

A Doorkeeper A Willing Worker And A Servant For The Lord



2 Chronicle 23:4, 19

Rev. Dr. Perry Simmons, Jr., B.A., M.A., D. Min.
224 West Kinney Street,
Newark, New Jersey
07103

A DOORKEEPER
A WILLING WORKER AND
A SERVANT FOR THE LORD

[2 CHRONICLES 23:4, 19]

[4.] *“THIS IS THE THING THAT YE SHALL DO; A THIRD PART OF YOU ENTERING ON THE SABBATH, OF THE PRIEST AND OF THE LEVITES, SHALL BE PORTERS OF THE DOORS.”*

[19.] *“AND HE SET THE PORTERS AT THE GATES OF THE HOUSE OF THE LORD, THAT NONE WHICH WAS UNCLEAN IN ANYTHING SHOULD ENTER IN”*

INTRODUCTION

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, TODAY WE COME TO ENCOURAGE THE USHERS ON THEIR ‘ANNIVERSARY’ TO STAY AT THERE POST, BE WILLING WORKERS AND DEDICATED SERVANTS FOR THE LORD

USHERS SHOULD BE WILLING TO WORK, TO BE SERVANTS, AS DOORKEEPER FOR THE HOUSE OF GOD.

AND KNOWING YOUR HISTORICAL HERITAGE, SHOULD ENCOURAGE EVERY USHER TO HAVE A HIGHER REGARD AND DEVOTION TO THE OFFICE IN WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN CALLED TO SERVE.

THE OLD FOLK USE TO SAY, HOWEVER YOU MAKE YOUR BED, THAT’S THE WAY YOU GOT TO LAY IN IT.

AND WE WANT TO MAKE THE PATH OF THE USHERS A LITTLE EASIER TO TRAVEL.

THEY NEED ALL THE ENCOURAGEMENT THEY CAN GET, BECAUSE CHURCH FOLK CAN BE AWFULLY CRUEL SOMETIMES TO (USHERS) STANDING AT THE DOOR..

HOW CAN THE CHURCH CONVINCED THE WORLD TO, **“LOVE ONE ANOTHER”** WHEN THE ‘WORLD SEES THE CHURCH STABBING EACH OTHER IN THE BACK.

HOW CAN THE CHURCH ADVISE THE WORLD TO, **“TRUST IN THE LORD,”** WHEN THEY ARE TRUSTING IN THE WORLD.

HOW CAN THE CHURCH TELL THE WORLD TO, **“LET EVERY MAN BE SWIFT TO HEAR, SLOW TO SPEAK, SLOW TO WRATH,”** WHEN YOU ARE GOSSIPING AND LYING ON EACH OTHER?

HOW CAN THE CHURCH TELL THE WORLD TO, **“GIVE TO THOSE LETS FORTUNATE,”** WHEN ‘THE MEMBERS ARE SELFISH AND SELF-CENTERED?

HOW CAN THE CHURCH TELL THE WORLD TO, **“FORSAKE NOT THE ASSEMBLING YOURSELVES TOGETHER”** AND THEY COME TO YOUR HOUSE ON THE LORD’S DAY TO WATCH THE N.F.L. OR N.B.A.T?

WHEN THE WORLD SEES THE CHURCH DIVIDED AND FRAGMENTED INTO GROUPS AND CLICKS, EACH WITH THEIR OWN SET OF RULES AND AGENDAS THE CHURCH WILL LOOSE ITS **“POWER”** TO WITNESS EFFECTIVELY, AND ITS WORKS ARE RENDERED TO BE NONE EFFECTIVE.

HOWEVER, OFTEN TIMES, THE SERVICES AND WORK WE PERFORM IN MINISTRY SEEMS TO GO UNNOTICED AND UNAPPRECIATED BY THOSE IN WHOM WE SERVE.

BUT ONE MUST REMEMBER THAT THE CUSTOMER DOES NOT : GIVE OUT “PAY,” IT’S HANDED OUT BY THE EMPLOYER

THAT’S WHY THE SERVANT OF GOD MUST BE CAREFUL IN LOOKING FOR ***COMPENSATION*** FROM ***MEN*** WHEN YOUR ***EMPLOYER IS GOD.***

CUSTOMERS GIVE TIPS: A PAT ON THE BACK, A NAME ON A PROGRAM, A PLAQUE, OR EVEN A LITTLE CASH

BUT, GOD GIVES REWARDS: SUGGESTING THAT THE TOKENS OF APPRECIATIONS GIVEN BY MEN, CAN IN NO WISE COMPARE TO THE REWARDS GIVEN BY GOD

USHERS YOU WILL GET YOUR REWARD FROM GOD!

