

Glass Half-Full or Half-Empty?

What motivates us? Is it the fear of failure or the challenge to succeed? In our Christian walk, are we more focused on going to heaven or avoiding going to hell? Do we see the glass half-full or half-empty? The answer to these questions will likely reveal how each of us live out our lives and the Karns congregation's collective attitude.

In the parable of the talents (Matt. 25:14-26), the "one-talent man" was afraid of failure. The other two men used the opportunity they were given and increased their talents by 5 and 2 talents, respectively.

Ministers, much like the apostle Paul, must declare the whole counsel of God in their preaching and teaching (Acts 20:27). The style and content of their sermons reflect the minister's attitude and his way of thinking. Speaking the truth in love always comes from a loving heart.

Not only do individuals make choices on how they approach life, elderships reflect their collective attitude by the way they lead the congregation. Are the eldership's decisions and directions more reactive or proactive? Are the elders more motivated to not offend the older and mature members than building up the young and weak? Does the "slippery slope" idea prevent the congregation from engaging in activities that build up the members and reaching out to non-members? An eldership can be like the one-talent man and little or nothing is accomplished for fear of being criticized by a vocal minority.

The Karns congregation has been wonderfully blessed for many years. The congregation is comprised of many faithful members who are firmly grounded in God's word. We are blessed with outstanding ministers. We have many excellent Bible teachers and people with servant hearts. The school of preaching is doing a great job of training gospel preachers. Clearly, as long as we remain faithful to God's word, we should rejoice and be positive in our service to God.

For the elders,
Don Denton