

build it, and God gives the answer and he is going to honor them, that there be no lack in the body.

I Corinthians 12:24 the head cannot say to the foot, I have no need of thee.

This goes all the way through to Hiram who was the workman and the builder of Solomon's temple. He was also from the tribe of Dan. II Cronicles 2:14.

Now of course there were others who were under their employ and who were assistants to this work, and when God has a work to do, he will never want an instrument to do it with. And those who will cheerfully go about his service.

You will remember that Lincoln and Garfield, Presidents of the United States, were both born in log cabins. Their fathers had built cabins in the wilderness. Neither of them enjoyed the advantages of schools and teachers. Both of them had to work on the farm, chop wood, and whatever else was needed for a livelihood. But God trains and God prepares men without giving any evidence what he is going to use them for until he announces a call. And he gives them a nomination for this work. Sometimes it takes years in preparing and getting them ready.

Beez'el

Bez'el

BEZALEL

EXODUS 30

INTRODUCTION:

There is a legend which tells of the Saint Sophia Cathedral in Constantinople. When it was built, it was designed to be the most beautiful building or place of worship in all the world. So luxurious was it that perfume was mixed in the mortar. Years later the sweet odor was still detected within the building. As the people brought their gifts to be included in the erection of the cathedral they laughed at seeing a poor woman bringing a load of hay. But later the oxen used to pull the large building stones into place ate the hay. Who can tell whose was the most important gift.

Many years before that event, God gave a commandment to Moses to build a place of worship for his people in the wilderness. To him God gave every detail, the plans, he gave him the pattern, and after the word went out that the people were to bring their gifts to be used as material for the structure. So great was the response that in Exodus 36:5 Moses had to persuade the people not to bring any more. When all was in readiness for the building of

the tabernacle and its appointments for worship, what was Moses to do. In neither the king's palace of Egypt nor in the desert wastes of Midian, had he learned such craftsmanship as was necessary for this undertaking. Now this brings us to the point of our chapter tonight. However when the man of God has reached the limit of his ability, Jehovah always has another man ready to carry on the work. And the Lord spake unto Moses saying "see I have called thy name." Bezalel is sometimes spelled Bezaleel and sometimes with only one "e", who was the son of Uri, the son of Hur of the tribe of Juda.

We note this chapter under four heads. First God nominates; second, what kind of man did he nominate; third, a covenant sign to be observed by him; and fourth, the most important factor in the nomination.

### I. God nominates.

The calling of this man to work was under the guidance and the leadership of the Holy Spirit. The materials had been provided by the people but now they must have somebody to perform the work. They needed, (for example) somebody to do the engraving, they needed others to do the embroidery work, they needed others to perform the wood work. Now having lived all of their days in bondage in Egypt we can

not think that they had been instructed in this craft.

They knew how to make bricks and work with clay but work with diamonds and gold, they had never been brought up to work in this fashion. They were not goldsmiths, nor

jewelers, but what they knew, they knew about making bricks.

They might have made brick layers out of them and so we might ask the question now as God gets ready to nominate somebody and to call somebody, who was sufficient for

these things. Now he nominates and calls a person for

this business. Bezalel was to be the architect or master workman as listed in Verse 2.

He was of the tribe of Juda, the tribe that God

delighted in to honor. You remember that the grandson of

Hur, probably that Hur that held up Moses hand in Chapter

27, and certainly was carrying on some work from this

tribe, this family, this workman was chosen.

v.6 Also to work along with him was (Aholiab). This man

was from the tribe of Dan. He was appointed next to

Bezalel and partner with him as listed in verse 6. These

two men were to work in this task. You will remember that

Christ sent for his (disciples) who were to rear the Gospel

Tabernacle in the day in which they lived. And now here

we have these men who are to rear this tabernacle and to

impossible for him to see the complete whole of the design the he is creating or working upon. But when the finished product comes into view, there can be great excitement. And many people today go on in the daily grind of an apprentice, and they learn a trade, and then they are a finished workman, and then they perform their daily routine. They do not understand and yet there can appear before them a vision of some greater work which may be given to them to do. As one man said, but hand and mind can use the tools they get, however tools and metal in the hands of an untrained man are useless.

