



"If this world is going to be reached, I am convinced that it must be done by men and women of average talent."

D.L. Moody

First Corinthians 1:26

"For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called."

Encouragement For Small Churches
[\(Click Here\)](#)

Lifting Up The STANDARD

"When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him" (Isaiah 59:19).



Challenging And Encouraging God's Remnant To Remain Faithful

Issue 5 - January 2014



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FREE BOOKS AND MATERIALS

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[God's Church Manual](#)

[Lifting Up The STANDARD](#)

All Materials Are Available Free of Charge

Putting The Ministry In Perspective

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."
(Isaiah 55:8,9)

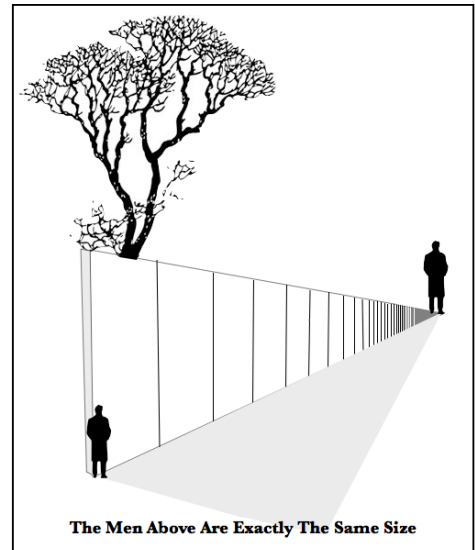
Our perspective of things is often incorrect because our thoughts are affected by the environment in which we find ourselves. For example, the men in the picture at the right are exactly the same size; however, because of the addition of a fence and a tree they are made to appear very different.

How We Understand Things

At an early age in life we begin to be influenced by people and by things we come in contact with. Influence affects our character and our behaviour. We are influenced concerning political things, religious things and even what kind of car we drive.

"Our Thoughts," Not God's Thoughts Concerning The Ministry

When we think of a ministry, we are influenced by the dictionary to think that a ministry is *"the work of a minister of religion."* While that is true, it is only a very small part a ministry from God's perspective.



The Men Above Are Exactly The Same Size

Things Are Not Always As They Appear

"They measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise."
(Second Corinthians 10:12)

B. KIRKLAND - LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES

The Book of Ephesians was written to “the saints,” to all that are “in Christ Jesus” (Chapter 1:1).

In chapter 4:1 we read that individual Christians are to “walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.” The word “vocation” has been translated “calling” ten times. All Christians are to “walk worthy of the calling wherewith we are called.”

- In Ephesians 4:4 Paul specifically refers to “your calling.”
- In First Corinthians 1:26 the Bible refers to “your calling.”
- In Hebrews 3:1 we read about the Christian’s “heavenly calling.”
- In Second Peter 1:10 we read of “your calling”
- Ephesians 4:12 refers to “perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry.”
- Romans 12:7 says, “let us wait on our ministering.”
- Colossians 4:17 says, “Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.”

Every Christian has a ministry to fulfill.

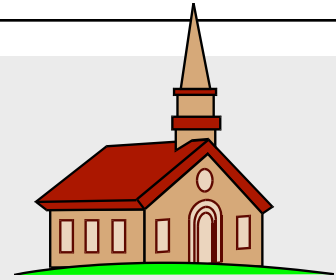
The Local Church Ministry

We have been influenced by our environment that numbers means success. While this may be so at a ball game, it certainly is not so concerning the local church.

Ninety-nine percent of our churches are small churches. Only one percent of the people who attend church next Sunday will be in a large church. A recent survey released by the Barna Research Group of Venture California, reported that the average church attendance in the USA five years ago was ninety people. His survey revealed that black churches put the average up, as they averaged one hundred people while white congregations averaged eighty five. He reported that in the U.S.A, fundamental churches averaged about seventy-five people on any given Sunday. Obviously, fundamental churches in Canada would average far less than those in the U.S.A.

In spite of this fact, the focus is always on the one percent of large churches. If the survey is accurate, it means as God looks down on our world next Sunday, He will see ninety-nine percent of the people attending a church in Canada will be in a small church. It has been my experience as I travelled this country from coast to coast for many years, that our churches are maintained by small groups of sincere Christians who must sacrifice to pay their pastor’s salary and keep the church going.

These faithful Christians do not have the financial resources larger churches have, however, unlike most large churches the same faithful people return for the evening service and the weekly prayer meetings. **God does not consider these churches to be failures.**



Zechariah 4:10

“For who hath despised the day of small things?”

Proverbs 15:16

“Better is little with the fear of the LORD.”

Matthew 25:23

“Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things.”

Zechariah 13:7-9

“I will turn mine hand upon the little ones... and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them.”

