

Ye Did Run Well

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian church

Galatians 5:7-8, "Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you."

I have seen so many people through the years who have grown cold in their walk with God. If not cold, then definitely cool and not as interested as they once were. Why? Paul, in his letter to the Galatians, wondered why because it also happened in his day.

Discouraged perhaps? That happens to all of us at some point in our lives. I have been discouraged to the point that I nearly gave up. So-called friends can turn on you, desert you, and lie about you and leave you hurting and alone. That is when you find out that you are not alone - the Lord will not forsake you. We can get by without false friends, but we could not get along without the Lord. Keep the faith and you will find that the bad times don't last. God will send the help that is needed.

People will find fault with your efforts to serve

the Lord. Maybe they didn't like something that you said, or your stand on the word of God. When this happens we need to stop and look at what is going on. Was there a misunderstanding, and yes, it can happen. If they didn't like what the bible says, then pray for them and continue to stand on the truth of God's Word. Remember not all of the people liked what Jesus said. Some got angry at him, they told lies about him and wanted to kill him. It should not be a surprise that they will feel the same about his followers. And besides this, who are we trying to please? If serving God is not our first aim then we are wasting our time. A person once told me that if we made people mad then we weren't doing the Lord's will. I don't want to make people angry, but if folks get angry at the word of God I can't help it. If you read the gospels you will find that Jesus told them God's word and they got so angry that they tried to stone him, and another time they wanted to cast him down a cliff. Was he doing the will of God in telling them the truth of God's word? You had better believe it, for he was not here to make people happy, but to tell them the truth.

Some folks don't serve God as they used to do

for they have been lured away by the pleasures of the world. Satan offers fun and pleasures of the flesh to keep people from following the Lord. We are called to serve the Lord, not to live for the flesh. Just as children had rather play than to do chores, or to work, a lot of grown-ups are the same. It is easier to go after the things that cater to the flesh than to labor for the Lord. Jesus said, "Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" **Mark 8:34-37**. There is a time to rest and a time to work. God has called us to serve him in this present life and it is not just the minister that is to work for the Lord.

All of us are called to witness, to pray, and to visit the sick. There is no excuse for our not doing it. If you read Matthew 25:31-46 you will see that God requires that we do what we can. He never asks us to do something that we are not able to do. Keep the faith and obey the Lord, all the while resisting the temptations of the world.

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THE MAN WHO EXPERIENCED BOTH ASPECTS OF "STONING"

AS SAUL OF TARSUS, HE HEARTILY APPROVED OF THE STONING TO DEATH OF STEPHEN, THE FIRST CHRISTIAN MARTYR, AND IN FACT STOOD GUARD OVER THE GARMENTS OF THE MEN WHO KILLED STEPHEN. LATER, AS PAUL, NOW ENGAGED IN SPREADING THE WORD OF CHRISTIANITY, HE WAS STONED HIMSELF BY AN INFURIATED MOB AT LYSTRA AND LEFT FOR DEAD ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY, BUT



...UNLIKE STEPHEN, PAUL DID NOT DIE. HE AROSE FROM THE ROCKPILE, UNDAUNTED, TO CONTINUE HIS GREAT MISSIONARY WORK IN SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS TO THE GENTILES!

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