

# Thought for the Week... —

## Making Hell Happy



**“I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” Matthew 16:18**

I was guest preaching at a church when a woman who had waited in line to talk to me told me that she was thinking about leaving the church because the pastor had joined a country club. And apparently, someone had spotted him there on a *Sunday* morning

“Why wasn’t he in church?” she indignantly asked me as though I should have the answer. I happened to know the pastor well—and I knew that he was on vacation at the time, so my educated guess was that he had attended a service the night before. I mentioned this and also told her that regardless of anything else, her church was doing an amazing job of impacting the community for Christ, so she should rejoice in the big picture and stay on board.

The timing was interesting. I had just finished preaching on avoiding the distractions that get us off the main task of being united in taking the redemptive power of Jesus into our world. And while I don’t want to get into a food fight with anyone who thinks that pastors shouldn’t join country clubs, I must admit that I am a little short-fused with how quickly we go after each other when it’s the gates of hell that we should be assaulting.

In Christ’s day, He faced groups who were all tangled up in major distractions. There were those who thought that political overthrow would bring in the kingdom of God. These “zealots,” as they were called, would have gladly spilled their blood in the streets to overthrow the oppressive regime of Rome. They remind me of a lot of American Christians who believe that if only we can get our nation to be Christian again through political overthrow we will be in good shape. What a major distraction! The only way that we are going to win America, or any other country for that matter, is to win people to the saving work of Jesus one person at a time. Our mission is not to save a nation but to save those living in the nation. Don’t forget that when Simon the Zealot met Jesus, he changed agendas and became one of the 12. He joined the right revolution (Mark 3:18)!

What a difference from Jesus’ mission to engage this world with the love of His rescuing power! He crashed the gates of hell by spending time with sinners. And while it irritated a lot of religious folk, He was undaunted in His resolve to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10). Some may even be at the country club—*hmm*. In spite of Jesus’ example, there are still a few people around today who think that separating from the world and its sinners will make us ready for Jesus’ return. They are gate lockers, not gate crashers! (*Sometimes, we make assumptions and that can be destructive!*)

It seems to me that Satan doesn’t really care about whether or not we call ourselves Christians. All he needs to do is to distract us by getting us to throw rocks at each other or to somehow adjust the mission away from crashing the gates of hell. I’m sure he’s happy not having to worry about who is busting down his gates to set the captives free. So let’s not give hell something to be happy about!

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**Tune in for Great Gospel Music**  
**KJIC 90.5 FM**  
**King Jesus is Coming**

# Prayer Practice



Tues night 7:30 pm

Make it a habit too hard to break!

## Pastor Appreciation Month

This is Pastor Appreciation Month and next Sunday will be Pastor Appreciation Sunday honoring Bro. & Sis. Jeane and Bro. & Sis. Custer. There will be food and fellowship after the pm service. See Sis. Kitty Woods for more details and what to bring.

Afternoon Service at the Retirement Home in Alvin TODAY at 2:30 pm. Be Blessed and join with us -Catch a ride on the POSF van! See Bro. Boone for more details.

### YOUTH RALLY “Crescendo”



There will be a Youth Rally this Friday night called “Crescendo” at Bro. Macey’s Church. The van will be leaving here at 6:30pm for all those wanting to attend. You don’t want to miss this service or the great time of fellowship with other youth in the area!



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### Candy Rain and Trunk Or Treat

On Wednesday, Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm there will be a candy rain at POSF. This will be the start of the Trunk or Treat and open to our community. Boxes are set up by the foyer for your candy donations. Others in the community are supporting our efforts. For more details see Bro. Boone. Come join our Outreach fun and fellowship!

### Digging For Treasures

Thursday evening 7:30pm at POSF is a special time of Bible Study with Bro. Matt Clark. Everyone is welcome to bring a friend and join with us searching through the treasures in the Word of God! Be in prayer for all our ministries at POSF.



## *Birthdays and Anniversary's*

*Week of October 14-20*



- 14 - Jackie Syvertson
- 15 - Richard & Kim Jackson
- 19 - Christian Schanzer

*Happy Anniversary*



*Happy Birthday Wishes!*

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### **Unused Gears**

My first bike had one gear. Whether I was going fast or slow, uphill or downhill, that gear did everything. My next bike had three gears: one for level surfaces, one for going uphill, and one for going downhill. My third bike had ten gears, allowing me an even broader range of choices. Even though my last bike had several gears to choose from, I didn't use all of them every time I rode. Some were best suited for starting and climbing, others were reserved for gaining speed, and others were best for a leisurely pace. But the thing about gears is this: Even though I wasn't using all of them at the time, it didn't mean I would *never* need them.

The same can be true in regard to our spiritual gifts and abilities. During times when I feel I am not being used to do certain things I once did, instead of feeling useless and unappreciated I thank God for the "gear" I'm currently able to use. Just because a skill is not needed right now doesn't mean it never will be.

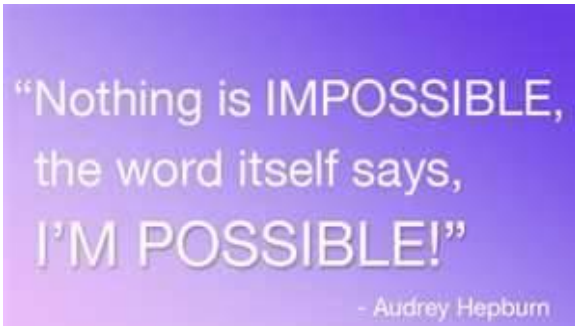
Our spiritual gifts are needed in different ways at different times. Needs and circumstances change in unforeseeable and unpredictable ways. The apostle Paul reminded Titus, "Be ready for every good work" (Titus 3:1). May that be true of us as well.

Heavenly Father, I need to remember that what I do is up to You, but how I do it is up to me.

**Keep your tools ready—God will find work for you.**



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***Thank You for Choosing  
To Worship With Us!***