

# Let Us Rise Up and Rebuild: Conclusion

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from a lesson by Gary Henry)

## Introduction:

- A. If we are going to work together to build a local congregation, the right spirit is critical.
  - 1. All the talent in the world cannot make up for wrong attitudes
  - 2. With the right attitudes, our efforts are enhanced and we live up to our full potential
  - 3. How does a team with less statistical talent defeat a higher ranked team? With the right spirit; they are hungry.
  - 4. Jerry Clower's story about the big male & small female coon hounds
  - 5. Paul "Bear" Bryant - "It's not the size of the dog in the fight; it's the size of the fight in the dog."
- B. What attitudes will we consider?
  - 1. Our attitudes toward God
  - 2. Our attitudes toward our individual selves
  - 3. Our attitudes toward our brethren
  - 4. Our attitudes toward the work we do together as a church

## I. ATTITUDES TOWARD GOD

- A. Love - Matt. 22:37 - Do we understand what is meant by all our heart, soul, and mind?
- B. Faith and trust - Heb. 11:1, 6
  - 1. Do we have the kind of faith that pleases God? If not, Rom. 10:17
  - 2. Too many mistakenly believe that in service to God, they must first feel before they do. The scriptures teach that we do, and then we come to feel. Don't have enough faith, study the Bible until you get enough faith.
  - 3. Prov. 16:3 - It is better to study your way into stronger belief than to hope that someday you will believe your way into stronger study.
- C. Thankfulness - Col. 3:17; Eph. 5:20; Rom. 1:18-21
  - 1. An attitude of thankfulness for the blessings we share will help reduce the bitterness that can destroy the spirit in any congregation
  - 2. If our relationship with God is right, it increases the likelihood that our relationship with others will be smooth as well - Prov. 16:7

## II. ATTITUDES TOWARD OUR INDIVIDUAL SELVES

- A. Humility - Rom. 12:3, 16; John 13:6-17
  - 1. "Show me a man who cannot bother to do little things, and I'll show you a man who cannot be trusted to do big things." (Lawrence D. Bell)
  - 2. Matt. 25:21
- B. Teachability - Prov. 15:31-32
  - 1. Teachability includes an eagerness to learn and grow, and the ability to learn from correction, to profit from advice and criticism
  - 2. "Education is too good to limit to the young." (Elton Trueblood)
- C. Honesty toward our mistakes... This includes a willingness to admit and correct our mistakes - James 5:16

### III. ATTITUDES TOWARD OUR BRETHREN

- A. Love - John 13:34-35; 1Peter 1:22
- B. Cooperation - 1Cor. 12:21
  - 1. We need to be able not only to work, but to work together
  - 2. "It marks a big step in a man's development when he comes to realize that other men can be called on to help him do a better job than he can do alone." (Andrew Carnegie)
- C. Appreciation for others and their work - 1Thes. 2:13 1Cor. 1:4; 2Cor. 1:7 - Even Corinth was praised for what they accomplished
  - 1. True appreciation for others will reduce criticism, gossip, & divisiveness.
- D. Submissiveness - Eph. 5:21; 1Peter 5:5
  - 1. Too many chiefs, not enough Indians; that is a common problem in many organizations
- E. Peaceable-ness - Rom. 14:19; Eph. 4:1-3; Matt. 5:9; James 3:17-18
- F. Hospitality and social fellowship - Rom. 12:13; Heb. 13:2; 1Peter 4:9
  - 1. A factor in the rapid spread of the church in the first century was the hospitality extended by the Christians - 3John 5-8
- G. Warmth, friendliness, openness - Acts 2:44-47, 11:27-30
- H. Gentleness and meekness - Gal. 6:1; 2Tim. 2:24-26
- I. Forgiveness, forbearance, patience, longsuffering - Eph. 4:32

### IV. ATTITUDES TOWARD OUR WORK

- A. Gratitude for the privilege of our work - 1Tim. 1:12; 1Cor. 15:9-10
  - 1. Do we appreciate what an honor it is to offer service in the kingdom of our Lord?
- B. Enthusiasm and eagerness - 2Cor. 9:7
  - 1. Nothing is so easy but that it becomes difficult if done with reluctance; nothing is so hard that it cannot be made easier with enthusiasm
- C. Industriousness, diligence, energy - Neh. 4:6; Col. 3:23; Prov. 18:9
- D. Initiative
  - 1. Initiative has been defined as the willingness to do what is right without having to be prodded
  - 2. We should not have to be reminded constantly of our responsibilities
  - 3. 1Tim. 4:14; 2Tim. 1:6
  - 4. When you see something that needs to be done, don't criticize, energize! (i.e., do it yourself!)
- E. Positive-ness - Phil. 2:14
  - 1. The chronic complainer and the negative thinker are obstructions to the work of a congregation
- F. Persistence - John 4:34
  - 1. We need "finishative" as well as "initiative" - Heb. 6:12; 2Tim. 4:7

### Conclusion:

- A. Attitude improvement can be compared to the woodcutter sharpening his ax
  - 1. Ecc. 10:10; 2Tim. 2:21