TRANSITION TO THE TEXT

THE TEXT SAYS, “THIS IS THE THING THAT YE SHALL DO; A THIRD PART OF YOU ENTERING ON THE SABBATH, OF THE PRIEST AND OF THE LEVITES, SHALL BE PORTERS OF THE DOORS.” IN OTHER WORD IT IS TELLING THE USHERS TO MAN YOUR POST “A THIRD OF THE PRIEST AND LEVITES WHO COME OFF DUTY ON THE SABBATH WILL STAY AT THE ENTRANCE AS GUARDS.’

NOW, IN ORDER FOR THE USHER TO SERVE WELL ON SUNDAY, IT REQUIRES PROPER REST IN ORDER, TO STAY AWAKE THE USHER MUST BE BOTH PHYSICALLY AND SPIRITUALLY, AWAKE.

IN ORDER FOR THE USHER TO PROPERLY PERFORM HIS/HER DUTY, HE MUST REMAIN ALERT, CONSTANTLY ON THE LOOK OUT FOR ANYTHING THAT MIGHT CAUSE AN INTERRUPTION IN THE WORSHIP SERVICE.

PORTERS HAD TO WATCH THE DOOR. [MARK 13:34] *“FOR THE SON OF MAN IS AS A MAN TAKING A FAR JOURNEY, WHO LEFT HIS HOUSE, AND GAVE AUTHORITY TO HIS SERVANTS, AND TO EVERY MAN HIS WORK, AND COMMANDER. THE PORTER TO WATCH... WATCH YE THERE FORE...AND WHAT I SAY UNTO YOU I SAY UNTO ALL, WATCH.”*

WATCH FOR THE ROARING LION [1 PETER 5:8]

WATCH: FOR THE RETURNING LORD [MARK I 3:35]

“AND HE SET THE PORTERS AT THE GATES OF THE HOUSE OF THE LORD, THAT NONE WHICH WAS UNCLEAN IN ANYTHING SHOULD ENTER IN. AND HE SET THE PORTERS AT THE GATES OF THE HOUSE OF THE LORD, THAT NONE WHICH WAS UNCLEAN IN ANYTHING SHOULD ENTER IN.”

IT MAY NOT BE A VERY STRONG OR IMPOSING DOOR, BUT WHEN YOU SEE ONE (UNCLEAN) YOU REALIZE- ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE A RIGHT TO ENTER WILL BE ALLOWED BEYOND THAT OPENING.

EVERYONE ELSE IS A TRESPASSER AND THEY CANNOT COME IN.

WHEN WE TALK OF PORTERS TODAY, WE THINK OF THOSE WHO WORK IN HOSPITALS.

SUCH PEOPLE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MOVING PATIENTS, FOR TAKING MEALS TO PATIENTS AND OTHER IMPORTANT TASK.

HOWEVER, A PORTER HAD A MUCH SIMPLER DUTY

[CHAPTER 24], TELL US JOASH WAS MADE KING; ONLY THE LEVITES WHO REPRESENTED THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF ISRAEL COULD BE USHERS.

IN ESSENCE WE ARE ALL DOORKEEPERS TO SERVE OUR FELLOW MAN

PORTERS WERE WATCHERS AT THE TEMPLE GATE, THAT NONE SHOULD ENTER IN WHO WAS RENDERED UNCLEAR, CEREMONIALLY DEFILED.

UNDER THE LAW OF MOSES SUCH PERSON WERE SEPARATED FROM THE CONGREGATION, [LEV.11: 24] AND UNTIL THEY WERE PURIFIED, THEY COULD TAKE NO PART IN THE DIVINE WORSHIP.

AND THE TRUTH THEREIN SYMBOLIZED, WAS THAT WORSHIP DERIVES ITS QUALITY FROM THE CHARACTER OF THE WORSHIPPER..

AN UNCLEAR ISRAELITE COULD NOT RENDER ACCEPTABLE WORSHIP TO GOD

NOT UNTIL THE OFFICIATING PRIEST HAD OFFERED ATONEMENT FOR HIS TRESPASS, AND HIS BODY HAD BEEN WASHED IN PURE WATER, COULD TAKE HIS PLACE IN THE CONGREGATION.

PORTERS WERE DOORKEEPERS IN THE HOUSE OF GOD. THERE WERE MANY OFFICES IN THE SERVICE OF THE SANCTUARY TO BE FILLED BY THE LEVITES, AND VARIOUS DUTIES TO BE DISCHARGED.

