



# The Tri-Cities Edifier

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## I Surrender All

Jeffrey L. Smith

It goes against human nature to surrender. Only in a hopeless situation with no way out will we consider it. In every field of endeavor we want to win not lose. Ironically, in our relationship with our Lord, surrender means victory. When we surrender all to our Lord and Savior we win.

Judson van de Venter conveyed the idea well in his most famous hymn, "I Surrender All." Born in Michigan in 1855 he attended college, earned a degree in Art, then worked as an art teacher and as a painter. Recognizing his talent for preaching his friends urged him to go into the ministry full-time. In his own words here is what happened next and how this song came to be.

"The song was written while I was conducting a meeting at East Palestine, Ohio, in the home of George Sebring. For some time I had struggled between developing my talents in the field of art and going into full-time evangelistic work. At last the pivotal hour of my life came, and I surrendered all. A new day was ushered into my life. I became an evangelist and discovered down deep in my soul a talent hitherto unknown to me. God had hidden a song in my heart, and touching a tender chord, He caused me to sing."

Not all need to be a full-time evangelists but all need to surrender all to our Lord. The decision is against our nature. But when we give all to Him there is peace. And His blessings surely will fall on us. Have you surrendered all?

## Do Everything

by Don Hooton

Everything you do is something that truly interests God. If He is aware of how we worship which should be done in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24), He is equally interested that our life would be walked in His light (1John 1:7). This is not about perfect doing. Even Jesus said, "So you too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy slaves; we have done only that which we ought to have done.'" (Luke 17:10). This is meant, however, to be all-inclusive. Just as Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until *all things* take place" (Luke 21:32), *everything* God meant to fulfill in Jesus would be fulfilled in that generation. It was not just one aspect of His Messiahship; it was everything.

So, when we come to exhortations like, "**Do all things** without grumbling or complaining" (Philippians 2:14), what "things" are included? In fact, what things are excluded?

The dictionary says that **grumbling** is to "complain or protest about something in a bad-tempered but typically muted way" (dictionary.com) and the Cambridge dictionary adds, "to complain about someone or something in an annoyed way". And the word used in Scripture (gonguzo) emphasizes the "say anything in a long tone" when one is complaining.

The dictionary says that **complaining** is "to express dissatisfaction, pain, uneasiness, censure, resentment, or grief; find fault" (dictionary.com). And the word used in Scripture (dialogismos) is "more strongly a disputing" (Vine's) or "argument" (Bauer) translated elsewhere as dissension (1Timothy 2:8) which is "contentious quarreling" (Merriam-Webster).

So then, look at the following list from Luke Moyer that emphasizes the significance of the all things – the **everything** – in which we should not grumble or complain.

Pay your bills *without grumbling or complaining*      Pay your taxes *without grumbling or complaining*  
Obey the president *without grumbling or complaining*  
Obey the police *without grumbling or complaining*  
Obey your parents *without grumbling or complaining*  
Listen to your teacher *without grumbling or complaining*  
Listen to your politically opinionated neighbor *without grumbling or complaining*  
Listen to your wife *without grumbling or complaining*  
Play games *without grumbling or complaining*  
Surf Facebook *without grumbling or complaining*  
Post on twitter *without grumbling or complaining*  
Comment on an annoying post *without grumbling or complaining*  
Talk to your husband *without grumbling or complaining*  
Chat with your friends *without grumbling or complaining*  
Pray to God without grumbling or complaining  
    Take your kids to school *without grumbling or complaining*  
    Take your kids to practice *without grumbling or complaining*  
    Take the trash out *without grumbling or complaining*  
    Fold the laundry *without grumbling or complaining*  
    Cover your lazy co-worker's shift *without grumbling or complaining*  
    Go to church *without grumbling or complaining*  
    Study your Bible *without grumbling or complaining*  
    Give to the poor *without grumbling or complaining*  
    Give to the church *without grumbling or complaining*  
    Protect the innocent *without grumbling or complaining*  
    Love your neighbor *without grumbling or complaining*  
    **Do all things** *without grumbling or complaining.*

Everything. What else can you think of – for you?      *Woodlands Bulletin 6/30/19*

## Just Plain Shamgar

Robert F. Turner

"And after him was Shamgar the son of Anath, who smote of the Philistines six hundred men with an ox goad: and he also saved Israel" (Jdg. 3:31).

Troy Mulhollan, one of our faithful members, used this as his text for a Wednesday night talk recently. He announced his subject, A Man Named Shamgar, and commented, "That isn't a household name around Burnet." True!

The man is mentioned only once more in the Bible — in Judges 5:6. And yet he, with Othniel (Jdg. 3:9-11), Ehud (3:15-30), and others more widely acclaimed, "also saved Israel." Does it really matter about "credits" if the deed is rightly done, and the doer serves his purpose in life?

Was Shamgar a simple working man-an ox driver? If so it wouldn't be the first or last time God used plain ordinary folk to accomplish His work. Jesus called fishermen, a tax collector, and such to announce salvation to the world. The potential in just plain folk, when serving God, is a sleeping giant. But **your** part can be played only when you throw off the debilitating concept that "God surely wouldn't use a nobody like me." In humble earthen vessels the glory is clearly seen to be of God (2 Cor. 4:7).

Why did Shamgar use an ox goad? It may have been the only type of weapon available (1 Sam. 13:19-f.); or it may have been God's way of showing that the victory is not in armor but in the Lord (1 Sam. 17:47). Brother Troy said there was no way of knowing, but suggested this plain ordinary oxen driver may simply have **used what he had**. It is not a bad though with or without specific information.

If every plain, ordinary person could be persuaded to take what he or she has — in talent, money, opportunity — and put it to work for the Lord, we would begin to recognize the power of leaven in meal, of salt spread throughout the world, of tremendous candlepower. And, a dedicated worker will sharpen the goad, trim the candle, do whatever is possible to make the best use of what is available.

You exist for a divine purpose. There are no little people with God.