

Religion And Business

Albany Business School 1958

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- I. Introduction: The 197th Psalm
- A. "A well-constructed and strikingly original and beautiful litany of thanksgiving."
"The Psalmist knew that many could testify to the Lord's goodness. Their testimony had to do with the facts of their own experience, and it is these facts that are celebrated in the psalm."
- B. These people who had faced various kinds of trouble had made vows unto the Lord and then had experience His saving help. They then came to the Temple with their sacrificial offerings to pay their vows.
1. were arranged according to classes
 2. A moving spectacle to see these throngs gathered from the ends of the earth move forward under the careful direction of the priests.
- C. The fourth group were those who went down to the sea in ships, doing business on the great waters.
- II. Religion ought to have a real bearing on our daily life.
- A. Some people put religion aside for -- morning or evening prayers -- or for Sunday morning -- or for Christmas and Easter
- B. All through the Bible is the notion that our religion is a real part of our everyday life.
- III. Part of this involves ethics
- A. Usually this is given, and rightly so, the first emphasis
1. Christians ought to act like Christians should act!
Christians act good like a Christian should!
 2. We need to examine and think about the way a Christian should act.

IV. But there is another side of religion which we often forget

- A. Religion ought to help us act better!
- B. Religion ought to bring us strength for our daily life
- C. Think of these people of Israel who were out trading on the sea.
They were scared to death!
They did face many perils
They found out that God could help them.
- D. This involves the realization that anything we do can be God's calling
Brother Lawrence found out that he could serve God in the kitchen:
"So, likewise, in his business in the kitchen (to which he had naturally a great aversion), having accustomed himself to do everything there for the love of God, and with prayer, upon all occasions, for His grace to do his work well, he had found everything easy, during fifteen years that he had been employed there."

- V. Conclusion--What can we do?
"Let not the noises of the world ever so confuse me that I cannot hear Thee speak."

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"Lord, be with me as I go to my work today. Help me to be faithful in the discharge of my duties, and honorable in all my dealings. Give me self-control in speech and temper; and let me be a good example to others of Christian humility and thoughtfulness, that so I may glorify thee."

"Help me, O Lord, to keep guard over my lips. Save me from words that hurt: from gossip and slander and lies. Let me speak only to encourage and cheer and to keep people on their feet, so that all my words may minister grace, to thy honor and glory."

"O God, who orderest all things in heaven and earth: Help me to go about the tasks and duties of this day with the remembrance that I am thy servant therein. Make me honest, painstaking, and cheerful, and grant that all I do and say may bring good to others and glory to thy holy Name: through Jesus Christ our Lord."

"Help me to meet with quiet confidence whatever trials the day holds for me; strengthen me against temptation; and keep me always loyal to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."