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Contending FOR THE Faith™

FOR THOSE WHO LOVE THE TRUTH AND HATE ERROR

THE SPIRITUAL DANGER CALLED SOCIALISM

Roelf L. Ruffner

Socialism is a deadly ideological virus (i.e., “free stuff”) with which many Americans are becoming infected. The duty of preachers is to warn the flock of any “ism” which can affect the body of Christ (2 Tim. 4:1,2). **“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ”** (Col. 2:8).

Some might wonder, “Why be concerned about this now? Isn’t this just politics?” Yet, this warning involves morality, liberty, and religious freedom. Millions of people have had these rights removed by socialism in other countries.

Pragmatists might say that socialism is wrong because it does not work. While obvious, pragmatism should not be the guide in our Christian life. Socialism is wrong for the Christian because it is anti-God and anti-liberty as we shall see.

A further reason to be concerned is the real possibility that our federal government could become socialist in the next Presidential election. If this happens, the individual Christian and the church will face a dilemma. **“Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men”** (Acts 5:29).

BACKGROUND

Socialism is “a range of economic and social systems characterized by public ownership of the means of produc-

tion and workers’ self-management” (Wikipedia).

This means that under a socialist government the state owns or controls all business, shops, factories, mines, oil wells, farms, utilities, railroads, airlines, etc. In other words, there is little if any private property. Theoretically, the workers run their own places of work or production, but in truth it is government controlled. The goal of socialism is to produce a “workers’ paradise.”

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, 19th Century philosophers, were the fathers of modern-day democratic socialism and communism. Democratic socialism strives to produce the goals of socialism by the ballot box; communism by a proletariat (workers’) revolution and force. The latter is responsible for the death of at least 100 million people in the last one hundred years. The writer Ayn Rand, who had lived part of her life under communism, wrote,

There is no difference between communism and socialism, except the means of achieving the same end. Communism proposes to enslave men by force, Socialism by vote. It is merely the difference between murder and suicide.

Modern socialism has added other concerns to its nefarious agenda: radical environmentalism, social justice, L.B.G.T.Q. (homosexual, etc.) rights, irreligion, income inequality or social leveling, and humanism. The reminds me of the Athenian philosophers Paul encountered, **“For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing”** (Acts 17:21).

SOCIALISM IS BASED ON GREED, ENVY, AND COVETOUSNESS

To finance their utopian dream of an “ideal” society socialism descends into class envy and class warfare. The

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Contending FOR THE Faith™

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Ira Y. Rice, Jr., Founder
August 3, 1917–October 10, 2001

Editorial...

PREACHING THE GOSPEL

Matthew's inspired account of Jesus' great commission to the 11 apostles on a mountain in Galilee reads,

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen (Mat 28:18-20).

Mark's account of the same reads, **"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned"** (Mark 16, 15, 16). And, Luke recorded our Lord's commission in the following words.

Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high (Luke 24:46-49).

Notice what is mention when we consider all three accounts of Christ's commission: 1) preaching, 2) believing, 3) repentance 4) baptism, and 5) remission of sins.

From the foregoing scripture one can understand why Paul wrote to the church in Rome, saying, **"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek"** (Rom. 1:16). Also, it tells us why he penned to the church in Corinth concerning the same.

Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures (1 Cor. 15:1-4).

Of the Samaritans Luke records that the evangelist Philip so preached that: **"...they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women"** (Acts 8:12) Also, to the Ephesian elders Paul declared,

And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more. Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God (Acts 20:25-27).

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imagined enemy of the old socialism was the wealthy class in society or the “plutocrats.” Modern socialism harps on the supposedly greedy “millionaires and billionaires” versus the middle class.

But class envy and class warfare should not be for the Christian. **“A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones”** (Pro.14:30). **“Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings”** (1 Pet. 2:1).

