

CHOOSING A LIFE OF MINISTRY

ENCOURAGING YOUNG SAINTS TO FAITHFUL SERVICE

"No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier"

~ 2 Timothy 2:4

1. Called to Serve

- a. Ministry takes work. It began with Christ, continues with the Spirit – Eph 2:8-9
- b. Saved are called to service, already recruited - Eph 2:10, 4:1, 2 Tim 1:8
- c. You are already called, but you choose to fulfil it – Col 4:17, Phi 1:29
- d. You may have the wrong idea of what it means to choose a life of ministry.

2. To the Young

- a. Speaking especially to you, why? (*not because I'm ageist*)
- b. Supposed to start when you are young. Ministry can take time. Eph 5:16
- c. (*Note to the 'not young': it's not too late to start, you have not missed the boat*)
- d. You are trying to find your identity (who you are to be) – Rom 6:3, Eph 5:1
- e. You have liberty to make many choices with your time – Gal 5:13
- f. You are looking for what you should do (career vs. calling) – earn vs. give

3. Same Old Objections

- a. *"I'm too young"* *"ministry is for the old"* – 1Ti 4:12, Ti 1:4-6
- b. *"I am not spiritual"* – Rom 8:9, Eph 1:13 (spirituality requires a choice now)
- c. *"I don't know enough / Not as good as..."* – Rom 1:15 - you choose to go to class.
 - i. Before you play a single game – you practice.
- d. *"I want to experience life/ money/ travel"* – you think ministry forbids this? (monks)
 - i. It is about what you love – 2 Tim 4:10, 1 Tim 6:10
- e. *"I don't want to be locked in"* – like your salvation? You are already – Rom 14:12

4. Ministry Description

- a. Learn eternal truths that change people's lives now.
- b. Learn diverse subjects global politics, economics, science, language, culture, history
- c. Engage in the biggest problems in the world (sin, salvation)
- d. See real results in people: help the hurting, ignorant, confused, spiritual needs.
- e. Involved in the biggest moments of life – marry, bury, births, and belief.
- f. Exhort people to make real life changing choices, change their mind, be transformed.
- g. Speak truthfully without fear of being wrong (Bible) or politically correct
- h. See souls saved, saints edified; build the church of God, repair its weak bricks.
- i. Learn to rejoice in the Lord and have his love, joy, peace, power, goodness, grace
- j. See the biggest ROI (return on investment) in history of investments.
- k. To show others to be rich, you must first be rich – 2 Tim 2:6
- l. Breadth (subjects), length (eternal), depth (soul), height (heavenly glory) – Eph 3:18
- m. Negatives – thankless, people think you are no earthly good, suffer, friendships

5. Making the Choice

- a. What does it look like to make the choice?
- b. I am not saying, "be a pastor" → we need saints to be faithful – 1 Cor 4:1-2, 2Ti 2:2
 - i. We need saints who choose to stand, hold fast, commit
 - ii. We need saints who will work to understand, defend, support.
 - iii. We need gatekeepers and an intelligent jury to reprove, correct, restore
 - iv. We need skilled saints at spiritual discernment who won't live for themselves
 - v. We need saints to grow up in Christ, walk after Spirit, shew yourself approved
- c. You have a calling very few can fulfill – to make all men see – Eph 3:9
 - i. Be engaged, get involved, consider what you can do, and do that.
 - ii. Challenge yourself to the uncomfortable – for Christ's sake. 2Co 5:14, 2Ti 2:4
 - iii. Make it known. Ask questions. Find a seat. Find time. Find work and do it.
 - iv. Many jobs, live many places, own many vehicles – but only one life to give.
 - v. Every generation has those who stand, stand against, and those that sleep
- d. Make the choice while you can: join the fight, get in ranks, prepare to battle. Sign up.