



FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 19, 2016

UNGLOVED



A WEEK AGO LAST SATURDAY I WAS WORKING IN MY FRONT YARD. WE HAD A DEAD ASH TREE REMOVED AND HAD THE STUMP GROUND EARLIER THIS SUMMER AND NOW I WANTED TO GET GRASS STARTED BEFORE THE WINTER SEASON. AFTER REMOVING ALL OF THE STUMP MULCH I FOUND FOUR MAJOR ROOTS IN THE AREA AROUND THE FORMER TRUNK. THESE HAD NOT BEEN GROUND UP AND NEEDED TO BE REMOVED IN ORDER TO SMOOTH OUT THE AREA WHERE I WAS PLANTING GRASS SEED. WITH THE HELP OF AN AX AND A RECIPROCATING SAW I MADE RATHER SHORT WORK OF THE ROOTS. ABOUT HALF WAY THROUGH THIS HOUR LONG PROCESS I NOTICED A VERY LARGE BLISTER HAD FORMED ON MY RIGHT PALM AND THEN BURST. NOW IT HURT, MAKING IT HARD TO GRIP THE AX AND SAW. THIS PAINFUL PROBLEM COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED HAD I SIMPLY WORN WORK GLOVES. I HAVE AT LEAST FOUR PAIRS OF WORK GLOVES BUT I RARELY USE THEM. MY THINKING HAS ALWAYS BEEN THAT GLOVES ARE FOR THE SOFT AND SISSIES, NOT REAL MEN WHO ARE TOUGH AND TRULY KNOW HOW TO WORK HARD. I'M STILL SUFFERING THE CONSEQUENCES OF MY ARROGANT ASSUMPTIONS AND STUBBORN RESISTANCE TO GLOVES.

I THINK THERE'S A SPIRITUAL LESSON HERE AS WELL. SOMETIMES WE CAN BE ALL EXCITED TO WORK AND GET THINGS DONE BUT FAIL TO PROPERLY PREPARE AND PROTECT. EPHESIANS 6:11 TELLS US TO PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD, BUT WHO WANT TO WEAR THAT HOT HEAVY STUFF? VERSE EIGHTEEN OF THAT TEXT TELLS US TO DO EVERYTHING WITH ALL PRAYER AND PETITION, BUT WHO HAS TIME TO STOP AND SPEAK WITH GOD OR LISTEN TO HIS DIRECTION?

CONSIDER ALSO ROMANS 13:11-13. IN VERSE ELEVEN WE'RE TOLD TO REALIZE THE TIME AND AWAKEN FROM SLEEP. TOO OFTEN WE'RE TEMPTED TO BE HALF-HEARTED AND HAPHAZARD IN OUR SPIRITUAL COMMITMENTS. SORT OF LIKE WORKING IN OUR SLEEP. THAT'S GOT TO BE DANGEROUS! PAUL ALSO ENCOURAGES US TO LAY ASIDE THE DEEDS OF DARKNESS AND BEHAVE PROPERLY (VS. 12-13). WE COULD THINK THAT SINCE GOD NEEDS WORKERS HE'S WILLING TO TAKE ANYONE IN ANY CONDITION. WE'RE NOT PREPARED OR PROTECTED IF WE FAIL TO DEAL WITH OUR CARELESS CARNALITY AND ADOPT A LIFESTYLE OF SELF CONTROL AND GODLY DISCIPLINE.

LET'S GET OUT THERE AND WORK. THERE'S ROOTS TO BE RID OF. BUT LET US NEVER FAIL TO BE PREPARED AND PROTECTED. WEAR THE GLOVES!

LOOKING UP,
PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE