

LESSON TWO
ON
PERSONAL WORK

WHY BE A PERSONAL WORKER?

INTRODUCTION

Before we begin a study of "Why be a Personal Worker" it might be well to have a look at the "what" of the "personal worker." What is the "personal worker" any way, and of what do we speak as we make use of the term? In using the term "personal worker," are we creating a new 'office' in the church? We dare not create a new 'office' within the framework of the church for all the "organism" necessary for the work of the church in its various functions is set forth in the New Testament. You should read Ephesians 4:11, 12 in this connection. What do we mean then by the term "personal worker?" Some thoughts:

1. THE "WHAT" OF THE PERSONAL WORKER

1. He is the Christian at work as an individual among individuals. The work he does:
 1. He is a teacher of individuals, instructing individuals personally instead of in groups.
 2. He tellsthem of the Christ and instructs them in the Lord's terms of salvation.
 3. He is a Christian who does what he can in leading those of his world to a full understanding and complete obedience to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

2. THE LIFE OF THE PERSONAL WORKER

1. "That ye ~~may~~ be blameless and harmless, the sons of God,
2. Wihtout rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation,
3. Among whom ye shine as lights in the world;
4. Holding forth the word of life..." Philippians 2:15, 16

3. SOME REASONS WHY WE SHOULD BE PERSONAL WORKERS

1. The duty and responsibility placed upon me by the great commission.
 1. When Christ gave the great commission to the apostles he placed upon every one baptized the duty and obligation of teaching others. Acts 8:4
 2. We cannot carry out this order of the Lord unless we do some personal work. The command is to carry Christ's gospel to every creature, to "disciple" all nations. This cannot be done: (See Matt. 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15, 16)
 1. By pulpit preaching alone, nor by preachers alone. It becomes the obligation of all.
 2. By the mere building of meeting houses with the limited invitation, "You all come!"
2. To be like Christ
 1. Jesus said:
 1. "It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master,
 2. And the servant as his Lord." Matt. 10:25
 2. Jesus had no obsession for great congregations, as an end in itself.
 3. He did have a passion for souls whether one alone or in a mass of people.
 1. Much of the work of Jesus was done on the individual basis.
 4. Christians are called to follow in the steps of Jesus. In 1 Peter 2:21 we read, "For even hereunto were ye called: becasue Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that we should follow his steps."
 5. One cannot be like Christ and follow in his steps, who has no concern for the lost nor does anything for them.

3. It enables us to express a right and holy impulse of the soul.

1. It is a normal impulse with one right with God to want to bring others to Christ. One's impulse to do this is often smothered by the dead indifference among the older members of the church.

3. SOME REASONS WHY WE SHOULD BE PERSONAL WORKERS, Continued:

4. To be like the primitive church. To follow the primitive patten:

1. Each member must be prepared to speak the word wherever he goes.
2. He must be prepared to teach the individuals where he lives and works.
3. Being prepared to speak, he must not be content until he has spoken.
Read Acts 8:1-5 and Acts 11:19

5. For spiritual self-preservation

1. The inactive man backslides. Inactivity is the genesis of backsliding.
2. Some one said that, "The most prolific source of apostasy is fruitlessness."
3. Jesus may have had that in mind when in John 15:8 he said, "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."
4. Example:
 1. The man of one talent was not condemned because of immorality or positive wrong-doing. He was condemned because he did nothing; he produced nothing when he could have produced something. Matt. 25:24-30

6. It is the greatest work that one can do for another.

1. It is the responsibility of Christians to feed the hungry and clothe the naked, but:
 1. The greatest service any man can ever render to another is that of bringing him to Christ.
 2. Of what value is the material services rendered to another if his soul is lost. See Matt. 12:26 and Mark 8:36

7. Because of the joy that it brings to the soul-winner.

1. Of all the services we might render, the fact that we helped some one turn to the Lord brings the greatest joy of all.
2. In 3 John 4 John said, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."
3. In active members, do-nothing members, never enjoy their religion. They are the first ones to begin murmuring.

8. 8. God's desire to have all men saved.

1. Are you still unconvinced as to the duty, responsibility, and the necessity of individuals working? Then consider these last reasons:
 1. 1 Tim. 2:4; "Who will have all men to be saved, and come unto the knowledge of the truth."
 2. 2 Pet. 3:9; "...Not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."
2. How God brings individuals to the truth:
 1. He can bring them only as we (Christians) act as the medium through which the word of truth is taught.
 2. God does not give us any responsibility or duty beyond our ability to fulfil. See Ephesians 3:20 and Philippians 2:13

THOUGHT FOR THIS LESSON

"Faithfulness according to ability" is the Lord's principle of reckoning, not "Success according to greatness." -Hailey

NOTE: Many of the thoughts used in this lesson were gleaned from Hailey's good book, LET'S GO FISHING FOR MEN. I think no one would deny that the great need in the church today is for more fishermen: Fishers of men.