

# From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

## DIFFERING GIFTS

Text: "The Gifts We Possess Differ As They Are Allotted to Us by God's Grace, and Must Be Exercised Accordingly." Rom. 12:6.

THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY that any two people are exactly alike, not even so-called identical twins. We are beginning to acquire some knowledge of chromosomes and genes which by the laws of heredity carry our potential persons and personalities. They tell us that no two of us are the same in our basic makeup. If identical twins seem to be an exception, these too will develop differences because of their differing environments. Yet, it must be said that within the wide scope of our differences we have many likenesses which belong to our common humanity.



REV. D. M. CLARK

It is an element of our likeness that God has given each of us some gift or talent. It is an element of our difference that these gifts differ. Concerning these differing gifts our text puts us in touch with certain truths.

"The gifts we possess are allotted to us by God's grace."

Each one of us, sometime or other, becomes aware of something which is far beyond his ability or endowment to do. Even though "You never can tell till you try" one man knows that he cannot write a poem, though the bridge he is building may be a veritable poem in steel. Another knows that he can write a poem, but he knows, too, that building a bridge is beyond his wildest dream.

Our gifts are allotted to us. What might be called the raw abilities of a man are not self-acquired. They have been given to him and should never be the occasion for his pride. Rather they should be a reason for his humility and thanksgiving to God for this allotment of his grace.

"The gifts we possess... must be exercised accordingly." A gift can be accepted or rejected. Nonacceptance is rejection. The talent which is not used is lost.

No one will ever know the loss for the individual, the church, the nation, even for the world, that comes from an unused talent. Suppose that Shakespeare had not used his talent, or Michelangelo, or Beethoven! What tremendous losses to persons and communities by the non-use or the misuse of even the more ordinary gifts of the hand and the heart and the mind.

Our gifts must be exercised accordingly. Paul goes to pains to elaborate on this. He says, for example, "If our gift is preaching, let us preach to the limit of our vision; if it is teaching, let us give all that we have to our teaching". Or as he writes to the Christians at Corinth, "Each man is given his gift by the Spirit that he may make the most of it."

DIFFERING GIFTS EMPHASIZE the fact of our human interdependence. Paul applies this idea to the Christian church. Both here in Romans and in his letter to Corinth he uses the figure of different organs in one body: A body is not a single organ, but many; there are many different organs, but one body.

Our differing gifts with our sense of interdependence should breed in us that warmth of mutual affection of which Paul writes. Acknowledging God as the source of all our gifts, we can be thankful for God's goodness to us. The careful comparison of my gift with your gift which is the spawning ground of envy is thrust aside, for the mutual rejoicing in one another's gifts and the warm Christian affection which results.

By the appreciation of our gifts as allotted to us by the grace of God, by exercising them accordingly, and by the warm relationship of our Christian interdependence, a radiant spirit-



## Church Directory

DEADLINE for church news and photos is Friday noon preceding the next Thursday publication date at the Rev. Clark's home, 1676 North 'E' St., phone 642-1560. All items submitted must be accompanied by the sender's name, address and (if available) phone number.

### 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

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

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

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

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

(All Churches of God in Christ)

Bible Band: Tuesday, 8 pm  
\*Young People: Wednesday, 8 pm  
Consecration: Friday, 8 pm  
Sunday School: Sunday, 10 am  
Morning Service: Sunday, 12 noon  
YPW: Sunday, 8 pm  
(\*Inspirational at Progressive)

### METHODIST

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

### PENTECOSTAL

CHURCH of the LORD JESUS  
Eld. Hosea Coleman, 642-8741  
1260 Bartlett St., Vegas Heights

ual glow suffuses our lives to the Giver with the joy of him who having received five talents from his master returned unto him ten. Note that he received his master's commendation and reward.

What then are your gifts? It was many years ago that I said a word of thanks to a woman who was washing dishes after a young people's party at the church, and I remember her today with a peculiar warmth of feeling because of her reply. "I have a gift for drudgery." That being so she kept her spiritual glow by using her gift in the service of the Lord.

God has given some few people great talents. Many of us have few and rather ordinary gifts. They are gifts in the use of our hands to help others, or in use of our feet to go on errands of love and mercy, or in the use of our lips to say the right word at the right time. Some have a gift in themselves. They send others away inspired and happier and better simply by being themselves. There are also the gifts of faith and prayer which are of great use when consecrated to God's service; useful to God, useful to others.

When you use your gifts, remember that they are God-given. If you keep this in mind, it will be difficult not to use those gifts to further God's glory.

### BAPTIST

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH  
Rev. I. W. Wilson, 382-2632  
C & Washington Sts., Las Vegas

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### CATHOLIC

ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH  
Mgr. William J. Devlin, 382-9953  
704 W. McWilliams Ave., Las Vegas

Sunday Masses: 11 am and 5 pm  
Weekday Masses: 7:30 am; Saturday, 9 am  
Holyday Masses: 9:30 am and 7:30 pm  
Confessions: Saturday, 4-4:30 and 7:30-8 pm  
Adult Classes: Monday and Friday, 7:30 pm  
Child Classes: Monday, 4-5 pm; Saturday, 9-10:30 am  
Rosary: Daily, 7:30 pm except Sundays