I was rather amused at a church administration picture in a recent copy in which the preacher had a hammer in one pocket, a screw driver in another, a wrench in another, an a bundle of keys in another; standing, tampering with some of the electrical wiring in a building. It is very much like a violin, its just so much kindling wood in the hands of some people but in the hands of an artist it is a thing of beauty and glory. It can produce a concert and by toil and labor, it can thrill the throngs. There is no difference in that instrument than in the hammer, or a wrench, or a screw driver, if the person has been trained in that. Whatsoever thy hands findeth to do,

Dorcas makes coats and garments for the poor. Acts 9:39. We find that gifts are not all alike and yet God can use all.

(Some) are made to lead, others are made to serve and follow in the work of the kingdom. A division of gifts is certainly something that we need as there needs to be a division in the labor.

(Bezalel) and ~~Aholiab~~ (Aholiab), thought of different tribes, Juda and Dan, worked together as friends. And were not opposed as rivals. And we know that the thing that kept out the spirit of rivalry was their consciousness that they were both working for the sacred cause of God's glory and not their own.

## II. What kind of a man was he.

Now the casual student of the Bible will say this man is practically unknown and yet he played a most vital role in making the success of the march in the wilderness. In fact, he assisted in making Moses the mighty man that he was, that he became. Usually we say that Moses built the tabernacle but here the facts tell us that Moses really had nothing to do with it -- in the erection of it, but the man who performed this necessary task was Bezalel.

We can see in this man (a representative) as to the kind of man of all those workman with skilled hands down through the ages who have used their trade to the glory of God. For this reason, I think this is important that we consider this man as a great man.

As I have stated, he was the (grandson) of Hur of the tribe of Juda. And like his grandfather, who was not of the priestly line.

3-5 But he was (a man filled) of the spirit of God. In Verse 3-5 we read these wonderful characteristics about this man, who was experienced in working with gold, and silver, and brass, and cutting stones, and carving timber, in all manner of workmanship.

(Futhermore) God associated with him this other man, Aholiab, from the tribe of Dan. It is said that he was (an engraver). In Chapter (38 Verse 23) as was able to turn out splendid work. This was to bring about a building that was for a particular purpose.

Now the (question) naturally arises when we think about the kind of man we are discussing. (Where) did this man

learn such trades. Well, it is possible that the learning took place in Egypt because he had spent the greater part of his life in slavery. Now during this time most of his (fellow countrymen) were engaged in working with brick making some of them with farming. Exodus 1:14. They had been used as slaves to build the treasure cities of Pithom and Raamses. Exodus 1:11. Now certainly these projects would have need for such skill as Bezalel possessed. And no doubt I would suggest that the (Egyptians) recognized his talent and probably trained him to be a skilled workman, that he was more than just a simple laborer, and that he learned his trade.

And perhaps (little) did he know, that while he was learning this trade, that he was to be destined to use it in this great way. It was (impossible) for him to see beyond the drudgery of the moment that there would come an hour when God would present him with a great opportunity. The work that he was performing with his hands was to be a kind of immortal work, something that would live on. Such a thought as this certainly gives glory to every belief that man is called upon to perform, like the (weaver) who sees only the stitch of the moment, it is

Verse 14 he said it is holy unto you. It is designed for your benefit as well as for God's honor. It is separated from the common use and it is to be observed throughout all generations. They must keep it, they must treasure it, they must preserve it, they must keep it from being polluted.

The reason of the Sabbath for God's laws are not only backed by his high authority but supported by the best reason. Verse 17. As the work of creation is worthy of remembrance, so is the great creator.

Now in Verse 14 there was a penalty attached to it. God will take the work into his own hands and cut him off by a stroke from Heaven. Unless, of course, he repents.

#### IV. The important factor in this man's life.

Now the thing that made the difference between Bezalel and the great mass of people was simply his spirit. And we read, I have filled him with the spirit of God. Exodus 31:3. Though he worked with his hands - his hands were guided by his heart. Thus his labor took on a dignity far greater than the task for the moment. And this same thing holds true today, people who work for the Lord Jesus. A man may labor with his hands, then find there is great dignity as he performs

do it with all thy might.

I come back to the question, what kind of a man was he. I summarize his whole life in these six things that you find in the Bible.

