

## HEY, GOT A MINUTE?

Isn't it amazing that so many people have so many time saving devices and tools at their disposal, and yet can't find time to do the things that are the most important? Of course, some people do find the time to faithfully serve the Lord while others just can't seem to make it to the services, Bible studies and other assemblies, much less have time for personal study of the word and teaching others. The fact is, every one of us have just exactly the same amount of time each week. Every week, no matter where you work, what kind of job you have, if you are married or not, how many children you have to take care of or any thing else that makes one person different from another, has seven days. And, every one of those days have twenty-four hours, no matter who you are. Those hours are all sixty minutes long and each of those minutes are a total of sixty seconds long. So, why the difference?

The key to the whole topic is what we do with our time, not how much we have. Obviously, one who has a house full of children will not have as much spare time as someone with no children, but there is still a certain amount of prioritizing that one can make. Certain things are just more important than other things. Certainly no one would be so bold as to suggest television watching, social media avenues or other such time consuming things should trump assembling with the saints for worship or Bible study.

Certainly there are exceptions, but in this age it seems obvious that most people find the time to do what they really want to do. If this is truly the case, then the only conclusion one can come to when faced with one who fails to assemble, study and such is that they do not really want to. The story has been told about the woman, who following the preacher preaching about attendance said to him, "Did I understand you correctly? Did you say that if we did not attend Sunday night services we would go to hell?" His answer was, "No, I said that if you didn't love the Lord you would go to hell, and that if you loved the Lord you would be at Sunday night services". As the little story indicates, it's really all about how much one loves the Lord.

There are all kinds of little ways of doing the work of the Lord that really do not take much time at all. Phone calls, cards sent, an invitation given and other such things take very little time, but could end in someone being saved. So how about it, do you have a minute? If you do, use it wisely.

*Tilis*

## THE PARABLE OF THE LITTLE POOL

Once upon a time there was a little pool of water. It existed because a small stream flowed through a meadow with a low place within. Water had gathered in the low place resulting in a small pool with clear and clean water, refreshing to the traveler whether man or beast. The glory of God was manifest in the manifold and magnificent array of life that had sprang up in and around this small pool of water.

But, then one day a mighty tempest felled a great oak that stood some distance up stream from the pool. It blocked the stream causing the waters to seek an easier rout. The water trickled here and yon until it cut another pathway to its destination, which altogether detoured the low place in the meadow. The little pool no longer had water flowing into it. Rain would occasionally replenish the water that seepage and evaporation stole, but generally the pool sat still as death.

It was not long before the water lost its quality of cleanness and clearness. It soon became stagnant and green scum covered its surface. There was still some life there, but mostly those that relished in deterioration and decay. As time continued, it grew thick with vegetation and the decomposition of such gradually filled in the low place so that no longer did water collect there. The little pool ceased to exist altogether, all because the water ceased to move, it simply sat still.

The Lord's church is a beauty to behold and the glory of God is certainly manifest in the beautiful life that exist within her. The many activities are as the butterflies and dragonflies that catch the eye of the weary traveler, announcing the existence of the refreshing waters of a small pool of water.

But, just as the waters of a small pool, the church can cease to move and she will become stagnant. No longer will she be productive in her efforts to attract the pilgrims of life, that she can provide the "living waters" of salvation. She will at best appear as a quagmire of slow moving, decay loving life forms that may indeed have a short time left before their demise. And indeed, she (any local congregation) may be en-route to obscurity.

(Author Unknown)

The lesson of this parable is that the church in any given location must be actively involved in the work of the Lord or she will become weaker and weaker and eventually die away. Let's get the water stirred up and moving here at Clinton! (RCO)