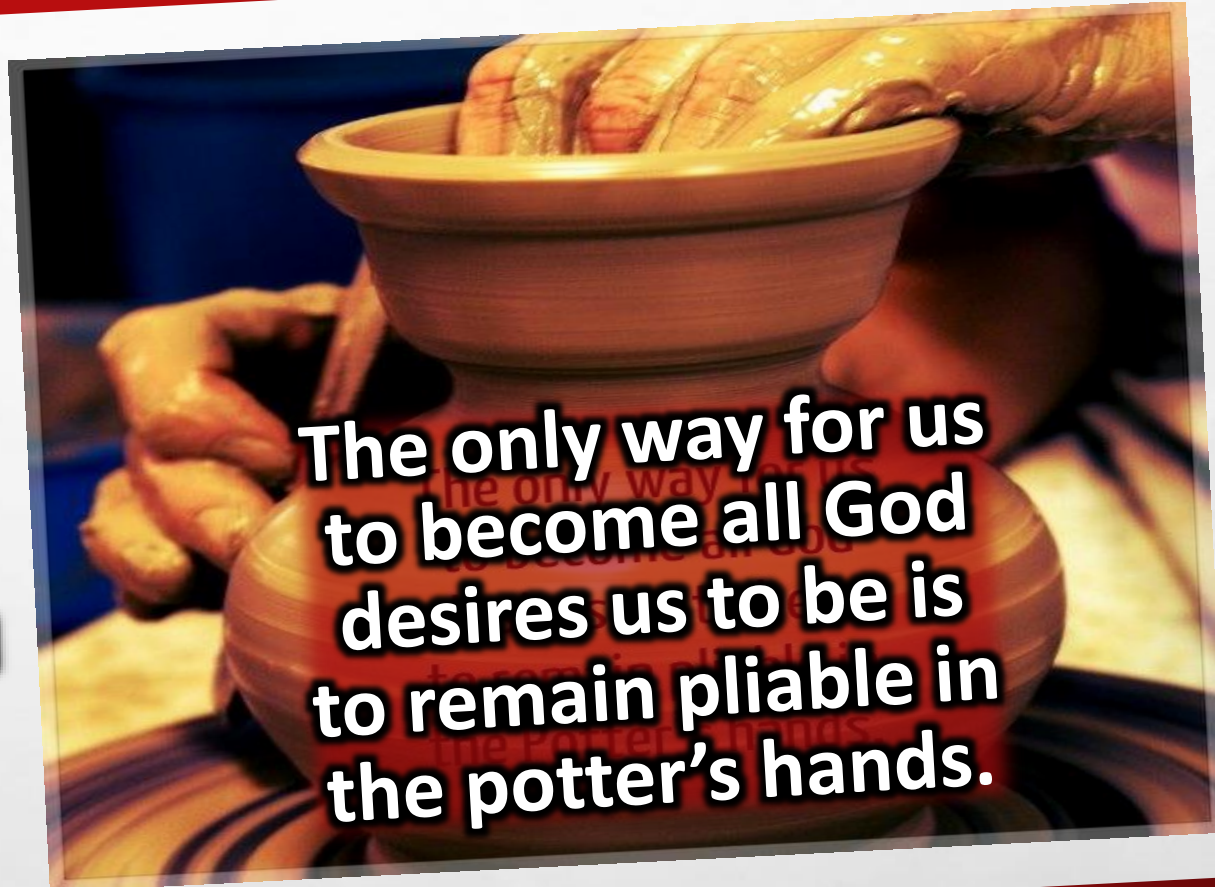


# MORE USEFUL WOULD I BE



The only way for us  
to become all God  
desires us to be is  
to remain pliable in  
the potter's hands.

SONG 434

**“MORE HOLINESS GIVE ME”**

**“PRAISE FOR THE LORD”**



Lucy

Bliss

Phillip

# SONG SMYTHE

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# I CAN **BE MORE USEFUL!**



BECOMING  
GOD'S  
VESSEL  
OF  
HONOR



2 Tim 2:21 If a person [Grk tis] cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.

Your guess at the cost of 16" vase?  
1750's Qianlong-dynasty vase found in dusty attic.. \$69.5 Mil NYT

