

COMPLIMENTS PAID THE PEOPLE OF GOD 37

INTRODUCTION:

- A. All of us like to receive compliments.
- B. Even though you know the other person appreciates you, you still like them to show a little gratitude.
- C. One can receive no higher compliment than that from God.
 - 1. Today we want to look at some complements God paid His people, through the inspired writers of the Bible.
 - 2. Then ask this question? "Would God have said that to me?"

BODY:

I. WHAT ZEAL.

- A. 2 Cor. 7:11.
- B. 2 Cor. 9:2.
- C. God expects his people to be zealous.
 - 1. Titus 2:14 "who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works".
 - 2. Rev. 3:19. "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.
- D. There is a great need for zealous members.
 - 1. 1 Cor. 15:58.
 - 2. It will not be in vain.

II. FAITHFUL BRETHERN. "To Christ Be Loyal and Be True".

- A. Col. 1:2a **"To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colosse: . . ."**
- B. We need to be loyal and true.

C. 1 Cor. 4:2 **Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful..**

1. A Stewart is one who has been entrusted with the goods of another.
2. Stewards must be faithful.
3. I am more careful with your things than I am mine.

D. Rev. 2:10.

E. Brethren need to be dependable (Many c/n depended upon)

III. FULL OF GOOD WORKS AND CHARITABLE DEEDS.

A. Acts 9:36.

1. Dorcas.
2. Read Acts 9:36-42.
3. Works she did, not just talked about.
4. We must do good works as the church and as individuals- Col. 1:10 **“That you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;”**

B. God expects His people to be busy.

1. Titus 3:1 **Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work,**
2. Gal. 6:10 **"Therefore as we have .."**

C. The Bible furnishes us completely unto every good work.

1. 2 Tim. 3:16-17.
2. All good works are Bible works (That is they are done in His service).

IV. FOR THEY HAVE REFRESHED MY SPIRIT.

A. Refreshing Christians are like a cool breeze on a hot day.

B. Christians refreshed Paul- 1 Cor. 16:18 For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men.

1. They supplied that which was lacking- 1 Cor. 16:17.

2. Rom. 15:32.
 3. They prayed for him- Rom. 15:30-31.
 4. 2 Tim. 1:16-18.
 - a. He was not ashamed to stand with Paul.
 - b. Sought Paul out and ministered to him.
- C. Titus was refreshed- 2 Cor. 7:13-16.
- D. Phile 1:7 **For we have great joy and consolation in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed by you, brother.**
- E. There are many times when God's people need refreshing.
1. In sickness, or death of a loved one.
 2. As one is having great problems.
 3. Wrong to pray God for something and not do your part.

V. BUT FIRST GAVE THEIR SELVES TO THE LORD.

- A. 2 Cor. 8:5 And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.
- B. Notice the context- 2 Cor. 8:1-7.
1. These poor people gave beyond their ability.
 2. 2 Cor. 8:2.
- C. The key to get people to obey the Lord?
1. Give self first to Lord.
 2. Then serve Him.

VI. SHE HATH DONE WHAT SHE COULD.

- A. Mk. 14:8 "**She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial**"
- B. Notice Mk. 14:3-9 (Context).
- C. Many do not do what they can:

1. In attending the services of the church.
 2. In giving of time, effort, money and encouragement.
 3. In doing personal work.
- D. Are you doing as well as you know you could?
- E. What better compliment than to say "They did what they could."

CONCLUSION:

- A. Would God pay you these compliments?
- B. Are you Full of zeal, faithful, full of good works, do you try to refresh others, have you given yourself to the Lord, have you done what you could?