

“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

As we have observed previously in this series, in most churches, 80% of the work is done by 20% of the people. Why is this the case? Why are not more people involved in serving the Lord? Here at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, why are most folks content only to attend and not to get involved in other ways in this ministry?

There are no doubt several reasons. One is a fear of the unknown. It can be difficult to take the first step to get involved in something that’s unfamiliar.

Another might be an unrealistic assessment of what’s involved. After all, if someone thinks that an assignment in the work and outreach of the church is too difficult, he or she will probably not want to get involved.

Another is priorities. We’re too busy with other things. As Jesus described it, the “worries of this world” have choked out our work and service for Christ.

Another reason might be a less-than-positive experience in this or another church. “Been there, done that, bought the T-shirt, didn’t like it” might be the response of these individuals.

Yet another is flat-out laziness and lethargy. Some folks are like the elderly mountaineer and his wife who were sitting in front of the fireplace one evening just whiling away the time. After a long silence, the wife said, “Jed, I think it’s raining. Get up and go outside and see.”

The old mountaineer continued to gaze into the fire for a minute or so, sighed, and then replied, “Aw, Maw, why don’t we just call in the dog and see if he’s wet.”

Recently, a newsletter published by Crown Financial Ministries stated that

. . . most Americans are too busy to serve God. We have grown complacent and comfortable in God's blessings and have forgotten the first commandment. In the meantime, immorality and cults have grown to alarming proportions because their advocates are more zealous in their support. Since God asks for obedience rather than demanding it, many Christians simply ignore the very reason for their existence: To glorify God. Without exception, God has a unique and meaningful plan for every believer, and it does not depend on age, income or ability.

Solomon, one of the wisest men who ever lived, said, "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might." Right now, even as I speak, there are things to be done, tasks that are going undone. Figuratively, there are ministry lights in our church that are flickering because of a lack of willing workers.

What's the reason you are not willing to get involved? Whatever the reason, you can be sure of this: It will seem pretty flimsy someday when you stand before Christ and He asks the same question.

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