

April 1, 2004

Dear Pastor Shirley:

"...for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content", (Phil. 4:11). On the last Sunday of March four years ago I resigned as pastor of Calvary Baptist Church after 39 years as a pastor. I didn't resign from the ministry, but took on another ministry of "Encouragement to Pastor's." I would like to thank all of you pastors for having me in your church to minister to you and your people. Sarah and I have had four wonderful years and we feel God has blessed us tremendously. We have been busy almost every week, filling the pulpit while you were away, preaching revivals, and mission conferences. Sarah has spoken at mother/daughter banquets, Christmas teas and seminars. We will continue to do this as long as you will have us and God gives us the health to do so. We are going to give our entire attention to what God is doing in our lives now and not get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help us deal with whatever comes up when the time comes. Once again thank you for your confidence in us.

We had a busy month attending some small churches. We attended the Senior Saints Jubilee in Titusville the first part of the month. We were at Riverside Baptist Church on the 14th of the month and with Pastor Anthony Price in Cocoa the next week. The last Sunday of the month we were in Palm Harbor and preached the charge for a young man who is working on staff with Pastor Johnson at Bible Baptist Church.

Prayer Requests:

- Safety as we travel.
- Our health. We are getting older, not old.
- Souls saved each week and for God to use us in a tremendous way.
- Increase our monthly support.

Thank you for your prayers and support

Because of His Love,
Glenn Stockton
The Pastor's Friend

Encouragement

APRIL 2004

Good Morning Friend,

I heard of a stirring testimony by Doug Waechter, one of the starting pitchers for our Tampa Bay major league baseball team. Doug is 23 years old. He is a devoted Christian. He has had an outstanding start to his career. He is readily recalled by baseball

enthusiasts for this one characteristic. Each night on the mound, as he prepares to pitch, he kneels and prays (in his heart) something like this . . .

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for the gifts you have given me. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to representing in baseball. Everything that I have is a gift from you. You matter more to me than anything else. Be pleased with my life this night. I dedicate it to you again.

Paul, in Colossians 1:18, says this about Jesus . . . *that in all things He might have the pre-eminence. In Philippians 1:21, he says . . . For me to live, is Christ.*

The Scriptures declare that Jesus is the Center of all God's plans . . . in heaven and on earth . . . in history (both the Old and New Testaments and since) . . . in the church . . . and in prophecy. Philippians 2:9-10 declares . . . *God also hath highly exalted Him and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth.*

There are millions of books recorded in the well-known Library of Congress in Washington D.C. Thousands of them are about famous political leaders and others. In this library there are more books written about Jesus than anyone else.

Dr. Richard C. Halverson, former Senate Chaplain, wrote these words about Jesus . . . *Jesus Christ transcends all religions . . . Judaism - Islam - Buddhism - Hinduism . . . He is greater than all these - including Christianity. Religions are the inventions of men. Jesus does not want you to become a Christian. He wants you to become a new creation. There is a great difference between the two.*

Listen to these words of an old song. . .

Jesus only, let me see. Jesus only, none save He. Then the world will see in me - Jesus, Jesus only.

You and I are involved in loving, knowing, and serving Him. There is, however, the persistent possibility of losing our love for Him even as observed by the Church of Ephesus in the first century. Jesus wrote to them . . . *thou hast left thy first love* (Rev. 2:4). He also warned that in the last days . . . *the love of many shall wax cold* (Matt. 24:12). Let's be constantly aware that our tendency is to grow cold . . . to drift . . . to lose our allegiance to Him.

A well-known preacher shared this in a sermon one night. He said, *As much as possible, I begin each day with a desire that my first thoughts be about Jesus. I also end each day, before falling off to sleep, focused on Him.* Since hearing it, I also consciously make the same effort.

Be Encouraged,
Glenn Stockton