

From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

TRADING WINGS FOR WORMS

Text: "Watch Ye Therefore, for Ye Know Not the Day nor the Hour When the Son of Man Cometh."

LUTHER BURBANK was fond of the following parable: Once upon a time there was a young skylark soaring with his father. The father skylark was telling the young bird what fine birds skylarks were. Skylarks could fly higher and sing more sweetly than any other bird. But the young skylark wasn't paying too much attention to his father. With one ear he was listening to a man walking far below on earth crying "Earthworms for sale! Earthworms for sale! And that young skylark loved earthworms. He flew down to the man and inquired, "How many worms for a single skylark feather?" "Two worms for a single feather!" replied the man. The skylark plucked out two feathers from his wings and traded them for four earthworms. And for 50 consecutive days he traded two wing feathers for four earthworms. Finally, on the 50th day when he tried to lift his wings and fly off to join his father high in the air, he found he could not fly. He was tied to earth and finally died. So after that, all the skylarks gathered each spring around the foolish skylark's grave and the elder skylark told them the story of the foolish little skylark who had traded his wings for worms.

I propose to discuss Christian Stewardship with the thesis that as "stewards of time," most people are forever "Trading Wings for Worms."

In the first place we trade wings for worms by compromising values. We continually live beneath our vision of life's highest purposes. Every minister is frequently asked which recreational pursuits and habits are right and wrong for the Christian. While these questions are important and must be faced by every earnest Christian, they do not constitute the prime Christian problem. The issue for the Christian steward is not whether a thing is right or wrong, but what will be left undone that is of so much more importance. Am I using my time to the very best advantage? "Watch ye therefore" that no compromise is made with lesser values, which seem so reasonable in the beginning but are so deadly in the end.

Secondly, we trade wings for worms by neglecting the renewal of life in communion with God. So many people have time for everything under the sun except to attend Church and attend to the matter of their souls. A lady once remarked in my hearing that she played cards on Saturday evening until after midnight. Yet she is too busy and too tired to attend the services of the Church on Sunday morning. She works all week and Sunday is the only time she has to herself. THAT'S TRADING WINGS FOR WORMS!

THERE ARE INDIVIDUALS and whole families that spend from 3 to 10 hours in movie theaters each week who are "too busy" to attend Church or go to Sunday School. THAT'S TRADING WINGS FOR WORMS! There are men who loaf on the streets one day out of seven, but who are "too busy" to share Church activities and responsibilities. THAT'S TRADING WINGS FOR WORMS! The Christian steward will be ever watchful that his time is spent for the things which are of enduring value. Being children of God, redeemed by the sacrifice of Christ, we need to worship on the first day of the week



REV. D. M. CLARK



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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.

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

NEW MORNING STAR BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. A. B. Carr, 382-5682
505 1/2 Jackson 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

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
2029 Travis St., Las Vegas

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

CARVER PARK C. of G. in C.
Eld. C. Parson 642-3967
Carver Park Adm. Bldg., Henderson

ST. PAUL C. of G. in C.
Eld. Coruth Hall, 649-1523
301 N. D St., Las Vegas

(All Churches of God in Christ)

Bible Band: Tuesday, 8 pm
Young People: Wednesday, 8 pm
Consecration: Friday, 8 pm
Sunday School: Sunday, 9:45 am
Morning Service: Sunday, 12 noon
YPWW: Sunday, 6:30 pm

CATHOLIC

ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH
Msgr. 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

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

Ministers, Please Note!

WE ARE REVISING our Church Directory in order to add churches not now included and to up-date information on churches listed above. We would appreciate all ministers in this area with predominantly colored congregations to assist us in this endeavor. If your church is not listed above, please let us have the DENOMINATION of the church, the NAME of the church, the NAME of the pastor, a PHONE NUMBER where the pastor may be reached, and the ADDRESS of the church. If your church is incorrectly or incompletely listed in any of these respects, please send the necessary changes or additions to: Las Vegas VOICE, 958 West Owens Ave., Las Vegas, Nev. Thank you.

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as an expression of our loving, eternal gratitude. We need to look unto the hills from whence cometh our help. Our help cometh from the Lord God Almighty.

Thirdly, we trade wings for worms by failing to see and seize opportunities for service to God's Kingdom. Opportunities come and pass, unseen and unseized. We spend too much of our time doing the little and unimportant things that clutter our lives. Life is too short and too precious to be wasted in futile and meaningless effort. We need to identify our lives with an all encompassing effort that captivates our very being. It's beneath the dignity of the Christian to engage in sordid activity. There is noble and ennobling work to be done.

The Apostle Paul used 30 years of his time to establish churches all over the Mediterranean world. Dwight L. Moody in his life-time prepared and delivered more than 30,000 sermons. Jesus Christ used 3 brief years to turn the world upside down for God. "Watch ye therefore" lest great opportunities for service pass you by and your life is lived as an idle tale. The Christian steward lives on tip-toe, alert and eager for life's higher possibilities.