

1ST CENTURY ATTITUDES—NEEDED TODAY!

By Keith Greer

In His great Sermon on the Mount, Christ emphasized needed attitudes for those seeking His kingdom. We could use some "first century" attitudes today.

"But First Gave Themselves to the Lord." "And not only as we had hoped, but they first: gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God. "{2 Corinthians 8:5} Until one truly "gives" himself to the Lord he will not be a valuable asset in the kingdom of God. This is a work one must give all of himself to be successful at doing God's will.

"Spend and Be Spent." "And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved." {2 Corinthians 12:15} Could we say that we've ever worn ourselves out in service to Him? The problem is not that there isn't enough work--the real need is workers! Do we seek new ways that we can share the gospel with those lost and dying in sin? Are we ready to help in this great need? Is our attitude "send me" or "send somebody else"?

"Searched the Scriptures Daily." "These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. " {Acts 17:11} This is our one true protection from getting carried away into apostasy--keep our noses in the book!

"Not Seeking to Please Men". "For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ." {Galatians 1:10} Who are we seeking to please more in our lives-Christ or ourselves? All preachers need to consider this point soberly. If one preaches to keep the brethren in the pew happy, or for his own job security-he has forgotten whose servant he is and the work he was called upon to accomplish.

Some say the examples and values of the past have no great importance in our own time. Think where the church would be in the 21st century if some of these (and many others we could list) were not just talked about but followed! What's your attitude my brother? ***