✓ First, the spirit of God was with him. He was a man who knew something about spiritual ministry.

✓ Second, wisdom. And this word has been sometimes translated ability, as being a capable man. One who understands the meaning of his work in relation to God's purpose. He grasps the meaning of the spiritual meaning to his particular tasks. And he was wise hearted.

Exodus 36:1. This means that he was an intelligent man - to know how to do his work. Exodus 36:1. That is he had great high appreciation for the art of his work that he was engaged in.

✓ Third, knowledge. That meant he had the know how, the intelligence, the technical know how to perform his work.

✓ Fourth, workmanship. All manner of workmanship it says, in other words it says in Chapter 35 Verse 32 and 33 that he was skilled in this with his hands to do curious work -- work with stones, work with wood, work with metal.

✓ Fifth and he was able to teach. Verse 34. He not only knew his task, his job, but he was able to instruct,

and train others in these skills.

### III. Covenant sign. / Verse 13-17.

The order had now been given that the tabernacle be set up and furnished for the service of God with all possible haste. But, less they should think, that the nature of the work and the haste that was required would justify them in working on the Sabbath Day, they might as well forget that. Because God was next giving a word of caution. Thou they must hasten to do this work, they must do it with all speed, but they must not break this covenant, this sign, which God had made between his people.

You remember God has special signs and covenants that he made with his people from time to time.

The first sign or covenant was the rainbow When he destroyed the human race except 8 persons in Genesis 9:8-9.

You remember that there was a covenant sign given that never again would such destruction come upon the world in this way and it was appointed that the rainbow would be the sign. This sign was precious unto those people, it showed that God was not only just but he was merciful.

The second covenant sign was that of circumcision

Now God selected Abraham to be the chosen one to produce the race, the family that would bless this earth.

But they were to keep this right, this ceremony.

And third the covenant sign of the Sabbath. This was also one that they were to set aside this day. Now other nations did not observe this but they were prohibited to work on this day. And it was a command of God, it was a memorial that was to be for future generations. And it showed a state of morals and religion. An all-spent Sabbath as all history shows has much to do with the character and the being of the individual, and also of the community. Now a disregard of this divine authority shows that you are ready to break some of the other laws of God when you disregard this law. And it is not to be infringed upon even for the work of the tabernacle. They had been called and it was urgent that they get this built in the desert but they must not break this law. It was a sign between you and me, God says in Verse 13, it distinguishes you from all people. God by sanctifying this day among them let them know that he sanctified them and set them apart for himself and for service. And it is in evidence here that the good work wrought by his spirit that if we sanctify this day, we in turn will have our hearts blessed by him for keeping this day.

and yet his spirit was moved to write Pilgrim's Progress.

Now most Christians will never become a Cary or a Buynan, and some of us, we will never become Moses. But all of us may be like this man we are talking about tonight. While the first went beyond their trades to find God's will for their lives, the last found God's will within his trade. He became an ally of Moses and he rendered a full ministry.

Within our churches there are multitudes of people who have physical skills that lie in their hands dormant. To many they say will now this is just the source of my bread, my meat, my clothes, my shelter - but talent which God has given should be dedicated unto God. And it ought to be fruitful in God's work as in other places. Any talent which is employed in the world of material pursuits can be most gloriously used in the service of Christ. I have seen that happen over and over again, in mission churches, and in our church in other churches where men who have had special talents have used them for the glory of God to the advancement of the kingdom and to the saving of money that might be used for other causes.

The important factor is not what a person can do, but whether he is filled with the spirit of God in the doing of

this task.

It was therefore the spirit of God within the man which made the difference between an ordinary man and an extra ordinary one whom God could use.

Before God chose him, he had proven this to be so. His unusual skill was do to the passion of his heart as he worked for perfection in his work. Doubtless, whatever he did, he did not to please men but unto the Lord. Even in our daily pursuit of this livelihood, God knows whether or not we turn out a good job or not. Now here was the building of the tabernacle. In this highly industrialized age when the man who labors with his hands takes on an ever enlarging proportion, I wonder whether he truly does it in the right spirit.

You remember the village blacksmith by Longfellow, "his brow is wet with honest sweat, he earns what era he can, and looks the whole world in the face, for he owes not any man."

