

How to succeed in the Chr. life Part II

Intro: Remember that last week we learned that "Success is not a destination." Rather it is a journey.

This week I want to look at some other areas that we will find useful in helping us become the success that God wants us to be and finish the journey strongly

Remember, success for the Christian may not necessarily be health, or wealth, as preached by some people. Success for us, and more importantly, success in God's eyes, is when we are conformed to the image of Christ and then ministering to others as Jesus did

The first area I want to look at today, that can help us succeed on the journey is to

I. Search the Scripture daily

John 5:39 says you search the pages of Scripture in the belief that thru them you get eternal life yet they testify of me.

So we need to search them to find several things.

A. Search them to find life.

John 5:39 just told us that in searching them they testify about Christ.

Ephesians 2:1-2 says there was a time when we were walking in sin and death.

There may be some here who are still in that position. If this is you, be sure to read the instructions on the last few lines of this message and through them find life

This is always the first step on the journey to true success.

Secondly we need to

B. Search the Scripture to find direction for our lives

Proverbs 16:25 says there is a way which seems right to a man but the end there of is the way of death. We won't succeed W/O some direction.

We can look for direction from many sources, and there are many good sources to help us, but the Scripture is the only source that will never let us down.

The problem is, in our search we are often tempted to rely on what we think is the right but may actually be wrong.

Have you ever come to an intersection and you were just certain that you should turn right because it was a faster route only to find after a little way that you should have gone the way the sign said, not the shortcut you thought would work

God's Word is like a highway sign. You don't have to pay any attention to it if you don't care what happens to you. If you do care however, then search its pages for proper, safe, and sure direction.

Thirdly we need to

C. Search the Scripture to find comfort in our distress and bereavement.

In searching the scripture we find in times of bereavement, passages of hope such as Psalm 116:5 which says, *Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His godly ones.*

And what about many of the other problems we face? Search further in Psalm 121: 2,3 and read, *my help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth. He will not allow your foot to slip; He who keeps you will not slumber.*

Warren Wiersbe says it this way; Whatever your need or assignment is today, your help will come from the Lord, the Creator of the heavens and the earth. Why? Because a God big enough to make this world and keep it going is big enough to help you with your problems today.

Then if we want to walk the road of success

D. We need to search the Scripture to find rest in the hope of eternity.

John 11:25-26 finds Jesus saying *I am the resurrection and the life, He who believes in me shall live even if He dies, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.*

As we do this, we come to understand that even in death we live and that life is forever

Then another principle we need to follow for success in the Christian life is to

II. Attend public worship regularly if we want a smoother journey

Hebrews 10:25 says *don't abandon our common assembly, don't stay away from our meetings.*

Dwight L. Moody said, Church attendance is as vital to a disciple as a transfusion of rich, healthy blood to a sick man. **Someone else** has said, what keeps a man away from church, is not how far he lives from the church, but rather how far he lives from God.

Let's think of at least 3 reasons for us to attend. Attend church

A. To worship. Here God benefits: Revelation 4:11 says that *the Lord Jesus is worthy to receive our worship*.

B. To learn. Here we will benefit. We will benefit by being encouraged, uplifted, challenged etc. All of these things that are of much importance to our success

Thirdly,

C. To give ourselves away. Here others benefit.

Why do you come to church? If you only come to church to be ministered to and have not thought of giving of yourselves, you will walk away less than successful.

Question: Are you a Philippians 2:4 Christian? And if not why not?

If we only come to worship and be ministered to, we will never be the success God wants us to be and we will not enjoy the success we long for.

We really move along this path to success and fulfillment when we come to worship to learn but especially when we have a desire and determination to minister to others

A third thing that will help us success's journey is when we

III. Give liberally W/O grudging.

II Cor. 9:7 says, *Each of you must make up your own mind about how much to give. But don't feel sorry that you must give and don't feel that you are forced to give. God loves people who love to give.*

Barbara Bush Said "Giving frees us from the familiar territory of our own needs by opening our mind to the unexplained worlds occupied by the needs of others." Someone has also said beware of the Christian with the open mouth and the closed pocketbook.

I see at least 3 things that giving does to promote our spiritual success and well being. First,

A. It helps put money or time into a proper perspective.

In Matthew 19 there is a story of a man who has many earthly riches and he came to Jesus and he wanted to get eternal life.

When he asked Jesus what he had to do to obtain it Jesus in V 21 said, *go sell all you have and give it to the poor and follow Jesus*. In V 22 it says the *young man walked away*,

You see, the price was too great because his view, or main concern about his possessions was out of order. He wanted riches more than being able to succeed

Yet Mark 8:36 says *what shall it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his own soul*.

There are many in churches that will not lose their souls as far as salvation, but they will forfeit the joy of victory and success because they aren't willing to give liberally to God's work.

When God has a man's pocket he has the man. Is that true with you or is your life, joy and Christian walk suffering because you have a distorted perspective of your money and time in light of eternity?

B. Liberal giving increases our dependence on God.

Anything that causes us to be more dependent on God will help us succeed with what is left. God is a God of success. **The question** is, are we allowing Him to be our success by letting him handle and direct the use of our riches?

C. Liberal giving makes way for the exercise of our God given creativity.

You see with less because we gave it to the Lord, we will be more creative in how to get along on less. We can be more creative in finding new ways to reach out because when we give liberally, we have the corporate finances and time to carry on new ministries.

And that leads us to corporate success as well as personal success

Lets not forget these three keys to success in the Christian life.

Search the Scripture daily. Bible verses will save you from spiritual reverses on the highway of spiritual success.

Worship regularly. Since so many have fought for the liberty to worship, should we not make more and better use of that liberty?

Give liberally. Don't try to cheat the Lord and call it economy.

Well again I desire that you have a successful week as we go forth from the church, to be the church in the world.

In closing, remember that you cannot be spiritually successful if you are not on the highway with the Lord. To get there just read a few more lines, think about and follow the directions and you can be on that road.

Realize you are a sinner Romans 3:23

Understand that the payday for sin is death or eternal conscious separation from God. Romans 6:23a

Know that there is a way of escape for you. Romans 6:23b and John 1:12

Desire to escape and pray this or a similar prayer.

"Dear God, I know I am a sinner. I am truly sorry for my sins, and I confess them all to You [name them]. Lord Jesus, forgive all my sins and come into my heart as my Saviour and Lord. I receive You right now. Help me from this time forward to live for You. Thank You for hearing and answering my prayer. In Jesus' name. Amen."

On the _____ day of _____ I became a Christian by inviting Jesus Christ into my life to forgive my sin.

Signed: _____

If you have further questions or have chosen to do this, be sure to let us know so we can help you, pray for you and encourage you in your new life.

You can reach us at lapeerchurch@gmail.com Subject line: (Salvation)