Socialism tries to level the economic playing field and make everyone equal. Their demand of all is, “You have too much and must share!” But who determines who has too much and who is to receive the excess? The socialist! This seems the very definition of envy. Wealth redistribution is theft. The apostle Paul in describing the pagan world of the First Century Roman world wrote, **“Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers”** (Rom. 1:29). Socialists in our day also seem **“full of envy.”**

Socialism must resort to legal plunder or confiscation of wealth by excessive taxation and force—first from the rich and then everyone else. **“He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity”** (Ecc. 5:10). This caused man-made famine in Russia in the 1920s and the 1930s; Red China in the 1950s; North Korea in the 1990s; and continues in present day socialist Venezuela.

The elite in socialist countries end up wealthy and corrupt. **“Trust not in oppression, and become not vain in robbery: if riches increase, set not your heart upon them”** (Psa. 62:10). Winston Churchill once wrote, “Socialism is a philosophy of failure, the creed of ignorance, and the gospel of envy, its inherent virtue is the equal sharing of misery.”

SOCIALISM DESTROYS THE CHRISTIAN WORK ETHIC

The Christian work ethic is the belief that hard work, self-discipline, and frugality with generosity pays off. This ethic is embedded in the New Testament. **“I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive”** (Acts 20:35). **“For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat”** (2 The. 3:10). **“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men. Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ”** (Col. 3:23,24).

Socialism cheats the worker of the fruits of his labor by high taxation with nebulous promises of “free” services from the government—a so-called “workers’ paradise.” But soon

the state runs out of other people’s money and turns to “voluntary” labor (forced labor) spurred on by this false utopian ideal. Margaret Thatcher said, “The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people’s money.”

Socialism gives no incentive to work or to save money. High taxation stifles economic productivity. Why work hard when there is nothing to show for your labor?

Woe unto him that buildeth his house by unrighteousness, and his chambers by wrong; that useth his neighbour’s service without wages, and giveth him not for his work (Jer. 22:13).

SOCIALISM MAKES THE STATE THE CENTER OF ALL THINGS

For the Christian, God is the center of all things. **“For in him we live, and move, and have our being...”** (Acts 17:28). For socialism the state is the center of all things—the utopian dream. Because of their false ideal, socialist governments will not tolerate dissent and they soon build prisons, gulags, and re-education camps. They want to unify humanity by force. But man’s plans for unity without God ultimately fail. **“And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth”** (Gen. 11:4—Tower of Babel). Only Christ and His Gospel brings true unity (Gal. 3:28; 1 Cor. 1:10).

For socialism the individual means little, the state and its goals mean everything. They feign concern for the poor and downtrodden, but the individual is actually viewed as a means to an end—the utopian ideal. The communist dictator Joseph Stalin once said, “Death is the solution to all problems. No man—no problem.”

Yet, Biblical Christianity views the individual as important. So important that God sent His only Begotten Son to die for each one of us (John 3:16).

Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows (Mat. 10:29-31).

CONTRARY TO WHAT SOME SAY, THE BIBLE DOES NOT TEACH SOCIALISM

In the Bible free market enterprise, when done honestly, is portrayed positively. For example, the patriarch Abraham is portrayed as an honest businessman whom God had blessed. Samuel the prophet warned ancient Israel of monarchs who would try to control their lives (cf. 1 Sam. 8:11-13). Private property rights were recognized and respected. **“Remove not the ancient landmarks, which thy fathers have set”** (Pro. 22:28). Yet, the wealthy who misused their wealth were condemned. For example, in Jesus’ Parable of the Rich Fool, God declared to the covetous and miserly rich

man,

Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God (Luke 12:20,21).

Jesus was not a socialist. For example, He did not advocate the redistribution of wealth.

And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me. And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you? And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth (Luke 12:13-15).

In the Parable of the Talents, Jesus praised the wise investment of money (Mat. 25:20,21). The Parable of the Good Samaritan portrayed aid given to a robbed and wounded man as a voluntary benevolent act rather than government aid (Luke 10:34,35). And, in the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard, Jesus showed private property and voluntary contracts in a positive light (Mat. 20:13-15).

