

Silencing Critics

The builders of the Panama Canal faced enormous obstacles of geography, climate and disease. Most of the construction was supervised by Colonel George Washington Goethals. He had to endure severe criticism from many back home who predicted that he would never complete “the impossible task.”

But the great engineer was resolute and pressed steadily forward in his work without responding to those who opposed him.

“Aren’t you going to answer your critics?” a subordinate inquired. “In time,” Goethals replied.

“How?” the man asked. The colonel smiled and said, “With the canal!”

His answer came on August 15, 1914, when the canal opened to traffic for the first time.

If we need to respond to all who criticize us, nothing worthwhile would be accomplished. But if we are confident we are doing what God has called us to do – to serve His precious children, the frail and infirm elderly – we will close our ears to ridicule and press on with the work.

Quality service is always the best way to silence critics.

After all, God judges us by what we do, not by what others say.

--Beecher Hunter