

Retired Members Corner



EVEN SO, COME LORD JESUS

There are two ways to get to the top of an oak tree. One way is to sit on an acorn and wait. The other is to climb it. We are instructed to be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord (1 Cor 15 v 58). Are you just sitting around, passing the time, going through the same daily routine of breakfast, lunch, tea, supper, bed, watching television in between times or are you abounding in the work of the Lord?

How can someone who has been retired for twenty or more years be still abounding in the Lord's work? It's not easy if your joints are cracking, your eyes are misty, your ears are plugged and you get breathless with the least exertion. You write a letter, address the envelope, put a stamp on it, walk to the letterbox and back and you feel you've done a good day's work.

I've found the answer is to keep moving, both physically and spiritually. Sit about all day and eventually all your joints will seize up and you will have difficulty even standing up. You will find climbing up stairs impossible. I run up and down the stairs for exercise and I'm probably older than most of you readers. When God had some work for His servant to do His first command was often "Arise and go..." Age is no barrier. God said to Moses "Go.... (Exod 3 v 16) and Moses was 80. (In case anyone accuses me of not practicing what I preach, I was practically 82 when speaking in the most recent of my many visits to Kenya).

Disobedience to the Word of God will result in spiritual inactivity. They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. (Is 40 v 31).

How do we keep climbing higher up the spiritual ladder? There are at least **four** things we should keep doing. **Firstly**, we should keep obeying God's Word. To obey is better than sacrifice. God has greater regard for obedience to His Word rather than whatever offering you might make. God's Word is faithful and true. Obedience to God's Word not only involves the Ten Commandments and the love of one's neighbour but also following the Lord's direction. Jonah was directed to go to Nineveh. He went in the opposite direction, down to Joppa, down to a ship, down

into the ship, down to the bottom of the mountains in the sea. Refusing to obey the Lord can set you off down a slippery slope into spiritual coldness.

Secondly, keep working. We have each been given talents and how we use our talents will determine the reward we receive in heaven. There are two very similar parables which Jesus told on this subject, in Matt 25 v 14-29 and Luke 19 v 12-27. We are told to occupy till He comes. This has nothing to do with the latest gambit of Occupying Cities by anti-capitalists. Jesus expects us to keep doing the Lord's work. What can a retired member do? Perhaps you could write encouraging letters to missionaries that have gone out from your church. Recently I sent a letter of encouragement to a church in Nairobi following a Bible study I'd just completed. Why not write an article for **Retired Members Corner**? Don't leave things for someone else - you do it. God has given you a talent, use it.

Thirdly, keep witnessing. When you were working in the Civil Service you witnessed for Him by virtue of your membership of the CSCU. You went to meetings at lunch time in your office and your colleagues enquired as to what went on there. This gave you an opportunity to tell them you were studying the Bible and praying for them and that they would be very welcome to attend also. You can still witness, perhaps to your home help, your next door neighbour or in a care home. The Lord will give you an opportunity if you ask Him and He will give you a word in season. Jesus told His disciples to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. You are His ambassadors and His witnesses until He calls you home.

Fourthly, keep watching. I'm not waiting for the Lord's return; I'm watching (and listening) for it. I'm expecting to hear the trump of God (1 Thess 4 v 16) and to rise up to meet Him in the air at any time. I believe all that has been prophesied to happen before His return for His own has been fulfilled. Not all share my belief. The last words of the Revelation of Jesus Christ to John, His servant, are Surely I come quickly (Rev 22 v 20). I try to make sure that I'm not anywhere or doing anything that would be dishonouring to His name when that trump sounds.

Let us resolve to keep obeying His Word, keep working for Him, keep witnessing and keep watching for His appearing until He comes or calls. Don't sit on that acorn, get climbing. Even so, come Lord Jesus.