

THE HARVEST

Lesson 6 - Self-Discipline Is Required (Nehemiah 4:23)

I. THE WORK OF GOD MUST BE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN OUR LIVES.

A. A Man's Character Is Shown By How He Takes Charge Of His Own Life.

1. Paul had a need on a daily basis to "keep under my body, and bring it under subjection, lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." I Cor 9:27
2. We cannot afford to be distracted from our purpose and mission by yielding to the desires of the flesh.

B. Self-Denial Is Required. Matt 16:24

1. The two things that are required by a soldier are submission to authority and self-discipline.
2. Self-denial is putting Christ in first place instead of self.
3. We must remain dead to self so that we might constantly know the power of his life.

C. We Must Discipline Our Mind.

1. How we think determines our performance.
2. We have the Spirit of God dwelling within us.
 - a. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. Phil 4:13
 - b. Because of His Spirit, we have power to witness, to cast out demons, to overcome sin, to pull down strongholds of the devil, and to see miracles.

LESSONS DEVELOPED FROM
ONE WORLD, ONE CHURCH, ONE VISION,
ONE GOD, By Kenneth F. Haney

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3. Vision always finds new things to do.
4. The mind can never be chained.
 - a. John Bunyan was shut up in jail so he would not preach the gospel, but there he wrote Pilgrim's Progress.
 - b. Apostle Paul wrote many of his letters as a prisoner in Rome.

D. We Must Journey From The Vision To Its Fulfillment.

1. There is a Gethsemane and a Calvary in reaching the Kingdom of God.
2. To reach the Promised Land, Israel had to face the Red Sea.
3. Joseph's vision of his brothers bowing down to him did not include the pit, the foreign land, the lies, and the prison.
4. The apostles all suffered persecution.
5. Yet Christ has no hands but yours today.

II. WE MUST HAVE A LOVE ONE FOR ANOTHER. I COR 13:7-8

A. The Highest Plateau In God's Kingdom Is To Love As God Loved.

1. It is the new commandment. John 13:34
2. Everything else that we might do for Christ (i.e. miracles, giving) is cancelled out if we do not have love. I Cor 13:1-3
3. We cannot accomplish God's vision and purpose with fighting, schism, and strife in the assembly.

B. God Gives Pastors To The Church. Eph 4:11

1. Pastors encourage love one for another among the saints.
2. They help keep the focus and bring unity to the body.

C. We Must Be Accountable To Our Brethren As Well As To God.

1. If I do something that would jeopardize my walk with God, please sound

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- the alarm.
2. I am my brother's keeper.
 3. We are ultimately accountable unto God.

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