

Banner

"You have set up a banner for those who fear you, that it may be displayed because of truth." Psalm 60:4



*"Pleasing God,
Making Disciples
of
Jesus Christ"*

A COMMUNICATION MINISTRY OF QUIDNESSETT BAPTIST CHURCH

I know you are busy. That's part of the reason for a short newsletter. The other part is I am busy too, but just give me a second. Quick question-how much alone time did you get this past week? Yes, alone time. Just you with no demands, schedules, and roles screaming non-stop for your attention. Okay, I rolled my eyes too envisioning not a few of you whispering, "Come on, Jim. Alone time? What world do you live in? Walk in my shoes for just a day!" Well, I do! May not be the same size but it's the same shoe!

The world goes to great length to draw a person away from alone time. The accurate and familiar term "rat race" defines the western lifestyle. Personally, I find it demeaning to wear the label of that rodent,

but what he runs fits me quite well. Are you a fellow runner, reluctantly I may add, in the rat race? I thought so!

As important as alone time is, another form of alone time is far more significant. This one determines the real quality of my life and

"As important as alone time is, another form is more significant."

the influence I have on those around me, believer and non-believer. It is alone time with Him, the discipline of coming apart from the "rat race" for real communion with the Lord Jesus to receive refreshment of soul to run the real race (I COR. 9:24-27).

So, sit back and enjoy THE BANNER. In this issue, the emphasis is help in juggling the many demands in the world and the continuance of the series on depression focusing on the theme of right thinking. Be challenged and encouraged!

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The Quidnessett BANNER

GOSPEL GLIMPSES

He couldn't keep it inside any longer, "Hey, did you hear what happened?" His friend replied, "No, what's up?" As quick as his first statement came the second, "A man named Jesus is healing people. Remember that old leper that lived way outside of town? He went right up to Jesus and got healed! We need to get over there and check this thing out!"

Off they went and many others. Luke writes, *But now even more the report about Him went abroad, and great crowds gathered to hear Him and to be healed of their infirmities* (LUKE 5:15).

Likely one of my biggest understatement is about to occur. Here it is. Jesus ministered to people. No marvelous new revelation for sure,

but don't toss THE BANNER out and give up. After all, it is free!

Think about the statement - Jesus ministered to people. Now think about the results. Word spread like wildfire and "great crowds" gathered or in the latest Jim paraphrase, "increased demands for attention and ministry pressured Jesus."

When we minister in the power of God's Spirit through the Word, people respond and personal ministry demands increase. Nothing rivals the joy of seeing people respond to Biblical ministry, but as demands increase, what are we to do? For many, it is increased activity and what often gets lost is intimacy with the Lord who is ministry. Luke shows us how Jesus responded to these demands upon Him - *But He would withdraw to desolate places to pray* (LUKE 5:16). Our

Lord sought refreshment in communion with His Father as His ministry unfolded, basically, alone time with God.

Fellow laborer? When demands scream what do we do? Increase commitment or communion? Martin Luther said, "I have so much to do today, I must spend the first three hours in prayer." I am not saying we must arise at 3:00 a.m. and by mid-afternoon find ourselves dragging and ineffective, but Luther's point in principle is important. Demands may rule and discipleship, personal discipleship, at the feet of the Master may suffer. Be cautious that life does not become so full of ministry that we are not ministered to by the Lord Himself. Dry wells offer not water to thirsting souls.

May we follow our Lord's lead when juggling great demands!

THE PASTOR'S PEN

A familiar and challenging verse to motivate and direct the Christian's devotional life is PSALM 46:10 - *Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.* This requires an "amen" for being still before our God is the path toward intimacy with Him. You want to know God? Be still before Him. You just want to know about God? Don't be still and just stay busy for Him. The difference needs no explanation. Personal experience explains enough!

I mentioned in the opening the motivation this verse provides for the devotional life. Did you notice I slipped in the word "challenging" along with it? A required addition for sure. How often have you sat down with an open Bible, an open heart, and a sincere prayer like this, "Father, I long to be still before you

and know you." A great intention and in line with the scripture. Yet, not long, maybe seconds, the stillness is broken with an assorted array of distracting thoughts. Many good, some not so good. Here lies the challenge for the hungry Christian who wants to know God and to be still before Him.

PSALM 131 also speaks of a stillness before God but with a different twist. In PSALM 46:10, we are commanded to be still, but in PSALM 131 no command is issued. Instead this PSALM reveals personal responsibility without a direct command from God, self-initiated with an implied desire to know God.

