

Phil 1: 19

SUBJECT: The Ministers
of the Church

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Chil. 1:19

THE MINISTER'S PLEA FOR HIS CHURCH

The work of the minister: his assignment outside the region of human power.

(1) To be God's messenger for the quickening of the dead, the saving of the lost. How can he do it? Helpless even before a little child. He can do nothing, except Spirit of God be with him thru the prayers of the people.

(2) Sent to bring spiritual food to a multitude. - takes the loaves, fishes, feeds thousands. Can bring with him compassion. How can he do it? Cannot, apart from divine help.

Apart from God, the enterprise of the X^y minister only worthy of ridicule. As much beyond him as of fog - to find sun, moon with one - to light up new stars - turn Sadness into joyous flowers.
of Paul II Cor. 2:16 "who is sufficient?"
apart from God, of all men most insufficient.

The prayer, hope, desire of the true X^y minister, the model church
~~(a) to be, "The Model Church."~~

Paul here so optimistic about his ministry

1:12, 13 in prison, praetorian guard

1:14, brethren waving confident

2:24, soon to be free to visit them

But even the apostle Paul did not expect these great blessings apart from the ordinary methods and visitations of grace. 1:19

- "these prayers, supply..." everything which happened would look for something, success of gospel
- "..." evil transformed into good
- "..." alchemy, heaven, transmute basest metal of darkest part.
- "..." his own safety: "scholarship"

I. The Prayers of the People

1. Does not ask for their prayers so much as assumes that he is already being blessed strengthened by them.

1:20 "reporter" great results from the prayers of the people
1:25 "confident" ... & his ministry to furtherance ... helped around in the divine life.

Some ministers so disheartened by barren results
hope to see converted, come... do not respond

Some ministers so discouraged by their people
disappointed - some conclude as, leave, disengage
sad - never hear their people's loving intercession

weak - not prayed for, words fall to the ground

unsuccessful - not borne to the throne & plan, never built.

unhappy - not in affection of their people.

What the people can do

(a) How to get rid of your pastor.

this glorious church

(a) Rockefeller, Euclid Ave. Ch. Cleveland, Ohio. "Can you be more?" "Yes." "What fails to move you?" "I move my people."

The difference, is love and prayer.

Paul realized the prayers of the heart of the saints.

(2) Spurgeon to a friend: "Some day" when you get the
ear of the great King, would you call my name?
Paul the greatest of the apostles, yet felt he could not
do without the intercession of the great apostle at Philippi.
1. 5 (Thess. 5:25)

Sydney - his household, servants
Family of 10 souls

Quaker, Synagogue, Church - most of them greatly
persons of no great social standing in the eyes of the world,
yet Paul valued their supplications above all price.

(a) after, came to Dallas Palace Theatre. Out the front, the
little aged lady in black - warm day. To the nursery
room - wanted to see her father - poor, could do nothing, but
pray.

10 pray - aged, youth, children, sleepless sufferers...
- most effective spiritual agency in existence
almost omnipotent. Th. 11.

II. The Supply of The Spirit

"Spirit of Jesus" - represents Christ in the earth Jn. 14:16, 17,
15:26, 16:7-14

A preacher may save souls without being learned (ed. useful)
"But the man" that is really without the Spirit of Jesus. (attainment)
may give life, yet meaning.

We want more than anything else to have the
gospel preached with power. Souls saved... goes to the heart
much preaching utterly powerless.

Lack of fulness, general decay, dying process, Nervous.
Embarrassment, mind on the man. examples drive out - church
turn to other things.

The church filled with the moving Spirit.
(c) "The Model Church."

How to Get Rid of Your Pastor

EDITOR THE CHRISTIAN CENTURY:

SIR: What is the use of going to the trouble of writing a letter when you can get someone else to do it for you and do it a lot better? Letting someone else do it better, is what is known in the trade as "executive ability." This week I am a Big Executive, and it feels good.

The following was written by Bishop Gerald Kennedy of the Methodist Church in Los Angeles. It is "writ sarcastic." It takes the skin off the cantankerous croakers who are found occasionally (understatement) in some churches. This episcopal wisdom was revealed to the world by Religious News Service. Bishop Kennedy is giving a formula to enable a congregation to get rid of an unwanted pastor. Here goes:

"1. Look the preacher straight in the eye when he is preaching and say Amen once in a while. He will preach himself to death in a few weeks.

"2. Pat him on the back and brag about his good points. He will work himself to death.

"3. Start paying him a living wage. He has probably been on starvation wages so long he will eat himself to death.

"4. Rededicate your life to Christ and ask the preacher to give you a job to do. He will be so surprised he will probably die of heart failure.

"5. Get the church to unite in prayer for the preacher. He will become so effective some larger church will take him off your hands."

Thus Bishop Kennedy. If this formula were really tried, the result would be that the preacher would be able to pack such a wallop that the congregation would not let him go for love or money, or for love of money.

Dare you to try it!

Yours,

SIMEON STYLITES.