

Workers for the Lord

Introduction

2 Timothy 2:15

1. Staying busy is hardly a problem in our society — the difficulty lies in focusing our efforts in the right direction.
2. “It is not enough to be busy. The question is: what are we busy about?” (Thoreau).
3. Being actively involved in the Lord’s work ought to be a top priority for every Christian.
1 Corinthians 15:58
4. We should want to be workers for the Lord.

The Greatest Work We Can Do

1. The work of the Lord is the greatest work that we can do.
 - A. Just as marriage requires a “leaving” and a “cleaving” (Genesis 2:24), so the Lord’s work often requires a “leaving” of the good and the better in order to devote attention to the best.
Matthew 4:18-22
2. Being workers for the Lord involves a decision to devote relatively less attention to other concerns.
 - A. There are simply not enough hours in a week for us to do the Lord’s work and also pursue temporal ends as fully as the world pursues them.
 - B. We simply have to “let go” of some things that we would ordinarily be able to do.

3. **Whether we truly want to be workers for the Lord is manifested by the choices we make.**

Luke 9:57-62

4. **Making the right choice to devote ourselves to the Lord's work is easy when we begin to glimpse the greatness of the work.**

- A. **Participating in the Lord's work is worth whatever it may ever cost:**

Philippians 2:29-30 Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem; because for the work of Christ he came close to death, **not regarding his life**, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me.

- B. **It is worth being "addicted" to:**

1 Corinthians 16:15 I urge you, brethren—you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have **devoted** themselves **to the ministry of the saints**— **"Addicted"** (KJV)

5. **It is a privilege to be a part of the Lord's work, even in the most "insignificant" of ways.**

1 Corinthians 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

1 Timothy 1:12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because **He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry,**

Four Primary Problems Hinder Our Work in the Lord

1. **Postponement of effort may be our number one problem.**
 - A. **One of the greatest of today's labor-saving inventions is a thing called "tomorrow."**

Ecclesiastes 11:4 He who observes the wind will not sow, And he who regards the clouds will not reap.

2. **We may be too picky about our assignment. ("Your assignment, should you choose to accept it")**
3. **Then, in the actual doing of the Lord's work, we may put forth only a minimal effort.**
 - A. **There may be a lack of "pride," or "diligence", etc. in our work.**

Galatians 6:4 But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

2 Timothy 2:15

4. **Finally, when we quit the work prematurely, we detract from the work that needs to be done.**
 - A. **Short of "disability," there is no "retirement plan" for the Lord's workers.**
 - B. **As long as we live and are able, there is work for us to do.**

Galatians 6:9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

Hebrews 6:11-12

The Lord Will Make Workers of Us

1. If we really want to be workers, the Lord will make workers of us.

A. Whatever problems may hinder us, it is possible to overcome them:

2 Timothy 2:21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, **prepared for every good work.**

2. God is willing to make us servants through whom He can do His work.

Ephesians 2:10 For **we are His workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Philippians 2:13 for it is God who **works in you** both to will and **to do for His good pleasure.**

Hebrews 13:20-21 Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, **make you complete in every good work to do His will**, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, **let him do it as with the ability which God supplies**, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

3. He will do so, however, only if we will make a commitment that is consistent with the importance of the work — wanting to be a worker for the Lord must be more than a whim.

4. It takes work to become a worker!**A. We must develop the kind of commitment that views the work of the Father as more important than life itself:**

John 4:34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.

B. We must be willing to "spend and be spent" in the work.

2 Corinthians 12:15 And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved.

5. Diligence and devotion to the Scriptures will make us worthy workmen, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 2:15

2 Timothy 3:16-17

6. If we give ourselves entirely to the things of God, our progress will be evident:

1 Timothy 4:15-16 Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

Conclusion

1. The Lord needs every one of His people to be workers:

Matthew 9:37-38 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to **send out laborers into His harvest.**"

John 9:4 **I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day;** the night is coming when no one can work.

2. No joy in the world compares with the joy that comes from being a worker for the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 2:8 So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, **but also our own lives**, because you had become dear to us.

1 Thessalonians 2:19-20 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? For you are our glory and joy.

Luke 12:43 **Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.**