Proverbs 16:8

“Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right.”

Luke 12:32

“Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”

Luke 19:17

“And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little”

Smaller churches have less available leadership to help and therefore have a much more difficult time attracting people, however, according to the Barna Group report, small or mid-sized churches have the largest number of “born again believers.”

God Has Some Large Congregations

The Psalmist said in Psalm 42:4,

“I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holy day.”

First Corinthians 3:7 says

God, “giveth the increase.”

Sometimes God increases the size of the church, however, the majority of God’s congregations are small.

In Psalm 119:141 the psalmist said,

“I am small and despised: yet do not I forget thy precepts.”

It is good to have a multitude in church if the increase is of God, however, an increase that is acquired and maintained by compromise is not a successful church.

Proverbs 15:16 says,

“Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith.”

Proverbs 16:8 says,

“Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right.”

A church that has hundreds of people sitting in a building getting their weekly fix of religion while remaining spiritual pygmies is not a successful church in God’s eyes.

God wants people who are capable of, “*Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers*” (Titus 1:9).

The one pastor of the seven churches listed in the Book of Revelation that received no rebuke from the Saviour, was the pastor at Philadelphia. The Lord highly commended him.

Christ said in Revelation 3:8,

“I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.”

The pastor of the church that received the sharpest rebuke was the church of the Laodiceans.

Revelation 3:17 says that church was “*rich and increased.*” They had a crowd but where was Christ? He said, “*Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with*

DISCOURAGEMENT

The dictionary meaning of “discouraged” is, “*to deprive of courage or confidence.*”

Most pastors start out very confident in the work of the Lord.

Hebrews 10:35 says,

“Cast not away therefore your confidence...”

Hebrews 3:14 says,

“Hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;”

First John 2:28 says,

“And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.”

Discouragement, if not dealt with, will lead to compromise.

The greatest reason many churches have quit preaching Bible standards concerning modesty, music and messing around in the world is pastors got discouraged to the point that they began to compromise.

Pastoring a small church can be very discouraging, if we allow it to be so. It takes a special person to pastor a small church. If God has put you in a small church, He has given you a ministry that many pastors cannot handle. God knew what He was doing when He sent you to pastor the church you are in.

Don't Let Anyone Discourage You From Finishing What God Has Called You To Do



Noah

Noah had more than opposition from a few church members, he stood against the world. He had nobody outside of his family to encourage him. There were no Bible conferences he could go to and be encouraged by preachers of like faith. He didn't have a list of great preachers of the past to listen to by recorded messages.

He didn't even have a Bible!!! What Noah did have was faith in God and the character needed to finish what God had sent him into this world to accomplish!

Genesis 6:22 tells us, "Thus did Noah; according to ALL that God commanded him, so did he."

Paul

When Paul the Apostle left this world he said, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (Second Timothy 4:7). Be sure when life's journey is over that you can say, "I've finished my course!"

Hebrews 12:1 says, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us."

him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20). The door is open to a mixture of sheep and goats but was closed to the Saviour and they assumed that was success.

Apostasy is flooding many of our churches today because maintaining a crowd has become more important than preaching whole counsel of God.

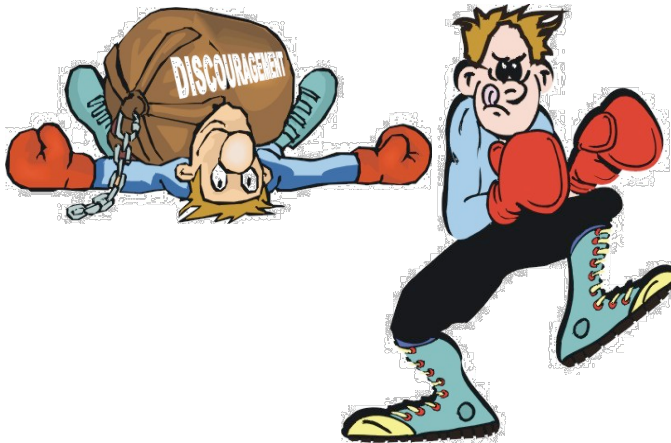
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Little Is Much When God Is In It

*"Does the place you're called to labor
Seem too small and little known?
It is great if God is in it,
And He'll not forget His own.*

*When the conflict here is ended
And our race on earth is run,
He will say, if we are faithful,
'Welcome home, My child—well done!'*

*Little is much when God is in it!
Labor not for wealth or fame.
There's a crown—and you can win it,
If you go in Jesus' Name."*



Getting discouraged or getting encouraged is a choice. If you are discouraged. Deal with it before it deals with you!

First Samuel 30:6 says, "David encouraged himself..." **Judges 20:22** says, "The men of Israel encouraged themselves."

They made a decision!!!