SNS 98134-062 (85130-042, 81113) DESPISE NOT THE LITTLE THINGS

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: 2Kings 5:10-14.
- B. No one can afford to over look the small things of life:
 - 1. A drippy faucet can cost you plenty.
 - 2. Pennies when saved, add up to dollars.
 - 3. Doctors know that germs can eventually kill the body.
 - 4. Authors know that the best of novels are made up of letters.
 - 5. God demands that we do the little things so we can grow into doing the bigger ones.

I. GOD CHOSE LITTLE THINGS TO BUILD THE UNIVERSE.

- A. Grains of sand make-up the sea shores of the world.
- B. Drops of water make-up the great oceans of the world.
- C. Grains of soil make-up the land areas in which we live.
- D. All things are made of molecules which the eye cannot see.
- E. Even the molecules themselves are made up of smaller things called atoms.
- F. Man cannot hope to understand everything great and small about the universe in which he lives; but he can know that God has used very small things to build great things (1Cor. 1:20, 27-28).
 (1Cor. 1:20) Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

(**1Cor. 1:27-28**) but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised, God has chosen, the things that are not, that He might nullify the things that are...

II. THE CHURCH HAD A SMALL BEGINNING.

- A. Jesus was born as a small baby just like the rest of us.
- B. He had small hands, and small feet. These hands and feet would later grow in stature so that the Romans might nail them to the cross.
- C. Even though 3,000 were baptized on the birthday of the church (the day of Pentecost) that was a very small number as compared with the number of people in Jerusalem at the time (about 1 million).
- D. Just as small babies grow into big men/women so did the church. It is still alive today!

III. JESUS CHRIST DID NOT DESPISE THE SMALL THINGS.

A. Jesus understood the value and importance of children. He asked that we not despise these little ones (Mt. 18:1-6, 10).

(Mt. 18:1-6) At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And He called a child to Himself and set him before them, and said, "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven. "Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. "And whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me; but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it is better for him that a heavy millstone be hung around his neck, and that he be drowned in the depth of the sea. (Mt. 18:10) "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you, that their angels in heaven continually behold the face of My Father who is in heaven.

B. The apostle Paul speaking the words of X told Timothy not to let the brethren despise him because he was young (1Tim. 4:12).

Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.

C. Our attitude toward "little ones" meaning young children or young Xians is one of appreciation and caring with love.

D. One who can care for the little things will be able to care for the big things later on. The reverse of this is true as well (Lk. 16:10).

"He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much."

IV. THE PRINCIPLES OF THE XIAN RELIGION ARE SMALL AS SEEN BY SOME.

- A. Some people think and speak of "essential things" and "non-essential things" to their own tastes and judgment.
- B. Even after reading the Bible, some will want to pick and choose those things they deem less important. THIS IS IGNORING THE LITTLE THINGS.
- C. We sometime put sins in lists and label some as not as bad as others. We consider them to be little things, and not really worth our consideration.

V. SERVICE TO GOD AS SERVANTS IS OFTEN LOOKED DOWN UPON.

- A. The apostle Paul was very happy to be called a "servant of the Lord Jesus Christ."
- B. Everyone in the church can do something for God.
- C. No work is too small to do for Jesus. Doing small, "little things" will add up to great blessings.
- D. Paul tells us that all the parts of the body (church) are needed; there is not part that is not valuable (1Cor. 12:22-24).

On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; and those members of the body, which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our unseemly members come to have more abundant seemliness, whereas our seemly members have no need of it. But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked,...

VI. THE STORY OF NAAMAN AND ELISHA.

- A. A great example of doing little things give a great reward is found in the OT.
- B. Text: 2Kings 5:1-14.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. To be faithful Xians we cannot shirk our duties. To do the whole counsel of God, includes "the little things."
- B. We should learn to do the little things so that we will be better equipped to do the big things.
- C. Let us follow the example of X, because He did not despise the little things.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.