In money or in the quality of service rendered so that at the close of every working day, he can say, something attempted, something done, has earned a nights repose.

But better still, men can turn once again to the study of this man who was filled with the spirit of God. Therefore when finally the day came when God was ready to

place before Bezael the opportunity for which he had been preparing him, the plan for the tabernacle had been wrought of God. The people and God's command had given the materials necessary to make it. It was then that Moses said, see the Lord has called thy name, Bezael. Exodus 35:30. It is significant to note that God called him to do this work. Without diminishing the significance of the call into the Gospel ministry, it is also true that God calls men to perform other services, in keeping with their own peculiar ability as individuals. If such could be recognized today, then every service takes on new meaning. Yes, God calls men to do his bidding whether he uses the hammer, or a wrench, or whatever his trade might be.

If you will allow, God will use every man where he is as he is best able to serve.

Bezael may not have had a lot of goods to contribute but he had something to give that others could not give. And perhaps Aholiab had a part that he could give. All other contributions would have been useless but God uses a plan and Moses could lead, and people could give, and only this man could provide the skill.

You remember that God has sent some to be apostles some prophets, some teachers, some with gifts of healing,

some to help in government, some others as listed in I Corinthians 12:28. And had Paul gone on he might have listed some of the talents of masonry, as a carpenter, and the like. I think that God has put in every man some particular gift which he can use for his glory.

So often the list of Christian ways stop with that of a preacher, or of teaching, or of singing but if these were the only gifts possessed by God's people, many necessary services would go unattended. In some instances it is more important to be able to use a saw, than to sing a solo. Or perhaps to be able to drive a nail, or to fix a water pipe, or to be a plumber, when a man needs a surgeon - he needs somebody who has skill.

When God called this man, he was ready and willing -- the difference between him and between some others may be the spirit that is within his heart. Such an attitude lifted this man and his ability up out of the ordinary circumstances of life into that of great fellowship. The story of a man who said that his business in life was being a Christian but that he may chose to pay the expenses is a familiar one. As so we read about William Cary who worked on shoes and yet he invisioned the world to be won for Christ. John Buynan, a tinker by trade, and yet



How often it is with us, after we have come to Christ as with the stoney ground era in the parable who had all sorts of difficulty and troubles in the way, we simply say we cannot do it. He tells us to come out wholly on his side and say we can't come out on his side. Now the fact that you can't is just the reason why God has chosen you to do it. We say we are weak but that is just the reason God chooses.

As we follow Moses who had his excuses and his reasons, they were nothing when at last he yielded himself when he said about his ability to speak -- God turned and used him in a mighty way.

When Saul was down before Goliath and there was no one to champion this giant, David came in and took his sling and he felt that God had ordained him to do it. This one man in the wilderness beat that great giant that day.

When Elijah went down to the widow's house at Zarephath and she needed to be substained, there were no barns or storehouses, but he said, what do you have. She said, a handful of meal in a barrel, a little bit of oil. And he took that and multiplied it for God's glory. Now those are the people that God wants, those who have not,

it. Too many people are patrons of the Lord's work rather than participants within it.

As Henry Dobson wrote, he is a patron, who looks down with careless eyes, on men who drown, but if they chance to reach the land, encumbers them with helping hands.

A participant on the other hand is one who under the guidance of God -- God's leader seeks a place of need and becomes fruitful and expresses himself there in the right spirit and lets his talent find a place of service.

God can use you, your pastor needs you, the building of the tabernacle of God waits for dedication of perhaps your ability.

Why not give the consecration of Bezalel's heart and hands. God was enable to accomplish a wonderful work in the wilderness. Without that dedication even God could not have performed it. He has so limited himself that he has no hands but the hands of men who will dedicate them to his service. And God gives skill to man but without his hands he cannot accomplish it.

How true that God needed this man. It is far more true, that this man needed God. Of course I think that the truth of the story of this lies in such a parable -- here they were in slavery in Egypt. This man's labor was perishing with all that he was doing but in the hands of God

he rendered a service that was holiness to the Lord. In Exodus 39:30. If our present day skills are extended in slavery, material pursuits, then this fruit will perish. But if they are given and invested for the glory of God, they will bring a real harvest.

