

"Ditch-Digging Work"

Greg Gwin

04/02/17 - Attitude

I was talking to a preacher about his work in a small, struggling congregation. There had been plenty of 'ups and downs'. I've admired his work there for some time and told him so. His response impressed me. He said, "it's ditch-digging work." By that he meant his work was not flashy or spectacular. There wasn't any glamour or personal glory to be gained. He wouldn't develop a big reputation from what he was doing. It was just plain, simple, hard work that needed to be done. Thank God that there are men like him that are willing to do such "ditch-digging."

We need the spirit that this godly servant expressed. We need to remember that "he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted" ([Matthew 23:11,12](#)).

There's way too much striving for personal glory in God's kingdom. We see far too many folks — preachers and others - who are more concerned about how they "look" in the eyes of others than they are about what they are really doing in productive work for the glory of God. The Pharisees were of this mind-set. Jesus said that "all their works they do for to be seen of men" ([Matthew 23:5](#)). Sadly, they have many modern day counterparts.

Paul urged us to "let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves" ([Philippians 2:3](#)). Let's work hard to develop a servant's heart. What needs to be done? Is it some "ditch-digging"? If so, then roll up your sleeves and get to work! Remember, "Your labor is not in vain in the Lord" ([1 Cor. 15:58](#)).

Can't Fool Me

So two Irishmen are traveling to Australia. Before they leave home, one of their dads gives them both a bit of advice: "You watch them Aussie cab drivers. They'll rob you blind. Don't you go paying them what they ask. You haggle."

At the Sydney airport, the Irishmen catch a cab to their hotel. When they reach their destination, the cabbie says, "That'll be twenty dollars, lads." "Oh no you don't! My dad warned me about you. You'll only be getting fifteen dollars from me," says one of the men.

"And you'll only be getting fifteen from me too," adds the other.

Edifier

Evant church of Christ

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June 25, 2017



Attending church services regularly is like making a path through the forest: the more often you use it, the less obstruction you find in the way."

Sunday Worship:

9:30 am Bible Study

10:20 am Worship

12:30 pm Afternoon

Wednesday Night

7:pm

Will Vann, Preacher

863-899-0987

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Controlling Our Temper

by R. J. Evans

Brother John Clark once related a story about a woman who told a preacher she had a bad temper, but that it was over in a minute. "So is a shotgun blast, but it blows everything to pieces," was the preacher's reply. And far too many of us who are Christians are triggered by the least little incident, frequently losing our temper. When we lose our temper, we usually do and say things in anger which we later regret. "He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly" ([Proverbs 14:17](#)).

It has been said that "anger is like rain, which breaks itself upon that whereon it falls." For example, anger usually culminates in bitter words, insults, the revealing of secrets or in the breaking off of relations between two parties. Of the aforementioned, insults are probably the most frequent cause of anger. Most of us had rather be injured physically than insulted. There is something about an insult that makes us want to repay with a worse insult. How many of us possess the magnanimous spirit of Abraham Lincoln when he was insulted? It is reported that when he was told that one of his cabinet members, Edwin Stanton, called him a fool, he replied, "If Stanton says I am a fool, I had better look into the matter, for he is a wise man." No doubt that worked much better than if he would have retaliated by losing his temper, setting off a chain reaction with much more bitterness and resentment to follow. Incidentally, after Lincoln was killed, it was Stanton who remarked in subdued tones of respect, "There lies the greatest leader this country has ever known."

The Bible teaches us the importance of practicing self-control. It is listed as the "fruit of the Spirit" in [Galatians 5:22-23](#), and among what we sometimes refer to as the "seven Christian graces" in [II Peter 1:6](#). Self-control is one of the Christian's weapons against the world. And practicing self-control involves controlling our temper. We must follow after Christ's example - "Who, did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously" ([I Peter 2:22-23](#)). The person who continually loses his temper is like an undefended city or one in ruins. The wise man Solomon said, "He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls" ([Proverbs 25:28](#)). What a sign of weakness when we constantly lose our temper! And it is certainly a poor reflection of Christ in our lives when we "fly off the handle."

Christians must learn to be calm and serious. James said, "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath" ([James 1:19](#)). This brings to mind the motto: "Think twice before you speak. Losing your temper, blurting out angry words, and speaking your mind excites strife. "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger" ([Proverbs 15:1](#)).

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Those to Serve

(B) Calvin Burks (FV) Jack Wall

(O) Doug Pruett (A) Mike Mallett

1st prayer Mike Mallett

2nd prayer Vernon Houts

Announcements: Calvin Burks

Singing: Judd Wall

Prayer List:

Letha Sheldon

Mildred Lovell

Janese Lancaster

Ruby Jones

Loyd Crownover

Pray for our Nation

Our Troops

Law Enforcement

Rescue Personal

Happy Birthday

Mike Lovell July 16th

Keith Stifflemire July 22nd

Happy Anniversary

July 19th

Mike & Connie Mallett

Dates to Remember

June 25th

Noon Fellowship Meal

July 2nd

Mission Sunday

July 4th

Independence Day

July 30th

Noon Fellowship

Men's Business meeting

June 25th 1 pm

Controlling Our Temper (Continued)

Angry words! O let them never
From the tongue unbridled slip;
May the heart's best impulse ever
Check them ere they soil the lip.

Author Unknown, First appeared in *Sunday School Teacher*, 1867