

For Such a Time as This

A Daily Devotional

Tuesday, February 4, 2025



From 1 Corinthians 12:

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work powerful deeds? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

The effect of Paul's grand imagery of the body and its many members should not be lost on us; this is not just about the church, but about all of our life. We are called by God to participate in the great work that God is about in Jesus Christ and that includes not just ourselves and our families or those whom we love and spend our lives with, but for all people as well. In little ways and in big ways, we must find ways to include others rather than exclude ... it's not always easy, but it is the hard work to which we are called.

We cannot just be content with the insidious belief that since we are part of the church, since we are a part of the people of God, that we've 'got ours' so to speak and have no responsibility towards the rest of the world. Such belief dwarfs God and turns the great God of Jesus Christ into our own puppet to manipulate or our own key to the door of contentment and self-satisfaction. God is so much bigger than just we ourselves.

Peter Gomes, towards the end of a sermon on this text, said: **A large God, then, one who is not restricted to our parochial, peripheral vision, should make us both glad and modest: glad that we are a part of God's economy, that we figure in God's plan, that God cared enough to send the very best, Jesus Christ, and glad that in Jesus we have seen 'the brightest and best of the sons of the morning,' and have a human example as to what that plan is; and modest because we cannot presume to speak for God, or to speak for those in whom God speaks in ways different from the ways in which he speaks to us. Modesty means assuming that God knows more about the business of human salvation than we do, which is a very hard lesson for us to understand; but understand it we must.**

I think the late Dr. Gomes said it very well ...

Prayer for the Day: (From *The Valley of Vision*)

Lord Jesus Christ, fill me with thy Spirit that I may be occupied with his presence. Amen.

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