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ALL SUFFICIENCY

Oh, it was indeed a much simpler time. I didn't give much thought to heading out, with nothing more than a backpack. Headed back to Oregon, my car wasn't all that reliable so I stuck out my thumb and hitchhiked. "On the Road Again", trusting on the largesse of strangers to provide at the very least a ride further on up the road. While there were some harrowing times while traveling in this manner; there were also some exceptional times. What triggered this trip down memory lane, was while I was reading in the sixth chapter of Mark. Jesus was sending out in pairs His twelve disciples. "He instructed them that they should take nothing for their journey, except a mere staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belt." (v 8) Now by no stretch of one's imagination could it be construed that I was a christian when I went about my travels all those decades past, I just did it. Now, as a child of God, what IF I was tasked to go, taking nothing but the clothes on my body. Would I have the measure of trust as did the disciples?

Now blend in what Jesus said later, as He prepared them for when He would no longer be with them. He looked back on what had been directed to them in their first trip. "And He said to them, "When I sent you out without money belt and bag and sandals, you did not lack anything, did you?" They said, "No, nothing." And He said to them, "But now, whoever has a money belt is to take it along, likewise also a bag, and whoever has no sword is to sell his cloak and buy one." (Luke 22:35-36) Jesus is stressing the point for the need to place full trust in God. Do we have that level of trust to do the work set before us?

"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have abundance for every good deed." (2Corinthians 9:8)

Peter on his part noted, "Seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence." (2Peter 1:3) As children of God we are lacking in nothing. Which is true in the physical as well as spiritual sense. The only thing that may be lacking, is the full trust on our part to embark on the path set before us.



Just as the disciples had placed on them the individual responsibility to carry the message of the gospel, so must we. Moreover, we called upon to "be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the

Lord." (1Corinthians 15:58) Notice that as we go about our daily life we are to "always abounding in the work". Diligent in seeking ways to be of service to others; whether that is sharing the message of the gospel or lending help in one form or another. Bringing honor to God in every conceivable fashion .

Drawing his thoughts to a conclusion in his epistle to the Galatians, Paul sets forth the following. "Let's not become discouraged in doing good, for in due time we will reap, if we do not become weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let's do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith." (6:9-10) No doubt the disciples Jesus set out, taking nothing (as well as later on, those taking money belt and so forth), grew tired, but they pressed on. What it seems in the just noted passage is that Paul is giving a "pep talk"; a jolt of revitalization to weary disciples. We must dig deep inside, trust God and press forward.

Remembering back to my travels with precious little in my pockets, when I grew tired I would think on the song "Homeward Bound". Now, in a manner of speaking, I do the same thing, I have a hope sure and steadfast. Fully trusting in God; longing for home (see 2Timothy 4:8) (wbe)