I think that somehow this man (accomplished more) than he knew by means of the spirit. His physical labors were transformed into spiritual service very much like Emerson as he looked at a great work of Michelangelo "the hand that rounded Peter's dome" - he goes on to tell that he himself could not free himself from God but he was building better than he knew.

Yes, this man was rendered a (spiritual service) though he was not in the position of Moses as a leader, he was not in the position of Aaron the priest in his work, but he was (an instrument in the hands of God). And ever there after as the tabernacle and its appointments were kept for worship, there stood this man whose labor was holiness to the Lord. And Moses was communing with God, there stood this man when Aaron once a year entered the holy place for the atonement and brought in the blood for the sins of the people. In that same spirit this man was companion in this sacred service. (Without Aaron there would have been no service but without Bezalel there

would have been no altar, no veil, no mercy seat.

What does this experience say to you. The skill which is in your hands and mine was placed there by God. And if dedicated to his service can be used for his glory and it can become a compliment to the service of your pastor, your church, and of all of those who serve in a Christian organization with you. This principle will ever abide, the work of a man's hands is just as sacred and as necessary to the Lord today then as now. And of course this man helped to make Moses great, to bless his ministry. And the man of God who serves today needs the help of such men. Let thy work appear unto thy servants and thy glory unto thy children, and let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish thou the work of our hands upon us. The work of thou hands establish thou it. (Psalms 100). When we see how God has chosen us and why we have a grand encouragement to expect that his will shall yet be truly fulfilled in and by us, it gives us great strength.

We do (not need complaints), (how often have I heard, I am so weak and so unfit to do this work or that work, thus you bring to God an excuse for not doing his will. What he calls the reason for doing it.

for he cried over and over again at the top of his voice.

"I taught him, I taught him." Well, all over this land are teachers who can look at some great legislator and joyfully shout "I taught him". Think what if every teacher would fasten something in their heart of the great responsibility and the great influence which they unconsciously have. If you are a bad person, then the bad part is imparted to your students. If you have a high mind and noble characteristics then that is imparted.

Now I do not remember many words or many sentences that were taught me by my teachers. But I do remember some of those men and some of those women. You will never forget.

There is the doctor, what a calling his is. What a sacred service is his labor. And how the best in him needs to be utilized. What an opportunity to bless mankind.

There is a lawyer who has a task of dealing with the affairs of this earth. He has an opportunity to serve mankind.

many times have nothing but some little skill, some little talent - he wants it and he will use it. Instead of our excuses, we might cry with Isaiah, I am a man of unclean lips. Or Jeremiah who said, I am but a child. And Amos who said, I was no prophet, I was just a herdsman, working out for a living.

*Peter & John to Man of gate "Silver & gold have we none - such as we have - we give -"*

All of God's work can be done with three necessary

things.

First, faith to believe what God says when he calls you and when God says a thing - that he means it.

Second, surrender to allow that God knows best.

Third, obedience - that sees what God requires and does it. Now that is the point. This man saw the point.

When God shows you a thing, go to it and do it. Do not wait for power, it is not yours, but it is God's to give.

We need to let go of self altogether, then we will have power. Because Isaac going up the hill with Abraham with the wood and the fire, where was the lamb. You know, God provided the lamb. And if you are to be his servant - the useful servant - and to be full of the spirit and you are going to be the best kind of a servant, then you must go to his great work when God tells you to do some-

thing, don't question him, don't answer again. We know

But I will say this much, God never called an idler.  
God always calls a busy man = and sometimes we wonder  
 whether or not there will be those who will rise up and  
answer the call.

Someone came to John Knox and he was naturally a  
timid young man - the condition of his problem was terrible.

That someone needed to take ahold of it. God was being  
dishonored, religion was just mere form. And Knox who  
 had this power within, they said you are the man to  
remedy this. How can you measure the value of that  
conversation, that call, for he set all Scotland a flame.

Who knows the possibilities in one human life, even  
an unpromising life. Sometimes the most unpromising boy  
who seems to be ordinary may have great power in him, if  
 some great purpose could be charged for the glory of God.

As Sir Henry Drummond said, I have made many discover-  
 ies by my greatest discovery was the discovery of Michael  
Faraday.