The young church of Christ did not practice socialism as some erroneously claim. In Acts chapter 4, the church in Jerusalem faced a unique situation. Many Jews had come great distances for the observance of the Passover. After their conversion in Acts chapter 2, they stayed to learn more at the feet of the apostles and eventually ran out of money. The

church did not require those who had lands to sell them and give the funds to the church to help these brethren. Christian giving has never been compulsory, but voluntary. **“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver” (2 Cor. 9:7).**

CONCLUSION

It is obvious that socialism is diametrically opposed to New Testament Christianity. This evil must be preached and taught against as brethren in the past taught against the evils of communism. Man-made schemes and ideologies do not free humanity from the bondage of sin. Only the Gospel of Jesus Christ can bring freedom from sin and the promise of a better life in this world and eternal life in the next. **“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed” (John 8:36).**

END NOTES

- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socialism> as of January 23, 2020.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i9EXnVitkmo> as of January 23, 2020.
- https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Main_Page as of January 23,2020

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To the young gospel preacher Timothy he exhorted, **“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also” (2 Tim. 2:2).** Thus, the Lord’s church is to be found always proclaiming and defending the gospel of Christ (1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim. 4:1-5; Jude 3; 1 Pet. 3:15). As the old spiritual song reminds the church: *Into our hands the gospel is given. Into our hands is given the light! Haste, let us carry God’s precious message, guiding the erring back to the right.* So we must actively engage in the same. Indeed, for God’s children who truly love the Lord, His gospel, and souls lost in sin, it is not only an obligation we have to discharge to God, but a privilege unspeakable that our Lord has charged us to be a part of saving souls.

On page 5 in this issue of *CFTF*, we have written of the great work that brother Benard Ooko Kagaga is doing in Kenya, East Africa for the Lord. He and those who work with him are exemplary in their dedication to the Lord’s New Testament as the final infallible standard in all things spiritual and moral. Brother Benard labors night and day to preach the soul-saving gospel and defend the same against false teachers in and out of the Lord’s church. Indeed, he too is not ashamed of the gospel. We therefore, are pleading with our readers to prayerfully and seriously consider financially

supporting Brother Benard in his work for the Lord in Kenya. In this day of apostasy, it is good to find the faithful few who continue in and asking for the Old Paths as they preach Christ and Him crucified to a sin blackened world (1 Cor. 2:2).

CAN YOU SPARE FIVE, TEN, TWENTY DOLLARS OR MORE ONCE A MONTH TO HELP SUPPORT BROTHER BENARD IN HIS WORK FOR THE LORD?



The Spring Church of Christ, Spring, TX is engaged in receiving and overseeing the distribution of funds for brother Benard’s work. If all those who read this paper would decide to give at least \$10.00 a month, it would go a long way toward not only supporting brother Benard, but all others who are involved in his efforts to preach the gospel, defend the same, and train others to preach and defend the Word of Truth.

If you are willing to help in preaching the truth to the lost and build up the church in Kenya, please send your contributions to: **Attn: The Elders, Spring Church of Christ, P.O. Box 39, Spring, TX 77383.** Please keep brother Benard, his family, the other preachers who work with him, the church, and the school in Kenya in your prayers. Thank you for considering this request.



**Benard Kagaga,
Faithful Gospel Preacher**

PLEASE HELP
FINANCIALY SUPPORT
BENARD KAGAGA IN HIS
EFFORTS TO PREACH AND
DEFEND THE GOSPEL IN KA-
LAMINDI AND SURROUND-
ING REGIONS IN KENYA,
EAST AFRICA



**Brother Benard and
Sister Dorothy Kagaga**

INTRODUCING BROTHER BENARD OOKO KAGAGA

[Brother Kagaga and his work for the Lord are known to many of our readers. However, others do not know him or of his faithful work for the Lord in the nation of Kenya, East Africa, his native country. So we are glad that we can provide the following biographical sketch and other information about him personally and about his work for the Lord, all of which was compiled by him for us.—Editor]

I am Benard Ooko Kagaga and I am married to Dorothy Kagaga. We have six children (four biological) Margaret Lintz [20], Wayne Duren Kagaga [18], Sandy Ruth Kagaga [10], Nadine Akinyi Kagaga [9], and two adopted children, Elvis Otieno Okumu [21], and Mark Okinyi Onyango [20].