Three things from PSALM 131 help us to learn to pull in for a pit stop from the "rat race" in order to "be still, and know God".

First and foremost must be true humility. David appeals to God not himself - *O Lord, my heart is not*

lifted up; my eyes are not raised up high (PSALM 131:1a). He starts with God. Bold and real is the disciple who lets God be the judge of his humble state of soul, not self, other, or an external standard of conduct. He seeks God and will be rewarded with His presence.

Secondly, to be still demands leaving the secret things of God just that - in secret - *I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me* (PSALM 131:1b). Want to lose or never gain intimacy with God? Here is just one way. Lie awake trying to figure out election and personal responsibility instead of simply letting God be God in these matters.

Finally, realize being still before God is a process - *But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child* (PSALM 131:2).

Until next time, may we be about the process!



DOWN BUT NOT OUT

Wayne Mack
P & R Publishing
Paperback, 253 pages

Wayne Mack gives the believer in Jesus Christ a timely book of-fering good and solid instruction for those “down and out”.

A glance at the three groupings in the table of contents serves as an ample invitation to obtain this book and ponder its Biblical truth.

- Part 1: Worry: Public Enemy Number One
- Part 2: Spiritual Burnout: Rekindling the Flame
- Part 3: Other Problems That Knock You Down

In a troubled age, Mack writes with compassion and conviction to Christians enslaved by circumstances which engulf them with debilitating emotions and skewed perspectives about how God deals with His children

QUOTABLE QUOTE

“The most important thing in life is to live your life for something more important than your life .”

WILLIAM JAMES

Caution! You are entering a required

WALKING WITH THE MASTER

reading zone. You must read **MARK 10:17-22** in advance of this article! See you in five minutes. Okay, ready?

The rich young man offers a lot for us to admire. Right out of the gate, he rightly assesses Jesus as “*Good Teacher*” (Mark 10:17b). He also must be applauded for his sense of priorities prompting the inquiry about eternal life (Mark 10:17c). There is no question about the man when it comes to the important issues of life—obedience to God, eternal life, and priorities.

Yes, the rich young man displays desire for the right things and appears committed to the desire. Yet, something just doesn’t sit right. One senses underneath the surface an obstacle. It is an obstruction revealed by the One knowing the

depths of the soul, *Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: (Mark 10:21).*

Competing desires. In this incident the desire struggling against the call of Jesus is a clinging to the possessions of a temporal world. Jesus would have no part of competing desires in the rich young man. Ever so close yet so far away and like today, many non-believers set out to “find Jesus” only to fall short when His call begins with a stripping away of strong competing desires.

And don’t let this rest solely on the unbeliever’s shoulders. We too, who claim to know Christ, must fight the battle of competing desires. Let us fight to keep our desires one!

DID YOU KNOW?



The American Civil War saw remarkable movements of God, and little-known facts about Christianity make fascinating reading. Did you know?

- Major revivals broke out in the Civil War armies. In the Union Army, between 100,000 and 200,000 soldiers were converted; among Confederate forces, approximately 150,000 troops converted to Christ. Perhaps 10 percent of all Civil War soldiers experienced conversions during the conflict.
- Millions of tracts were distributed to soldiers during the war. The U.S. Christian Commission alone distributed 30 million tracts, including many through a young agent named Dwight L. Moody.
- Abraham Lincoln, though he knew the Bible thoroughly and spoke often of an Almighty God, was never baptized and was the only United States president never to join a church.
- During the war, a chaplain asked a severely wounded youth if he was a Christian. The soldier grasped, “Yes.” The chaplain said, “Then you have nothing to fear,” and left to die the future Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes.
- E.M. Bounds, now famous for such books as *Power through Prayer*, served as a Confederate chaplain and was captured by Union forces at the Battle of Franklin.

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QBC HAPPENINGS

NOVEMBER 2007

- Voice of the Martyrs will present their ministry *Friday, November 9th*
- Young at Heart luncheon will be held *Tuesday, November 13th*
- AWANA harvest party will be held *Wednesday, November 14th*
- QBC annual Thanksgiving Service will be held *Thanksgiving Day from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.*
- Men's Fellowship will be held *Tuesday, November 27th*

DECEMBER 2007

- Young at Heart Christmas Dinner and program will be held *Tuesday, December 11th*
- No Men's Fellowship this month due to Christmas
- QBC Christmas Musical will be held *Sunday evening December 16th*

THE QUIDNESSETT

Banner

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