HISTORY DATES BACK THOUSANDS OF YEARS ON PORTERS, DOORKEEPERS AND KEEPERS OF THE GATE

- THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF DOORS IN THIS WORLD.
- THERE ARE DOORS ON THIS CHURCH BUILDING.
- THERE ARE DOORS AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE MALL.
- THERE ARE GARAGE DOORS.
- THERE ARE HOUSE DOORS.
- THERE ARE BATHROOM DOORS.
- THERE ARE CLOSET DOORS.
- THERE ARE WOODEN DOORS.
- THERE ARE DOORS MADE OF GLASS.
- THERE ARE PLASTIC DOORS.
- THERE ARE HOLLOW AS WELL AS SOLID DOORS.

SOME DOORS ARE MASSIVE, AND SOME ARE SMALL - BUT EVERY DOOR HAS ONE PURPOSE: CLOSE-OFF AN ENTRANCE. BLOCK AN OPENING. KEEP PEOPLE OUT OR LET PEOPLE IN.

BUT, USHERS ARE KNOWN AS DOORKEEPERS.

NOW LET US NOTE THAT MANY NAMES OF FOLKS, AND THINGS HAVE CHANGED ACROSS THE YEARS.

- ABRAM'S NAME WAS CHANGE TO ABRAHAM, WHEN GOD MADE A COVENANT WITH HIM THAT HIS SEED WOULD MULTIPLY EXCEEDINGLY.
- JACOB'S NAME WAS CHANGED TO ISRAEL WHEN HE WRESTLED WITH THE ANGEL AT PENIEL.
- SAUL'S NAME WAS CHANGED TO PAUL WHEN HE MET JESUS ON THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS.
- COAL OIL TODAY WAS KNOWN AS KEROSENE A FEW YEARS AGO.

BUT THE NAME USHER REMAINS THE SAME.

AND THIS NAME AND FUNCTION SUGGESTS THAT; THE USHER MUST PROCESS A CHARACTER OF INTEGRITY AND HONESTY AMONG THE PEOPLE THEY SERVE.

THUS, THE CHURCH USHER IS IN GOOD COMPANY BECAUSE OF THEIR FUNCTION TO THE HOUSE AND PEOPLE OF GOD.

THEY SERVED AS THE INSTRUMENT OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE OUTSIDE OF THE HOUSE AND THOSE THAT ARE INSIDE THE HOUSE, WHICH PUTS THE CHURCH USHER IN EVEN "GREATER COMPANY."

JESUS THE CHRIST ! HE DREW UPON THIS CUSTOM WHEN SPEAKING OF HIMSELF AS A "**PORTER**" AND A "**DOORKEEPER**" GUARDING THE FLOCK OF GOD.

FOR THEN THE ENEMY COULD NOT CREEP IN UNAWARES.
AND **YOU** MUST WATCH!

FOR YOU SEE, THE TRUTH IS THAT NO ONE CAN WATCH EXCEPT A WATCHMAN

NO ONE CAN FIGHT IN A BATTLE EXCEPT A SOLDIER

AND NO ONE CAN USHER EXCEPT AN USHER, STANDING AT THE DOOR AND WALKING THE FLOOR DOES NOT MAKE ANYONE AN USHER.

TO BE AN USHER YOU MUST HAVE THE VISION OF AN USHER, THE HEART OF AN USHER AND THE LOVE OF AN USHER. ***AND YOU MUST WATCH!***

NOW, BEING AN USHER IS NO SMALL THING AND IT IS NO PLACE FOR SMALL PEOPLE.

AN USHER MUST HAVE A BIG HEART, RENEWED BY THE DIVINE GRACE OF GOD.

AN USHER MUST HAVE A BROAD OUTLOOK ON LIFE.

BUT OUR TEXT SAYS TO THE PORTER, AND TO THE USHER YOU MUST BE ON YOUR JOB, YOU CANNOT WELCOME PEOPLE TO SERVICE WHILE YOU ARE AT HOME OR ON YOUR WAY TO CHURCH.

ATTENTIVE : IN ADDITION TO OTHER DUTIES, THE GATEKEEPER WAS TO MINISTER (SERVE) THE PRIEST AND THE PEOPLE IN THE CONGREGATION.

THIS MEANT THAT HE MUST BE ATTENTIVE TO THE NEEDS OF THOSE IN THE HOUSE.