**You're more valuable because of the price God paid for you!**



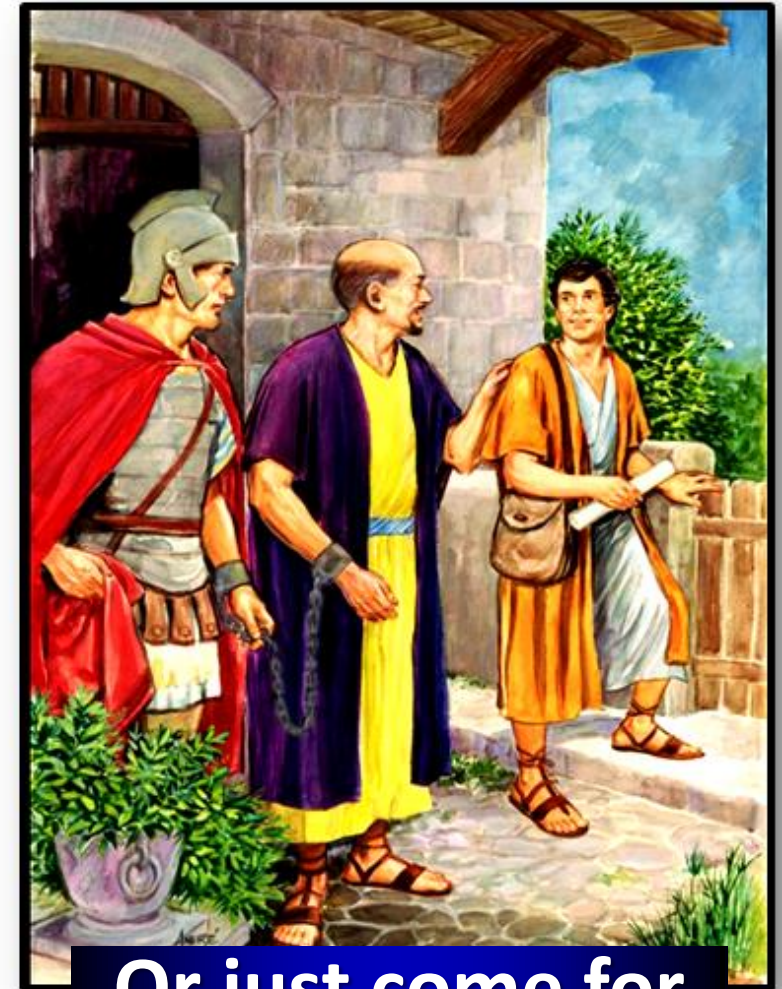
# IF NOT BEFORE **YOU** CAN NOW

Philem v10 *Onesimus*, v11 who formerly was useless to you, but now is USEFUL both to you and to me.

v12 And I have sent him back to you in person, that is, *sending my very heart*,

v13 *whom I wished to keep with me*, that in your behalf he might *minister to me in my imprisonment for the gospel*.

You're a believer. But are you ACTIVE?



Or just come for  
a *Holy Huddle*?



# SAINTS CAN EXCEL STILL MORE



1 Thess 4:1 Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that, as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), *that you may excel still MORE.*

I CAN do all things thru Christ (Phil 4:13)

**We are not the weary servants of the impossible.  
We are energized servants of the king.**



# HAVE I BEEN PUTTING IT OFF?

What's MY excuse? (Lk 14:18)

Ohio: 12 yr old Dylan Everage is on a Mission! With cerebral palsy & 80+ operations so far, facing the coming amputation of his left leg. He says with a mischievous glint in his eye: "I've got wheels. Who needs a leg that does nothing but hurt?"



His goal is to work in a hospital, drawing from his own experience to answer questions and allay fears. "I've been to the ER & back several times plus hospitals in Ohio and Michigan" (Dylan says flashing a smile), "All those experiences should help me help others."



# MORE **USEFUL** **WOULD I BE**

**Dedicated Believers: Are the “Cream of the Crop.”**

*The Best of the Best.* Being the cream of the crop is being the best of something, it ranges from sports to school, to church, to just being awesome.

*Some great people can't be here:* Sickness, Work, Distance, Physical limitations. Some vacation. Others choose Not !



**Even great people can take “One more step.” (1 Thes 4:10)**



# NOT ALL **ARE COMMITTED** !

## Why Some Don't Become More Useful?

1. Weeds of life: (Lk 8:14) Worry, riches, pleasures.
2. Fear of others: (1 John 4:18) Perfect love casts ..
3. Grown weary: (Gal 6:9) Not lose heart in doing good.
4. Bitterness: (Heb 12:15) No root of bitterness.
5. Lukewarm: (Rev 3:15) Apathetic, self-satisfied.
6. Continuing Sin: (Rev 2:21) Does not want to repent.
7. Immature, Flakey: (Rev 3:2) No deeds completed..





