

Week of May 4, 2008

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Monday

Acts 2:17 'It shall be in the last days, that I will pour forth of My Spirit upon all mankind; And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, And your young men shall see visions, And your old men shall dream dreams.

Excitingly, God is gifting His people for active, vital, purposeful ministry. He is calling on men and women, young and old, to be engaged in His plan of salvation and mission. You are vital to that plan. You say you are not? Then would you dispute God? For God says that you – if indeed you are a believer in Jesus – are prized for your contributions to His plan. He has invested heavily in you with gifts and grace. He believes in you. Now believe in Him, not just for salvation, but for purpose and your mission.

Tuesday

Ex. 10:9 And Moses said, "We shall go with our young and our old; with our sons and our daughters... for we must hold a feast to the LORD."

No one is left out in God's plan of encounter. He is not looking just for men or women or just young people or older people. God is encountering all of His people. Indeed, God would not allow Moses to travel to the place of worship without every age group. None would be left behind. Whatever your gender or age God is calling you to an exciting encounter with Him. He has a purpose for you right now. In faith, by prayer reaffirm God's call upon your life. It is a call to encounter Him, a call to be engaged in the Kingdom's mission and ministry.

Wednesday

Rom. 12:3 For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think..

Phil. 2:3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself;"

The key to a congregation's celebration of diversity is found in its individual member's ability to think first of others before self. Young adults must value the wisdom and gifts of those older. Older believers must treasure the strength and faith of those younger. Each must reckon as vital the gifts and calling of the other. Like a marriage, a church functions to its fullest capabilities and sweetest potential when each member is looking to the benefit (salvation) of the other.

Thursday

Phil. 1:3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,

God grants many gifts of grace to His local church and such is the case at First Baptist Cookeville. None perhaps is greater than the gift of diversity in the ages of her membership. Children relate to senior adults and see the stability of marriage that has lasted decades. Young adult are encouraged by wisdom. Seniors are challenged to reach new families. Today is a day to thank God for the privilege of being a part of your church family

Friday

1Cor. 12:16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body.

"I am not important to the ministry and mission of God." That is what some in the church tell themselves. Perhaps you feel yourself too old, too young, too poor, or just too human to really be of use to God. That is not true. God does not lie. God has chosen you as part of His church. You are both prized and gifted for ministry. God desires that you would be engaged in the Kingdom's work. In your service you will find you are valued and valuable. Don't wait to be asked or prodded. God desires your engagement in ministry.