THUS, THE CHURCH USHER MUST BE ATTENTIVE, ALWAYS READY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE, AS A WHOLE PROPER PHYSICAL POSTURE IS NECESSARY IN THE PERFORMANCE OF ONE'S DUTY.

HOWEVER, ONE'S PHYSICAL POSTURE DOES NOT ALWAYS REFLECT ONE'S SPIRITUAL AND MENTAL CONDITION.

NOW WHAT IS THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO YOU?

YOU ARE WRITING A GOSPEL, A CHAPTER EACH DAY.
BY THE DEEDS THAT YOU DO, AND THE WORDS THAT YOU
SAY.

MEN READ WHAT YOU WRITE, WHETHER FAITHFUL OR
TRUE.

THESE WORDS ARE FROM AN UNKNOWN POET SUGGEST TO US
THAT; “THE MESSAGE WE GIVE IS REFLECTED IN THE LIFE WE
LIVE.

“WHEN PEOPLE LOOK AT YOU, WHEN THEY SEE HOW YOU
LIVE YOUR LIFE AND CONDUCT YOUR AFFAIRS.

WHEN THEY EXAMINE YOU IN WORK AND WORSHIP, WHAT
DO THEY READ IN YOUR BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH’?

- DOES YOUR PROFESSION MATCH YOUR CONFESSION?
- DOES YOUR RESUME SPEAK OF YOUR REGENERATION?
- IS YOUR TITLE BEFITTING OF YOUR TESTIMONY?
- IS YOUR WITNESS REFLECTED IN YOUR WALK?

THE **MESSAGE** CANNOT BE SEPARATED FROM THE
MESSENGERS. “*ONLY LET YOUR ‘CONVERSATION’ (CONDUCT)
BE AS IT BECOMETH THE GOSPEL CF CHRIST.*”

ONE OF THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE USHERS
RESTS IN THEIR EFFECTIVENESS AS WELL AS A
COMMUNICATOR BOTH TO THOSE INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE
HOUSE OF GOD, WHICH SUGGEST THAT THEIR BEHAVIOR
MUST BECOME THAT OF THE GOSPEL.

- YOU CANNOT PORTRAY A MESSAGE OF PEACE, IF
YOU’RE THE **CAUSE** OF THE **CONFUSION**.
- YOU CANNOT COMMUNICATE HOPE, IF YOU’RE ACTING
HELLISH.

- YOU CANNOT SHOUT HIGH ON SUNDAY BUT LIVE LOW ON MONDAY.
- YOU CANNOT QUOTE SCRIPTURE IN ONE BREATH AND CUSSING IN THE NEXT.
- YOU CANNOT SPREAD THE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL THROUGH GOSSIP.

THE CHURCH USHER'S RESPONSIBILITY IS TO PROVIDE A LIGHT THAT OTHERS MAY SEE THEIR WAY INTO AND AROUND THE HOUSE OF GOD

THIS SUGGESTS THAT A SERVANT'S CONDUCT IS BOTH **PUBLIC** AND **PRIVATE**

IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S A (24-7- 365) KIND OF THING.

(NOTE: SCRIPTURE HAS A NAME FOR THOSE WHO SAY ONE THING AND DO ANOTHER. **"HYPOCRITES!"**)

IT'S EASY TO ACT A CERTAIN WAY, IN PUBLIC BUT THE REAL TEST OF CHARACTER "IS SEEN IN PRIVATE SITUATIONS.

HOLY HABITS ARE NOT FORMED IN THE SANCTUARY; THEY ARE FASHIONED IN THE SANCTITY AND SOLITUDE OF PRIVATE SITUATIONS.

THERE IS A GREAT FALLING AWAY FROM CHRISTIANITY.

AND THAT'S THE REASON WHY, WE DRINK TOO MUCH, SMOKE TOO MUCH, SPEND TOO RECKLESSLY, LAUGH TOO LITTLE, DRIVE TOO FAST, GET TOO ANGRY, STAY UP TOO LATE! GET UP TOO TIRED, READ THE BIBLE TOO LITTLE, WATCH TV TOO MUCH, AND PRAY TOO SELDOM.

WE HAVE MULTIPLIED OUR POSSESSIONS, BUT REDUCED OUR VALUES.

WE TALK TOO MUCH, LOVE TOO SELDOM, AND HATE TOO OFTEN.