I was taught the soul saving Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by brother Wayne David Duren of East Pointe Church of Christ, Alabama. I was taught through World Bible School Correspondence courses until brother Benard was convinced that truth is totally different from error. In 1994, I accepted the saving Gospel of our Lord and was baptized into Christ for the remission of my sins. After that, I studied further with the late brother Ken Chumbley and James D. Cox who helped me to get more understanding of the truth. Coming out of denominationalism without a proper understanding of the Word of God was a big problem.

My father was a polygamist. This is not unusual in Africa. My father had four wives, thirty six children—twenty seven sons, all of whom were members of the Roman Catholic Church. As you may or may not know, Roman Catholics do not teach Biblical moral living. But, even if they do, teaching a moral

life without belief and obedience to the gospel and living as the New Testament teaches is useless.

I was converted from Roman Catholicism. Brethren, tracts are powerful teaching tools and I made up my mind to become a Christian on the day I received a tract titled “You Can Be A Christian Without Joining Any Denomination.” That was around May 1994 when I decided to be baptized into Christ.

From the time of my baptism in 1994, I started teaching people the truth, but it was not easy on me for many did not understand me. They thought I was only talking about their denominations. They, therefore, told me that I am a devil worshiper but, I did not turn my back on the pure Gospel of Christ, for I knew what I was doing.

This teaching continued till 2001 when I planted the congregation in our place. At that time, a local Roman Catholic teacher allowed me to teach in a local Roman Catholic building. That was when I set a religious fire through my teaching of the gospel, This lasted only two weeks and the Catholics ran away from that building, saying that another denomination was starting there.

From that group, I took eight unbaptized people who accepted the truth I was teaching. We worshipped in that building for two years before the Catholics came back. In fact during that time they said all they could say but I was not scared for I knew what was said to the apostle Paul, **“we desire to hear from you what you think; for concerning this sect, we know that it is spoken against everywhere”** (Acts 28:22). Our place

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was within that “everywhere.” Later on, I started baptizing the people who came out of Roman Catholicism, but I only baptized six of them, for two were polygamists. So, counting Dorothy and me, the church numbered eight. At that time, no member of my father’s family was a Christian.

I started teaching in homes where I was welcomed. There was a slow response, but I did not care about that, for I knew what the Lord told Ezekiel,

For they are impudent children and stiffhearted. I do send thee unto them; and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD. And they, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they are a rebellious house,) yet shall know that there hath been a prophet [preacher] among them (Eze. 2:4-5).

I encouraged the new converts to follow me in the truth, but it was not easy because of the denominational pressure on us. Nevertheless, we evangelized the area, holding small meetings, but with very few responses. However, God was with us. Some came and were converted to Christ. Thus, through that effort God blessed us and we started planting new congregations in the area. In fact, we have planted several congregations, but as you know, with limited resources our efforts are also limited. Also, we have not had enough time to visit with these congregations for the purpose building them up in the faith.

Further, we have also had to deal with liberal elements in the church from America, such as Abilene Christian University. It has been the source of various doctrinal problems in some of the churches in Kenya. Thus, they took several congregations we had planted into apostasy.

