

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

July 8, 2014

Issue No. 152 Mark Aites, Editor

Success

"...success is failure turned inside out." – Anonymous, from a poem entitled, "Don't Quit"

"The secret of success is constancy of purpose." – Benjamin Disraeli

"The toughest thing about success is that you've got to keep on being a success." – Irving Berlin

"Young man, the secret of my success is that at an early age I discovered I was not God." – Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., answer to a reporter's question on his ninetieth birthday

"Every successful man I have heard of has done the best he could with conditions as he found them, and not waited until next year for better." – Edgar Watson Howe

The modern assumption is that success entails obtaining wealth, prestige, and power. Often celebrities and professional sport's figures are seen as "successful." It is Tom Cronin, in one of his articles, who notes the old saying, "The goal is to see who can die with the most toys." But could it be that this is but an illusion? Perhaps man's concept of success is foreign to God's?

In one part of defining success, I noted that it states, "the accomplishment of one's goals." (Dictionary.com) That concept is not isolated to people of wealth, but to every human being. Solomon writes that "wisdom brings success" (Eccl. 10:10). But exactly what is it that is trying to be accomplished? Is it fame and fortune, or could it be as simple as accomplishing what you set out to do?

If we learn to abide by the simpler concept, we too can be successful in our endeavors. There may be no parade or television coverage. Your name will not be in lights nor part of a number of household conversations. The desire for success as man sees it, is not our goal. *"Earthly wealth and fame may never come to me, and a palace fair here mine may never be; but let come what may, if Christ for me doth care, anywhere is home, if He is only there."* (Hymn: Composer Homer F. Morris)

What Christians should desire is to follow the goals set forth by God. For example, the goal of planting the seed, (the word of God) (Luke 8:11). Remember what Paul wrote, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase" (1 Cor. 3:6). That is a reminder to us that our task is to spread the Word, but the increase is in the hands of God.

God wants us to obey His commands. "If you love Me, keep My commandments" (John 14:15). "You are My friends if you do whatever I command you" (John 15:14). When we do, we are successful in that respect and pleasing to God.

