

Fourth Quarter Strategies – Saturday, August 13, 2016

I recently had a wonderful blessing along with 24 other local Christian business and professional men at a very special luncheon as our local CBMC team launched the Marketplace Ambassador Initiative in our community. A number of those men have resolved to move forward in the program as we meet to grow in our personal relationship with Christ. We learned in 2 Corinthians 5:20 that, *“We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.”* These men are prepared to “be reconciled to God” to truly make a difference in this community in which we live and work. This is a serious commitment that I’m certain none of us will take lightly. Christian Business Men’s Connection is an international Christian organization formed over 85 years ago. Our mission is to present Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord to business and professional men and develop Christian business and professional men to carry out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19).

Mark Whitacre, whose life was portrayed by Matt Damon in a major motion picture, *The Informant*, challenged us in our walk as Christian business and professional men to become ambassadors for Christ and fully integrate our faith in the marketplace. Mark conveyed to us that this was a “call to a cause, not a club.” We all have opportunities to join service clubs and other worthwhile organizations, but this is our opportunity to join Christ in the process of becoming better equipped to integrate the Christian worldview seamlessly in all aspects of our lives. Mark shared his personal testimony to demonstrate the dramatic change that Christ can make in a businessman’s life. Once self-serving, Mark has become a true servant for the Lord through the CBMC ministry worldwide.

Over the next year or so, those who answer God’s call will first study the ten attributes of becoming a Marketplace Ambassador through the online study system provided by CBMC. Starting in October we plan to conduct future gatherings to go over those attributes. The MAI goal is to lead career-minded individuals through a transformational experience that develops intentional business leaders to fully integrate their faith with their work. That may sound a bit radical, but I’ve personally been doing this for years and all I can say is the rewards have been out of this world!

You may well want to learn more about Marketplace Ambassador Initiative. If so, I suggest you navigate to www.MarketplaceAmbassador.com and at least check out the website. There’s no cost to join, but should you decide to participate and resolve to take on the task, you will need to allocate time to the process. Like any good thing, the equipping of a Saint requires personal energy, devotion and a deep commitment. Over the past thirty years as an active team member of CBMC, I’ve experienced first-hand the dramatic transformation in my personal and professional life. My relationship with my Lord has never been stronger and I’ll always be grateful for those men who have come alongside me over the years to encourage me in my faith journey.

As a “satisfied customer” of CBMC, I highly recommend you take that leap of faith, get off the sidelines and onto the playing field God has placed before us! The good news is that you will quickly find that you are not on the field alone. You’ll become an integral part of a team devoted to turning our local marketplace upside down for Christ.

Here to serve,

Jim Langley, CLU

Passages to Ponder: Job 19:23-27; Job 42:10-17; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; James 4:13-17; 1 Peter 5:14

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Passages to Ponder: Job 19:23-27; Job 42:10-17; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; James 4:13-17; 1 Peter 5:14

Job 19:23-27 New International Version (NIV)

²³“Oh, that my words were recorded,
that they were written on a scroll,
²⁴that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead,
or engraved in rock forever!
²⁵I know that my redeemer lives,
and that in the end he will stand on the earth.
²⁶And after my skin has been destroyed,
yet in my flesh I will see God;
²⁷I myself will see him
with my own eyes—I, and not another.
How my heart yearns within me!

Job 42:10-17 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁰After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before. ¹¹All his brothers and sisters and everyone who had known him before came and ate with him in his house. They comforted and consoled him over all the trouble the LORD had brought on him, and each one gave him a piece of silver and a gold ring.

¹²The LORD blessed the latter part of Job’s life more than the former part. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen and a thousand donkeys. ¹³And he also had seven sons and three daughters. ¹⁴The first daughter he named Jemimah, the second Keziah and the third Keren-Happuch. ¹⁵Nowhere in all the land were there found women as beautiful as Job’s daughters, and their father granted them an inheritance along with their brothers.

¹⁶After this, Job lived a hundred and forty years; he saw his children and their children to the fourth generation. ¹⁷And so Job died, an old man and full of years.

1 Corinthians 7:29-31 New International Version (NIV)

²⁹What I mean, brothers and sisters, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they do not; ³⁰those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; ³¹those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away.

James 4:13-17 New International Version (NIV)

¹³Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” ¹⁴Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. ¹⁵Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.” ¹⁶As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.

1 Peter 5:14 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁴Greet one another with a kiss of love.
Peace to all of you who are in Christ.