

# From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

## DO IT YOURSELF

Text: "Work Out Your Own Salvation With Fear and Trembling; for God is at Work in You, Both to Will and to Work for his Good Pleasure." Phil. 2:12,13.

There are areas in which human beings must follow Paul's injunction to work out their own salvation.

First, see how this applies to the value and our use of the Bible. There may be a billion copies of Scripture, but unless you take hold of one of them, and sit down to read its pages, as far as you are concerned it is a closed book. This is especially the emphasis in the Protestant church.



REV. D. M. CLARK

There is no merit in what someone else may do in your behalf. You must do it yourself.

Second, it is true of worship--You must do it yourself. There is nothing about sitting in a pew that lifts or blesses. It is when a person gives his attentions to God, shares in the praying, listens carefully to Scripture, opens his heart to lovely music, attentively absorbs the sermon, yields his spirit to God--only then does he worship.

Symbolism, choir, organ, minister--they are helpless without the cooperation of the individual who sits in the pew. We might well inscribe over the doorway or the chancel of the church these words placed above the proscenium of a theater: "You yourself must set flame to the fagots you have brought."

Third, it is true of your praying. God leaves a wide margin for us to answer our own prayers. Well may one believe that "more things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of," but in large measure its ministry is the giving of light and leading and courage to "do it yourself."

Of course, there are times when the thing for which we pray is utterly beyond anything we can do, and we must expectantly leave it with God; but we must not mistake the instances in which the prayer himself is a tool in God's hands.

Lastly, it is true of our religious experience as we try to make it real and effective. We want it the easy way. Turn a crank, pull a lever, push a button, take a pill--then sit back and wait. We go to the doctor and we cooperate if he gives us a treatment or even if he advises an operation--that is if he will do it for us. But to get a prescription filled, then remember to use the medicine as indicated; to respect his suggestions about a diet and follow it faithfully; to take time and effort for the exercises or play or recreation or rest which he suggests--in other words, to do it ourselves--that is too much! But how often is that the most important part of it. Someone has said that we are afflicted with "spectatoritis." On grandstands, in theater seats and slouched before TVs, we get our recreation and diversion by proxy.

Religious experience is something more than what a preacher or teacher or friend can do for us. You must do it yourself. We must go to the trouble to read and ponder, we must really take time to be alone with God and learn the hard way to pray; we must stir out of our comfort and join in Christian fellowship and worship, we must labor for money and watch it leave our hands as we invest it in God's work. Our Christian faith is not magic. It is not a formula you can utter or a wand which somebody can wave over you.

Out of his rich faith and experiences in Christ the Apostle Paul declared that God "is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think" (Eph. 3:20). That we can bank upon. But the same Paul also said, "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." Do it yourself! But cheer up! We shall not be pulling at our bootstraps. Paul continues, "for God is at work in you."



# GO to the CHURCH of YOUR CHOICE



**DEADLINE** for church news and photographs is Friday noon preceding the next Thursday publication date at the Rev. Mr. Clark's home, 1676 N. 'E' St., telephone 642-1560. All items submitted must be accompanied by the sender's name, address and telephone number.

### BAPTIST

**GRACE EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Rev. C.L. Alexander, 384-7413  
815 Bartlett, Vegas Hts.

**ST. PETER BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Rev. Leo A. Johnson, 642-2559  
"C" & Washington Sts., Las Vegas

**BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Rev. I. W. Wilson, 382-2632  
400 Adams Ave., Las Vegas

**CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Rev. M. Carroll  
712 W. Owens Ave., Las Vegas

**ST. JAMES BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Rev. J. L. Simmons, 382-2748  
311 Madison Ave., Las Vegas

**SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Rev. V. C. L. Coleman, 384-3131  
1209 N. "E" St., Las Vegas

**EVERGREEN BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Rev. A. B. Carr, 382-5682  
1113 N. "H" St., Las Vegas

**NEW JERUSALEM BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Rev. F. N. Addison  
"D" & Jefferson Sts., Las Vegas

**GREATER FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Rev. P. S. Walker, 384-1248  
Balzar St., Vegas Hts.

**PLEASANT GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Rev. J. L. Kemp, 642-5708  
1189 Hassell St., Vegas Hts.

**PILGRIM REST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Rev. E. C. Kline, 382-7263  
101 N. "A" St., Las Vegas

**VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Rev. A. J. Thompson, 642-4001  
1305 N. "E" St., Las Vegas

### CATHOLIC

**ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Msgr. W. J. Devlin, 382-9953  
"H" & Morgan Sts., Las Vegas

Sunday Mass--11 a.m. and 5 p.m.  
Week Day Mass--7:30 p.m. each evening  
Confession--Saturday 4 and 7:30 p.m.

### CHURCH of GOD in CHRIST

**UPPER ROOM C. of G. in C.**  
Bishop C. C. Cox, 385-1541  
1117 N. "F" St., Las Vegas

**POWERHOUSE C. of G. in C.**  
Supt. J. W. Logan, 382-6187  
1216 Adams Ave., Las Vegas

**MOST HIGH C. of G. in C.**  
Eld. J. Washington, 642-5675  
Henderson

**PROGRESSIVE C. of G. in C.**  
Eld. Jos. Prudhomme, 642-5556  
1155 Lawry Ave., Vegas Hts.

**LIGHTHOUSE C. of G. in C.**  
Eld. Willie Rawls, 384-5539  
E. Sahara Ave., Fourmyle

**PRAYER HOUSE C. of G. in C.**  
Eld. W. M. Shaw, 382-1743  
Blankenship St., Vegas Hts.

(All Churches of God in Christ)

Tuesday 8 pm - - - - - Bible Band  
Wednesday 8 pm - - - - - \*Young People  
Friday 8 pm - - - - - Consecration  
Sunday 10 am - - - - - Sunday School  
Sunday 12 m - - - - - Morning Service  
Sunday 6:30 pm - - - - - YPW  
Sunday 8 pm - - - - - Evening Worship  
\*Progressive - - - - - Inspirational

### METHODIST

**ZION METHODIST CHURCH**  
Rev. M. D. Bennett, 382-9900  
911 N. "G" St., Las Vegas

### PENTECOSTAL

**PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS CHURCH**  
Eld. Hosea Coleman, 642-8741  
Bartlett & Lexington Sts., Vegas Hts.



**BISHOP COX HONORED**--Prominent church people from throughout Nevada helped Bishop C. C. Cox, state prelate of Churches of God in Christ celebrate his 22nd anniversary at Upper Room Church here recently. Shown during week-long observance preceded by State Chorus musicale are (from left) Rev. V.C.L. Coleman, Second Baptist Church pastor, who delivered anniversary sermon; Bishop Cox, and Bishop E. N. Webb, assistant state prelate of Churches of God in Christ from Reno, who conducted services.

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