Good Morning, November 8, 2014

“And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.” (Luke 9:62). Brother Dan Alcorn has been given the gift of encouragement. I met him seven years ago when I first moved to Murfreesboro, TN. When my next birthday rolled around, I found in the mailbox a birthday card from Brother Dan with a two-dollar-bill inside. Then my wife and each one of my children got a card from Brother Dan on their birthday, each with the two-dollar-bill. Come to find out, he sends over two thousand birthday cards a year to people that he has met, each furnished with a fresh two-dollar bill. I get one every year!

When I am home, I go to the bus garage at 6:00 A.M. on Saturday morning to hang out with Brother Dan and Jim Elkins until prayer room at 7:30. Shortly after my last birthday, I brought my latest two-dollar bill from him with me to the bust garage to have him sign it. When he did, he signed my two-dollar bill with his life verse - Luke 9:62. I asked him how the LORD used this verse in his life that would cause him to claim it as his life verse. He told me this amazing story and I will now share it with you.

When Brother Dan was called into the ministry he was a young man, married and had three children. He was absolutely sure God wanted him to quit his job as a salesmen for a feed plant. It was a very good job that paid him exceptionally well. Brother Dan did what the LORD told him to do; he sold everything, quit his job and off to college he went. He tried to find work in his new environment to care for his family while he went to school, but jobs were very hard to find during that era. He told me that one-day the old Devil came by to tempt him to quit school and go back home. He remembered that his old boss said he could have his old job back anytime he wanted it. His mind went back to living in a nice home and being able to provide his wife and children with plenty of food and all the luxuries of life. But, just like the LORD, the Holy Ghost brought this verse to his mind to encourage him to not look back because He had great things for him in the future. He set his mind to obey God and decided to trust the LORD for a job that would provide for his family and pay his school bill while he studied for the ministry.

The very next week, Dan would apply for a job at the Union Tank Car in East Chicago. They told him that he had to take a welding test. Brother Dad can do many things, but welding was not one of them. While he was in the office, for some reason, the plant manager came in. Brother Dan introduced himself and told him that he was taking his welding test to come to work. The manager gave him his phone number and told him if he failed the test to give him a call. Well, he failed the test and gave him a call. To make a long story short, within the week he had a job making $9.62 an hour at the Union Tank Car Company.

When he told me how much his pay was, my eyes got real big and I looked at him and said, “How much was your salary?” He said, “$9.62; for some reason, I have never forgot that number.” I said, “Do you realize that the LORD gave you the same amount in pay as the reference to the verse He gave you to not look back!” He got a great big smile on his face and said that he had never put the two together: God bumps ran down my back. It is just like the LORD to do something so simple to remind us that He is in control of every situation that comes into our lives. From getting a job to take care of the family to comfort in the time of loss, whatever you may be going through today, don’t look back! Keep trusting the LORD and keep serving Him. He has everything under control. Have a great day.

Brother Van Horn

Good Morning, November 15, 2014

“…These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel” (Exodus 19:6). God has always used His man to speak His Word to His people. He recorded His Words, the King James Bible, for all mankind to use as a path to a life of righteousness and joy. Today, He calls His preachers to study His Word so we can tell His people how to have this life of joy. Then, God, in His sovereignty, gives each person the choice to love His Word or to love themselves. “Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded” (Proverbs 13:13). Live your life loving His Word and dwelling in the presence of Jesus and you will have no regrets! “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (John 1:1). Have a great day!

Brother Van Horn

Good Morning, November 18, 2014

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judæa, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth“ (Acts 1:8). In the King James Bible, the word “unto” gives us the idea of placing a gift, an idea or anything unto a person. It is totally different from the word “to.” For example, the water flowed over the bank of the river unto the road. The road received the water from the river when it overflowed. To replace the word “unto” with “to” changes the whole meaning of the phrase. It takes the reception away and turns into an expression in grammar witch simple directs. For example, “I went into my office to write a note unto you.” If you say “a note to you” it would mean that it was on its way. By saying “unto you,” you are saying that the note is intended for you to receive. Notice now our text verse; we are commanded by Christ to be a witness unto Him. Whenever we are telling a sinner the Gospel message, in reality, we are telling it unto Jesus. He receives our witness and causes the sinner to hear the convicting message leaving him with the responsibility of either receiving or rejecting it. Christ does the work when we do the witness! Tell someone about Christ today and give the gift of being a witness unto Jesus! Have a great day!

Brother Van Horn