What he meant was he used the ability to wake up a  
life, to give it high hope and high purpose and thus  
produced a great scientist. Here in this city of ours  
 are men, women, boys and girls who will be leaders in the  
 state, in the church, in the world, in society, in

business, in professions -- men and women upon whom  
 somehow the responsibility will descend. Each man has  
 his own gifts and there comes in the glory of individuality  
 -- men are not made the same and out of the same mold. Men  
 are not made alike, God desires that each man be used in a  
 certain way, in his own peculiar way. For we know that  
this world today does not need a bunch of screaming  
reformers as much as they need people who are under the  
leadership of Heaven, who will give themselves to some  
task as God directs them.

We need good mothers today. For example Benjamin  
West when he reached the world with his heart, he said  
 with deep emotion, when I was a boy, a little boy, I  
looked at my baby sister and drew a rough sketch of her  
and when mother saw it, she cried and hugged me and then  
kissed me, and that kiss made me the artist I am. Oh  
 the place of a mother - nobody can take. That is  
incomparable, because she transmitted to that boy the  
inspiration to use that talent.

There is a great privilege for teachers today, they  
 have the privilege of teaching. When Frederick of Prussia  
 was marching at the head of his troops, there was an old  
white haired man in the crowd, who was nearly over joyed

we need to live and to use our talent so that our lives may live on. Do you know the meaning of the term, son

of Benadict? This was applied to Judas, Iscarrot. Now when that is correctly translated it is child of waste.

Oh, the plan. The pulpit was old and stately. It had been tenderly carried through three new building phases and now stood grandly in the new auditorium, a monument to the many fine pastors who had preached from behind it.

One Sunday, in the middle of a sermon, the entire top jarred loose and clattered to the platform. An embarrassed, half-amused, murmur went through the congregation. The pastor stood for a long moment in shocked silence. Then he picked up the pock-marked slab of inlaid oak and stood with it in his hands.

The people waited for him to speak. The long silence indicated that the pastor had completely forgotten his prepared sermon. When he spoke, tears glistened in his eyes.

"You will please excuse me. I suddenly feel a tremendous loss and I am ashamed that it has taken me so long to remember. Brother Amos Henry has been with Jesus for quite some time, so he won't be repairing this for me. That was the thought I had the instant the top fell—Brother Amos would fix it."

His confession brought shame to many hearts. Brother Amos was a kind, faithful, old Christian gentleman who was accepted as handyman. He had gone unpraised and unnoticed in life and until several weeks after his death. It is so easy to overlook blessings. God gives them to us sometimes in unexpected ways.

—Dean Goodson

### His Service Lives

Being church treasurer for a Baptist church is a demanding and sometimes thankless task. Yet our mission enterprises would be greatly hindered without the many hours of work given by these faithful people.

Jim Landson was church treasurer in Chandler, Oklahoma. On Monday morning, as was his habit, he wrote out the weekly check from his church to the Cooperative Program.

Tuesday morning he was called home to his maker. Those who knew him well realized how fitting it was that his last act on behalf of his church was to write the check for world missions. He was a servant "faithful unto death."

*some Benadict's The Kingdom of Jesus & His*  
*a Baptist pulpit with a carpenter shop*

## The Old Pulpit's Message

So - my - Oct. 24, 1965 PM WXRI

we need to live and to use our talent so that our lives may live on. Do you know the meaning of the term, son of Perdition? This was applied to Judas, Iscariot. Now when that is correctly translated it means child of waste. Oh, the waste of a life that does not conform to God's plan, and God's call. Was there ever a tragedy more comparable to that. It will not be your tragedy if your life is anchored to Jesus Christ. That life that is anchored to him has a great purpose.

What God requires of us is that we give our best to him. Do that, and we may know that what has been good and true and Christlike in our lives will be passed on to bless the succeeding generations. The good is more enduring than the evil. And we are told that in the Ten Commandments that the iniquities of the fathers will be visited upon the fathers, the children to the third and fourth generation, those that hate God. But God's mercy is going to be extended to the thousandth generation of those that love and keep his commandments.

We could pray tonight that the members of this church and of all churches might use their godly influence and their talents and not shirk their responsibility in the opportunity of this day of Christian service.

So. Inf. Oct. 24, 1965 P.M. WXRI

The old Putout message -