

Is any Christian bereft of some gift that can be used in the service of the Lord? I think not. The Apostle Paul says, "...those members of the body which seem to be more feeble are necessary" (1 Corinthians 12:22). Necessary for what? What can the giftless person do? He can support and encourage the gifted, while developing a gift of his own. Hiding behind self-depreciation is dangerous to his spiritual health. The writer of the letter to the Hebrews chided the Jews, by saying, "...by reason of the time ye ought to be teachers" (Hebrews 5:12). God has expectations. The tree that does not bear fruit He will patiently dig about it and fertilize it, to see if it will revive (Luke 13:6-9).

Complacent Christians are forsaking the vital cause of Christ, while those who serve false gods and false doctrines often display much more energy. Jesus confirmed this fact by saying to the sectarians of His day, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he is become so, ye make him twofold more a son of hell than yourselves" (Matthew 23:15). Christians need to emulate this in a good way, diligently compassing sea and land to make one convert to the truth, then making him a two-fold better Christian than themselves.

These examples illustrate that there is no room for complacency in the Christian life. There is no excuse we can make for apathy. There is no vacation from the Lord. There is no retirement. We must heed the exhortation of Paul in Ephesians 5:14-16, which says, "Awake, thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall shine upon thee. Look therefore carefully how ye walk, not as unwise, but as wise; redeeming the time, because the days are evil." The days we live in are indeed evil. More reason, indeed, to "redeem the time."