

THE PURPOSE DRIVEN



I once knew an old man who was possessed with a mania for buying up wheels of all sorts. A wheel, whether from a wagon, a cart, or a wheelbarrow, possessed peculiar attractions for him. Yet, in all his life he never owned even a wheelbarrow. He did not put his wheels to any use.

He is a pretty good counterpart of the man whose idea of successful church work is merely that of getting people saved, without instructing the new converts that they are saved to serve. In a good many churches where this idea has been followed up, the converts are practically nothing more than a heap of wheels and bolts and bars that are of no use, because they have been put to none. "Saved to serve" is a good motto, but it implies more than we are sometimes disposed to take into consideration. It means that we must train people to actively serve God after they are saved. It is not enough that we induce men and women to be good. We are to see to it that they are put in the way of becoming good for something.

-- Mattie M. Boteler

DIGGING DEEPER...

1. Rick Warren quotes Ephesians 2:1, “[God] has created us for a life of good deeds, which he has already prepared for us to do.” Warren asserts that the good deeds mentioned in this verse pertain to service. In your opinion, does the “service” mentioned in this verse pertain to service rendered through acts of mercy and grace on a personal level? Or, is this verse talking about working in church programs (teaching Sunday school, ushering, baby sitting, etc.)?
2. What does 1 Corinthians 12:19-25 teach us about the value and importance of one kind of service rendered by one believer versus the service rendered by another?
3. What do we learn from Luke 10:38-40 about service? It states: “*Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, 'Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.'*” Does Mary’s actions invalidate Martha’s service? (Compare John 12:2).
4. How did the women mentioned in Luke 8:1-3 minister to the Lord?
5. In Acts 9:36-39 how did Dorcas minister in the church? What evidence do we have of the power of her ministry?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS...

1. The author stated, “Any time you use your God-given abilities to help others, you are fulfilling your calling” {p. 229}. What abilities have you observed in our group—in your own life or in someone else’s life—that could be used to serve others?
2. The author wrote, “Likewise, there are no insignificant ministries in the church. Some are visible and some are behind the scenes, but all are valuable. Small or hidden ministries often make the biggest difference” {p. 230}. Can you think of some “hidden ministries” that are under appreciated? How do you think these “hidden ministries” benefit the church?
3. What does the author mean when he stated, “Impression without expression causes depression” {p. 231}. Do you believe this statement is true? What personal observations can you make about this statement?
4. Rick Warren comments, “You are going to give your life for something. What will it be — a career, a sport, a hobby, fame, wealth? None of these will have lasting significance” {p. 232}. What impact has this fact had upon your life? How can we convince young people of this fact?