# HOW DO **I** **HANDLE** **MY** **PAST?**



**Satan says:  
Look at your sin**

**God says:  
LOOK AT MY SON.**

**(1 John 1:9)**

**He is faithful and righteous  
to *forgive* us our sins and  
to *cleanse* us from *ALL*  
unrighteousness.**

**(Phil 3:13)**

***Forgetting what lies behind*  
and *reaching forward* to  
what lies ahead...**



# ARE MY **PRIORITIES** **WRONG?**



NOBODY IS  
TOO BUSY,  
IT'S JUST A  
MATTER OF  
**PRIORITIES.**

Matt 6:33 “*Seek FIRST His kingdom & His righteousness;* and all these things shall be added to you.

6:34 “*Do not be anxious for tomorrow;* for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

Also take time to *Rest* Mk 6:31



# HOW DEDICATED AM I REALLY?

IF IT IS IMPORTANT  
TO YOU, YOU WILL  
FIND A WAY.

IF NOT  
YOU'LL FIND  
AN EXCUSE

no | whining  
no | quitting  
no | excuses

Acts 21:13 “I am ready not only to be bound,  
*but even to die at Jerusalem* for the name of the Lord Jesus.”



# ANYBODY CAN BE MORE USEFUL!

Isa 6:8 "Then I heard the voice of *the Lord*, saying,  
"Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?"

Then I said, "*Here am I, Send Me!*"

(Dan 1:8) *Daniel* made up his mind.

(Ex 7:7) *Moses* was eighty years old..

(Lk 1:38) *Mary* "Be it done to me.."



Ezra 7:10 Ezra had set his heart to *study* the law of the Lord,  
and to *practice* it, & to *teach* His statutes & ordinances.



# HOW CAN I BE MORE USEFUL?

**1. SMILE MORE:** (Prov 15:13). Joyful heart makes a cheerful face...  
Project love, joy, peace, friendship.

**2. GREET WARMLY:** (3 John v14). Disney 10' Rule.  
If within 10' Say hello! Ask how they doing?  
Be friendly. It impacts everyone. (Ps 5:14)

**3. REMEMBER:** Everybody needs Jesus! (John 14:6)

**4. DISPLAY KIND ATTITUDE:** (2 Tim 2:24-25)



Be kind, patient when wronged, not quarrelsome, gentleness.  
Wag more , Bark less. Everyone is carrying a really heavy burden.



# HOW CAN I BE MORE USEFUL?

## Luke 6:38

GIVE, AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU. A GOOD MEASURE, PRESSED DOWN, SHAKEN TOGETHER AND RUNNING OVER, WILL BE POURED INTO YOUR LAP. FOR WITH THE MEASURE YOU USE, IT WILL BE MEASURED TO YOU.

**5. ENCOURAGE MORE:** (Heb 10:24-25) *Stimulate to love* & good deeds.  
Invite, & encourage others to come with you Sun/Wed.



# HOW CAN I BE MORE USEFUL?

6. **EQUIP MORE:** (Eph 4:11-12) For the *equipping* of the saints for the work of *service* to building up of the body...

Any time for personal Bible study?

*One Christian here* gets up 2:30-300am.

Reads *OT* once a year & *NT* twice a year.

Reads *Psalms* twice a year & *Proverbs* every month.

Plus attending *church* almost every time the doors are opn.

*A brother* said last month: "I want to know *everything*.. & use it !"



# HOW CAN I BE MORE USEFUL?



**7. SEEKING THE LOST MORE:** (Luke 19:10)  
Son of man came to *seek & save* the lost.

We have the *same opportunity* & obligation.  
(Mat 28:20; 2 Tim 2:2; Rom 12:7-8)

Pray for an open **door**

Send a card, text, **call**

Take out a bowl of **soup**

Have fun with the **teens**

Take a co-worker to **lunch**

Invite a neighbor for a **BBQ**

Leave a note in store or **in paper**

Show up for a kid's **sporting event**

A disabled lady tossed notes out window offering **Bible studies**



# MORE **USEFUL** **WOULD I BE**

Mat 25:23 “Well  
done *good and  
faithful* servant.”

“You have been  
faithful with a few  
things— I will *put you  
in charge of many  
things.*”