[In standing for the truth of the gospel brother Benard has opposed other errors in Western Kenya. He has had a significant role in keeping various false doctrines out of the churches and helping the preachers in Western Kenya remain doctrinally sound. They are aware the error of “elder reevaluation/reaffirmation,” Dave Miller’s refusal to repent of said matters, the preaching in Kenya of “anti-ism” by the “anti” preacher Keith Sharp from America, and others of that stripe. Also, they recognize the errors coming out of Bear Valley Bible Institute that operates a school at Kisumu near Ndhiwa. They are also aware of the false doctrine permitting family members to continue engaging in acts of fellowship with their own fleshly family members who as erring members of the church, in having refused to repent of their sin(s), have had the fellowship of the church withdrawn from them. To date brother Benard has worked sacrificially in keeping the church in Western Kenya faithful to the Lord in all things.—Editor]

Brother Benard continues:

At present, there are about twenty-eight sound congregations planted through the work of the Kalamindi church of Christ, my home congregation. We thank God the Father for that and give Him all the glory. These congregations are within Nyanza province, Western Province, Nairobi

province, and Rift valley province. As we continue to work with these congregations, we also work to establish others.

We also have a radio program on one of the FM radio stations. I present two sermons weekly for one hour each (Thursday and Sunday). The cost for one hour is Ksh. 1200. Therefore one full month will cost \$100.00 U. S. to continue the radio work. This has helped us reach millions of people at one time and will give us time to get more contacts with different people in different locations. It also helps us to fight the on-going liberalism and denominationalism in defending the truth (Phil. 1:17).

A further example of brother Benard’s work for the Lord is seen in his work report for 2019. He wrote that there were:

1. 61 Baptisms
2. 113 Restorations
3. 4 churches planted in
 - a. Chebara.
 - b. Mhobola
 - c. Nchoro
 - d. Kipseonoi
4. Four boxes of Swahili Bibles, nine boxes of Luo Bibles, two boxes of Kalenjin Bibles, four boxes of Gusii bibles, and 1900 Swahili song books were distributed.

Kalamindi School of Preaching Ndhiwa, Kenya

Brother Benard began the Kalamindi School of Preaching at Ndhiwa in 2008. In December of 2019 the school graduated 9 preacher students. As is the case with his evangelistic efforts, there are those who seek to thwart the training of brethren to be sound in the faith in life and doctrine. This is the case in the Rift Valley, where most of the congregations with which he works are located.

Some of these churches have been influenced by the liberal Nairobi Great Commission school, a school heavily influenced by Abilene Christian University (ACU). Thus, it has all of the “ear marks” of apostasy that are found in apostate congregations in America. Fundamentally, it teaches its students the “social gospel.” In investigating the school’s supporters, besides ACU, one finds such liberals (those whose doctrines loose people from what the Word of God binds on them) as Nashville, Tennessee’s Brentwood Hills, Stillwater, Oklahoma’s Stillwater Church on N. Duck Street, and *Helping Hands International* organization, to name some of them. However, through brother Benard’s efforts some churches have repented and returned to the “Old Paths” of primitive, pure, New Testament Christianity.

The following was brother Benard’s planned 2020 schedule for conducting Kalamindi School of Preaching. From it we can see that he planned for a busy year. Two other faithful brethren, Veroon and Richard, keep the school op-

erating decently and in order when brother Benard is away preaching and evangelizing.

However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic the following schedule had to be suspended. Brother Benard tells us that for the present all their work has ceased. He stated that Nairobi county, Mombasa county, Kilifi county, and Kwale county are locked down. But the rest of the country is under curfew, no movement from 7 PM to 5 AM. We wanted our readers to see how busy brother Benard and those faithful brethren who work with him normally are so we included the following original schedule for the school before the Covid-19 pandemic caused it to be suspended.

2020 SCHOOL OF PREACHING SCHEDULE

MONTHS	CONGREGATIONS
January 4th – 26th 3rd – 5th 24th – 26th	School classes (Preacher Boys) Chebara church of Christ Statiani church of Christ
February 7th – 9th 28th- 1st	Ndisi church of Christ Namwacha church of Christ
March 6th – 8th 27th – 29th	Chamegel church of Christ Muramba church of Christ
April 7th -24th	School classes (Preacher Boys)

