

From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

OUR PARTNERSHIP with GOD

Text: "Stir Up the Gift of God Which Is in Thee." (II Timothy 1:16)

THE OCCASION which gives birth to our text is a tender and touching scene in the life of the great "Campaigner for Christ." Paul is a prisoner in Rome awaiting execution. He is writing to his close and dear friend, Timothy. The letter is dominated by the thought that he stands near the end of his life; that the campaign he has been waging for Christ is at an end. The letter is much like that which a father would write to his son bequeathing him his business. The great, old Apostle, whose life is rich in service rendered to the Lord whom he loves, commits his work to the younger Timothy and the younger Timothy and sketches for him the kind of leader he would have him be.

Paul pleads with Timothy to "stir up the gift of God which is in thee." Timothy was frightened and felt himself incompetent as he compared his abilities with those of Paul. He felt that he could not fill Paul's shoes as preacher, teacher and shepherd of the flock of Christ's followers. Paul knows that Timothy holds him high honor. He knows that Timothy loves and respects him. He tells Timothy that he is not expected to do the work exactly as he had done it. God did not expect him to use talents which he did not possess. He was asking only that Timothy use the powers God had entrusted to him. He said to Timothy, "Stir up the gift of God which is in THEE." That gift included the will and determination and the ability to discipline and train himself for his own peculiar ministry. That gift he is not to neglect.

The most significant fact of human personality is the special talent or gift with which a person is endowed. It is this endowment that renders a person capable of making a definite and distinctive contribution to society. It is this endowment that brings satisfaction and growth in living. The responsibility of the Christian steward is to discover his special gift, develop it to its greatest capacity, and use it not only for his own good but in service to his God.

SOME MEN are endowed with great talent. Most men, however, are blessed with smaller abilities. Different people have different talents covering the whole range of human activities and needs--healing, teaching, preaching, farming, science, labor and so on.

From our study of the Parable of the Talents, it is clear that Jesus knew and taught that men differ in abilities. There is a whole panorama of gifts. It is equally apparent that no man is without some special talent.

In the building of a cathedral, one man draws the plans, another builds; some quarry the stone, others come and fit those stones into place; some build the organ, others compose its music; some design and create magnificent stained glass windows, others keep them clean; some put the massive doors into place, others build the road to the door. But every man has a special ability, some unique capacity essential to the completion of the building.

Then, too, this much is clear--all are servants of God. Each one is bidden to consecrate the talent or talents entrusted to him, and to show that although we vary in our capacities, faithfulness in the performance of our trust is equally required of all. The equalities of men lie not in gifts, but in responsibility proportionate to the gift. Also, God distributes his love in equal portion to the five-talent man and to the two-talent man and to the one-talent man, provided all are faithful.

ON SEVERAL occasions I have been privileged to hear a great symphony orchestra render Handel's Messiah. I was fascinated to watch where each instrument was introduced. Here



REV. D. M. CLARK



GO to the CHURCH of YOUR CHOICE

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

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

the violins spin the thread of the melody. The harpist, tense and anxious, plucks one chord at exactly the right moment, then sits back all aglow. The musician with the big, winding horn suddenly sits up alertly on the edge of his chair, puts the mouthpiece to his lips and produces just one, mighty "oomp," then relaxes with sheer radiance lighting his face.

It is apparent that a player's value to the overall production depends not so much on how big a part he has but upon how well he plays his note in the score. The one-talent man is one note of the symphony, but his failure can play havoc on a keyboard. There are no minor parts in the symphony of life! Each person, entering life's performance at a given time, adds his share to the melody of the whole. Those who fail to play their proper part only serve to make discord in the eternal plan. The Great Conductor knows how necessary every instrument is to life's symphony.

The real tragedy in life is not that our talents are few, but that we do not use the ones we have. The one-talent man in the Parable failed, not because he had only one talent, but because he was afraid to venture with what he had.

Be sure you do not miss YOUR note in life's symphony, insignificant as it may seem. "Stir up the gift of God which is in thee!"

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.