

From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

WHILE IT IS DAY

Text: "I Must Work the Works of Him That Sent Me, While It Is Day: the Night Cometh, When No Man Can Work." John 9:4.

A Sense of Purpose. "I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day." Observe the clear and definite sense of purpose. There was no standing still in idleness, no wandering around in circles, no groping about in shadows. The path is plain and the light is clear. I must get on with that today.

Observe further how the purpose had its setting in the will of God, who had appointed his task. He was not free to go out into the world to amuse himself or to look for power or distinction for himself. Nor was he carried here and there by winds and tides of chance or fate. He was sent to do a work for God. He was on an errand. Something was to be delivered. Something was to be finished before his work was done, and he must do it while the strength and opportunity remained.

A Sense of Urgency. And notice how the motive was reinforced by a sense of the limits that are set for all human toll. While it is day. While there is breath in our bodies and light in our eyes; while as our pulse beats we can see and listen and think and learn and serve; so long and no longer, for the night cometh, when no man can work.

Today soon becomes yesterday. Only a few hours of darkness lie between now and then. But what a difference! Yesterday is good for lessons that experience yields. Yesterday is good for memories and joys that never fade. It was yesterday that we saw our fathers and mothers and heard their voices. Yesterday is precious. But yesterday is like a strong box that can never be opened to deposit a single unfinished deed. Today is the time, the only time, to get things done.

Here was a clear and simple sense of mission, to do the work of God. That made it noble. While it is day. That made it urgent. In this spirit let us all meet this new day.

A Sense of Mission. Boys and girls, young men and women, in schools and colleges can reflect with advantage on the words of our text. The work is assigned when the term begins; books to be read, papers to be written. It is early in the day, and night cometh when no man can work. But the day goes quickly.

You have probably been reminded and sometimes warned that your scholastic record has a great deal to do with the opportunities that lie ahead. But I would like to tie your effort to a higher motive. You are sons and daughters of God. You are preparing yourself to go out into God's world to do some worthy work for Him. And whether you are preparing to be a doctor, a farmer, a teacher, a housewife, a minister, or a businessman, God needs you at your best.

So also for others, a few years older, entering the business or professional world. There are always uncertainties and apprehensions in the early days about your fitness for your work, and its fitness for you. I suppose the ideal work and the ideal person never met each other as a hand fits into a glove. But never underestimate either your opportunity, or the powers with which you have been supplied. A stable in Bethlehem was surely an unlikely place for the birth of the Son of God, and a carpenter's home in a tiny village the least promising of surroundings, and the twelve disciples would have made a peculiar board of directors, but this Galilean did the greatest work that any man has ever done on earth, clearly, steadily, joyfully, while it was day.

So wherever you are tomorrow morning, you have found your work and it has found you, and behind and within these factors is the hand of



REV. D. M. CLARK



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.

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(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

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Rev. M. D. Bennett, 382-9900
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Providence that guides your steps and supplies your powers. The sun is rising, but it rises only in the morning hour. In the afternoon it goes down. And you must work the works of Him that sent you while it is day.

This morning, however, we are assembled as fellow members of the Christian Church, and whatever our Lord considered His work to be, he has entrusted to our hands. He has sent us. He said so. "As the Father hath sent Me, even so send I you."

How far? To the ends of the earth. We have a share in the work of teaching and healing, the work of reconstruction and reconciliation, the ministry of our Church to those whom we have not seen. But in our imagination we see them--little children in a far-off school, learning in their own language of the love of God, of the new attitude and outlook and hope and joy of those who walk in the footsteps of Jesus Christ.

And we have work to do among those whom we can see, whose voices and pleas we can hear, although here also we need to let our imaginations move about our neighborhood as we read again the words of Christ.

Our industries, hospitals, schools, and colleges have been fashioned by men and women who put their lives into their work while it was day. But is not the work of Christ an even greater work than these? The Church must stand in all its noble strength, its hand outstretched to help, its heart beating with compassions, for the glory of God. That is the work entrusted to us, while it is day. And here and there will be people once looked down upon and brushed aside, who can say simply and gladly: "One thing I know, that whereas I was blind, now I see."

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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

PENTECOSTAL

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