May we with renewed strength from the Lord and his word of truth endeavor to study the truth daily and share it with others as we have opportunity but especially with the household of faith!

Question #7: “And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and try them as gold is tried.” Who is this third part?

Answer: We cannot know certainly that the Lord was speaking this prophetically of our time. He might have had in mind a certain dealing with Natural Israel. We incline to think that He refers to our time, but we are not certain of that. Some of the prophetic statements seem to apply merely to the time in which they were given, and others seem to have a double application—part application there and part application down here. Now supposing this has application down here to the time of trouble into which we are coming: to which class would it refer there? The prophecy speaks to three different parts; it does not say three equal parts; one of them might be a very numerous class, and the other a very insignificant number, but they are merely divided into three classes. There are different ways in which we might understand that, and all of them in harmony with the Scriptures. For instance, we might say that the first class are those who will be of the very elect; secondly, those who will go into the second death; and thirdly, the Great Company and all mankind who will go into the time of trouble. We can make three classes of them. Or, we might make three classes another way: you might say the little flock, and the Great Company, and the world, and leave out the second death class altogether. Both of these applications would be correct, and in harmony with other Scriptures. Therefore we need not quarrel at all with anyone who takes one or the other view of it. **WHATEVER IS IN HARMONY WITH THE SCRIPTURES WE AGREE HAS A RIGHT TO BE APPLIED.** [Comment: the foregoing sentence by the Pastor is the reason we have for quoting this item.] So this may refer to the world of mankind who will go through the great time of trouble, and to whom the Lord will give a refining influence in that time; that time will wake them up in a wonderful degree and have a very refining influence on them, teaching them a great many lessons which they are unwilling to learn at the present time, just as the Church is being taught many lessons which the world does not receive now. For instance, the Lord represents that those who are His now have certain fiery trials; He represents that He is refining us as gold and silver is refined. That is true of us, and so that great time of trouble will have a refining influence on the world and on the great company also.

(1908 Nashville, Tenn., Convention report, page 57.)