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March 2014

Success Is Costly

Success in any field is costly, but the man who will pay the price can have it.

The concert pianist must become a slave to his instrument; four hours, five hours each day he must sit at the keyboard. The scientist must live for his work. The philosopher must devote himself to thought, the scholar to his books. The price may seem excessively heavy, but there are some who consider the reward worthwhile.

The laws of success operate also in the higher field of the soul – spiritual greatness has its price. Eminence in the things of the Spirit demands a devotion to these things more complete than most of us are willing to give. But the law cannot be escaped. If we would be holy we know the way; the law of holy living is before us. The prophets of the Old Testament, the apostles of the New and, more than all, the sublime teachings of Christ are

there to tell us how to succeed.

Through a misunderstanding of the doctrine of grace, some shy away from the idea that the laws of God operate in the kingdom of heaven. They make a radical cleavage of things natural from things spiritual and refuse to allow any relation between them. To do this, they must overlook the fact that the bible writers in all their teachings drew copiously from the wells of common life. For them, all nature spoke God's message – from the homely blade of grass beside the path to the sun and the stars in the heavens above. Kings and farmers offered light on the ways of God; the ant and the sparrow had their contribution to make; the dullard was there as a horrible example, and the sluggard sitting in his ruined house or walking between the rows of his scrubby corn served as a melancholy example of what laziness could do to the man who would not conquer it. The householder who began to build without having figured the

cost, the king who started war without knowing that he could win it, the farmer who put his hand to the plow and then changed his mind and looked back – all these are in the Bible, and they all say the same thing: that spirituality has a solid core of intelligence in it, that success in the life of faith requires common sense, hard work and wise cooperation with the law of cause and effect.

The amount of loafing practiced by the average Christian in spiritual things would ruin a concert pianist if he allowed himself to do the same thing in the field of music. The idle pattering around that we see in church circles would end the career of a big league pitcher in one week. No scientist could solve his exacting problem if he took as little interest in it as the rank and file of Christians take in the art of being holy.

Pastor Kenny Continues.....

The nation whose soldiers were as soft and undisciplined as the soldiers of the churches would be conquered by the first enemy that attacked it. Triumphs are not won by men in easy chairs. Success is costly.

If we would progress spiritually, we must separate ourselves unto the things of God and concentrate upon them to the exclusion of a thousand things the worldly man considers important. We must cultivate God in the solitudes and the silence; we must make the kingdom of God the sphere of our activity and labor in it like a farmer in his field, like a miner in the earth.

A.W. Tozer

We at KJIR want to thank you for your prayers and financial support. It is through your faithfulness that we are able to stay on the air. Only the Lord knows the number of people that have been touched by this radio ministry which can be accessed through the web and on the 91.7 FM dial. Your being a part of this ministry is making a difference in the lives of the listeners.

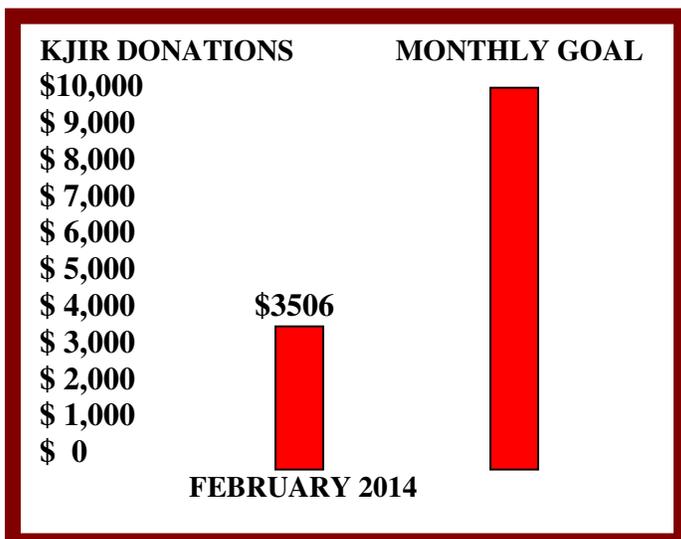
May the Lord bless and keep you and your family in the days ahead.

*In Christ,
Pastor Ken Geisendorfer*

Words of the wise...forgiveness...

I am to be submitted to God in my attitude every day. I am to submit in repentance, and develop an attitude of submission. I am to walk in forgiveness and in faith. If somebody does me wrong, it is not enough just to forgive him, I must get up from the place of prayer and enter my day with my mind already made up that if anybody offends me, they're already forgiven. Why? Because I am determined to walk with the mind of Christ. This is where God is taking us.

B.H. Clendennen



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