17th – 19th	Nchoro church of Christ
May 15th – 17th 29th – 31st	TMSOP preachers retreat Port Victoria church of Christ
June 12th – 14th 26th – 28th	Nguku church of Christ Chebunyo church of Christ
July 10th – 26th 17th – 19th 3rd -5th	School classes (Preacher Boys) Magunga church of Christ Namasanda church of Christ
August 21st – 23rd 28th – 30th	Muhuru Bay church of Christ Tingolo church of Christ
September 25th – 27th 11th – 13th	Kamato church of Christ Bemiant church of Christ
October 9th – 23rd 16th -18th	School classes (Preacher Boys) Openda church of Christ
November 6th – 8th	Malele church of Christ
December 4th – 6th	Kalamindi church of Christ

Brother Benard’s address is:

**Benard Ooko Kagaga,
PO Box 192-40302
Ndhiwa Kenya**



A BIBLE CLASS BEING CONDUCTED AT THE KALAMINDI SCHOOL OF PREACHING

IF YOU WANT THINGS DONE, GET A BUSY MAN

Benard Kagaga

A busy man usually has enough ability and willingness to go further than many in accomplishing his assigned work. The Lord knew that if you want to get the work done, get a man who is already busy to do it.

Moses was a busy man: God knew the potential in him while he was already shepherding the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, **“Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb”** (Exo. 3:1). He gave him the task he was capable of doing, to deliver his people out of Egyptian slavery and he did it.

Gideon was a busy man. **“...Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress...”** (Jud. 6:11). Because of this God called him to the task of protecting the nation of Israel (v. 29-39). After seeing his potential work **“Then the men of Israel said unto Gideon, Rule thou over us, both thou, and thy son, and thy son’s son also: for thou hast delivered us from the hand of Midian”** (Jud. 8:23). But Gideon knew very well that it was not by his power alone that he had delivered Israel, but it was God who deserved the credit. Thus, he said, **“...unto them, I will not rule over you, neither shall my son rule over you: the LORD shall rule over you.”** (Jud. 8:23). **“Thus was Midian subdued before the children of Israel, so that they lifted up their heads no more. And the country was in quietness forty years in the days of Gideon”** (Jud. 8:28).

David was a busy man: he was taking care of his father’s sheep. **“Saul sent messengers unto Jesse, and said, Send me David thy son, which is with the sheep”** (1 Sam. 16:19). And later he performed the work God assigned him. After killing the Philistine, the women of Israel **“...answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands”** (1 Sam. 18:7).

Elisha was a busy man, plowing with two dozen oxen. **“Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen”** (1 Kin. 19:19). He proved his capability of taking on the task God assigned him.

Elijah said unto Elisha, Tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Bethel. And Elisha said unto him, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they went down to Bethel...Elijah said unto him, Elisha, tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Jericho. And he said, As the

LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they came to Jericho (2 Kin 2:2, 4).

Peter and Andrew were busy men in the fishing business on the Seas of Galilee. **“And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers”** (Mat. 4:18). If you want to get the work done, get a man to do it who is already busy. The Lord knew that Peter would do it.

Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words...that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ...Then...Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins (Acts 2:14, 36b, 38)

James and John were busy men in the fishing business on Galilee. **“And going on from thence, he [Jesus] saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them”** (Mat. 4:21) saying, **“...from henceforth thou shalt catch men”** (Luke 5:10). And they did the work.

Paul was a busy man. With great zeal, **“but not according to knowledge”** (Rom. 10:2b), he persecuted the church of our Lord (Acts 8:1ff.), but God turned his heart **“upside down”** (Acts 17:6). It is written that, **“we [Paul included] were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we [Paul included] speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts”** (1 The. 2:4). So Paul performed the task of preaching **“...the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek”** (Rom. 1:16).

Folks, Christianity is not and never has been a religion for “Do Naughts,” but it is for those who want to work the works of the Lord. **“For 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). Are you too busy to come to the church of Christ (Mat. 16:18-19; Rom. 16:16)? The Lord’s church is earnestly asking for an opportunity to be of service to you in meeting the greatest of all issues, that of human destiny. So, **“...come thou with us, and we will do thee good: for the LORD hath spoken good concerning”** (Num. 10:29) His church (1 Cor. 15:24).

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