OH YES... FOR YOU SEE;

- WE'VE LEARNED HOW TO MAKE A LIVING! BUT NOT A LIFE.
- WE'VE ADDED YEARS TO LIFE, AND NOT LIFE TO YEARS.
- WE'VE BEEN ALL THE WAY TO THE MOON AND BACK, BUT HAVE TROUBLE CROSSING THE STREET TO MEET A NEW NEIGHBOR.
- WE CONQUERED OUTER SPACE, BUT NOT INNER PEACE.
- WE'VE DONE LARGER THINGS, BUT NOT BETTER THINGS.
- WE'VE CLEANED UP THE AIR, BUT WE HAVE POLLUTED THE SOD.
- WE WRITE MORE, BUT LEARN LESS.
- WE PLAN MORE, BUT ACCOMPLISH A SMALLER AMOUNT
- WE LEARNED TO RUSH MORE, BUT HAVE NOT LEARNED HOW TO WAIT.
- WE BUILD MORE COMPUTERS TO HOLD MORE INFORMATION, TO PRODUCE MORE COPIES, BUT OUR COMMUNICATION IS FAR, FEW AND LESS.
- WE HAVE MORE DEGREES BUT LESS SENSE., MORE KNOWLEDGE BUT LESS JUDGMENT, MORE EXPERTS YET MORE PROBLEMS, MORE MEDICINE, BUT LESS WELL NESS.

TO THOSE WHO ARE IN BONDAGE, TO SOME BAD HABIT INCARCERATED IN SOME PRISON, OF LOST HOPE, LOST FOCUS, AND UNDERGOING SOME TYPE OF IDENTITY CRISIS AND

BECAUSE YOU HAVE AN IDENTITY CRISIS, YOU ARE NOT SECURE, YOU ARE NOT STABLE, AND THERE IS NO STRUCTURE IN YOUR LIFE,.

AND NO SHAME IN YOUR GAME! I THINK I OUGHT TO TELL YOU, BE A DOORKEEPER OF LIFE — A WILLING WORKER TO HELP YOUR FELLOWMAN AND A SERVANT FOR THE LORD!

I REALIZE THAT:

- MAN HAS LEARNED HOW TO WALK ON THE MOON, BUT HAS NOT LEARNED HOW TO WALK WITH HIS FELLOWMAN.
- MAN HAS LEARNED HOW TO BUILD TALLER BUILDINGS, BUT HAS NOT LEARNED HOW TO HAVE CONTROL OVER HIS RAGE.
- MAN HAS LEARNED HOW TO BUILD WIDER FREEWAYS - EIGHT LANES, BUT HE HAS NARROW-MINDED VIEWPOINTS.
- MAN HAS BIGGER HOUSES AND SMALLER FAMILIES.
- MAN HAS LEARNED HOW TO BUILD SUBMARINES, MISSILES, AND AIRPLANES TO BREAK SOUND BARRIERS, BUT STILL HAS NOT LEARNED TO BUILD PEACE ON EARTH AND GOOD WILL TOWARD ALL MEN.

OH BROTHERS AND SISTERS, WE SHOULD BE OF THE SAME MIND TO RECEIVE ONE ANOTHER

- TO EDIFY ONE ANOTHER.
- TO CAUTION ONE ANOTHER,
- TO CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER,
- TO GREET AND MEET ONE ANOTHER,

- TO HAVE COMPASSION TOWARD ONE OTHER,
- TO LOOK OUT FOR ONE ANOTHER,
- TO FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER,
- TO GIVE HOSPITALITY TO ONE ANOTHER,
- TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER,
- TO PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER!

HAVE YOU ANY ROOM FOR JESUS, HE WHO BORE YOUR LOAD OF SIN?

AS HE KNOCKS AND ASKS ADMISSION, SINNER, WILL YOU LET HIM IN?

ROOM FOR JESUS, KING OF GLORY! HASTEN NOW HIS WORD OBEYS.

SWING THE HEART'S DOOR WIDELY OPEN, BID HIM ENTER WHILE YOU MAY.

HAVE YOU ANY ROOM FOR JESUS, AS IN GRACE HE CALLS AGAIN?

O TODAY IS TIME ACCEPTED; TOMORROW YOU MAY CALL IN VAIN.

ROOM AND TIME NOW GIVE TO JESUS, SOON WILL PASS GOD'S DAY OF GRACE;

SOON THY HEART LEFT COLD AND SILENT, AND THY SAVIOR'S PLEADING CEASE.

THE PORTERS HAD TO CLOSE THE DOOR AND ONE DAY GOD THE GREAT PORTER OF LIFE WILL CLOSE THE DOOR

SOME DAY HE WILL CLOSE THE DOOR OF SALVATION.
COME ON IN NOW BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.