

## Constant

1 Chronicles 28:7 “Moreover I will establish his kingdom for ever, if he be constant to do my commandments and my judgments, as at this day.”

“...if he be constant...” — that is the theme!

As we approach our four-decade mark in the ministry, looking back over our ministry, I remember a few very special moments: big days and unusual converts. For the most part, thirty-six years of pastoring a church can be summarized by one simple task — the continual doing of right. The continual dripping in the very rainy day, described by Solomon, gives instruction to those who wish a ministry that is effective; it is continual, even though the work seems as though just little drips. Whether it be the smooth stones carved away by millions of little tiny grains of sand in the ocean as they pound against the hard rocks or the simple dripping faucet, one drip at a time hitting a bar of soap; the power of consistent influence is indisputable.

For thirty-six years, we have had soul winning each week. For thirty-six years, we have had youth activities. For thirty-six years, we have opened the Bible on Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night, and on occasion, at special meetings on other days of the week. From our very first Wednesday night, we have given away our Wednesday offerings to missionaries or special needs of people somewhere around the country; but our mid-week offerings have never been a part of our church budget.

For thirty-six years, we have taught holy living, separation from the world, modesty in dress, and we have labored to discourage teenage dating. For thirty-six years, we have taught on marriage, child rearing, family time, vacations, and investing our time, talent, and treasure in the ministry of the Gospel. For thirty-six years, we have taught that we will stand before Jesus Christ one day at the Judgment Seat and be rewarded for our works.

Throughout Christian history, there have been some spectacular evangelists and extremely unique times in Christian history when God moved in great ways; but most of Christian history has been common people doing right day-in and day-out.

A good bus route is pictured by a common bus captain who goes out every Saturday, year-in, and year-out for decades, and he wakes up early on Sunday morning to pick up the handful of bus riders. He loves them, points them to Christ, opens his wallet to meet the needs of the families (or the spring or fall program). Through the bus captain’s consistent giving and serving, great things are accomplished.

It is said of Reuben, “Unstable as water, thou shall not excel...” (Genesis 49:4)

The book of James tells us:

James 1:7 “For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.”

vs. 8 “A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”

May we be reminded that consistent doing of right will ultimately bring spiritual blessings on earth and heavenly rewards eternally.

Keep at it, stay with the same stuff you were taught. Constant change is a sure way to be as Reuben, unstable and useless.

Joshua had the command to simply be brave enough to do right, one day at a time. He did nothing spectacular, he simply obeyed.

Joshua 1:6 “Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them.”  
vs. 7 “Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.”

Paul urged believers to be “steadfast.” (1 Corinthians 15:58) Do not worry about the result, worry only about doing right daily; leave the rest to the Lord.