

THE BLESSINGS OF CHURCH WORK

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PROPOSITION: Every faithful member of the body of Christ must acknowledge all of the great blessings God gives when we work for Him.

OBJECTIVE: To encourage Christians to continue working for the Lord, knowing that great blessings will come our way.

INTRODUCTION:

- 1. Everyone likes to talk about blessings.
- 2. When we talk about blessings, we are not talking about material blessings, but spiritual ones.
- 3. When I talk about church work, I am referring to our continue involvement in those things which constitute the work of the church.
- 4. There are many things that come to our minds when we talk about church work:
 - a. Evangelism
 - b. Edification
 - c. Visitation
 - d. Repairing the building
 - e. Maintaining the facilities
 - f. Helping and many areas
- 5. When we are involved in these areas, we receive great blessings.
- 6. Therefore, with this in mind, let us consider the following points:
 - a. The command to work
 - b. The blessings of church work
- 7. As we consider this information, may I encourage each and every one of us to put into practice everything we will learn in this lesson?

8. God deserves the best from us, because He always give us the best!

As we consider the blessings we enjoy when we work for the Lord, let us first consider the command to work:

I. WE HAVE A COMMAND TO WORK FOR THE LORD.

A. God through His Word reminds us that we must work:

- a. We have been created unto good works (Ephesians 2:10)
- b. We are coworkers with God (1 Corinthians 3:9)
- c. We are commanded to be steadfast, unmovable, and always abounding in the work of the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58).
- d. Christ gave himself for us that we may be zealous for good works (Titus 2:14).

B. Many of our brethren throughout the New Testament took this command very seriously:

- a. The apostle Paul (1 Thessalonians 2:9; 1 Corinthians 15:10).
- b. Timothy (Philippians 2:19-24).
- c. Epaphroditus (Philippians 2:25-30).
- d. Many in Rome worked for the Lord 16:1-16, 27 names).
- e. Euodia, Syntiche and Clement (Philippians 4:1-3).

C. Have we taken this command seriously?

D. Are we following the examples of those who faithfully worked for the Lord?

Having considered the command to work; let us now consider 5 blessings that we enjoy when we work for the Lord:

II. LET US REMEMBER THAT OUR LABOR IN THE LORD IS NOT IN VAIN.

A. This great and very encouraging truth is found within the Scriptures:

- a. 1 Corinthians 15:58 "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord"
- b. **Hebrews 6:10** "For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name..."
- B. God has always blessed all of those who faithfully serve Him! We can see this great truth throughout the entire Bible.
- C. May we never forget this!

III. BLESSING # 1: A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW GOD THAT WE LOVE HIM.

A. We show God that we love Him by working and keeping His commandments:

- a. John 14:15 If you love me, keep my commandments!
- b. His commandments, as we have considered, exhorts us to remain busy in His work.

B. Every time you get involved in the work of the Lord, you show God that you love Him.

- a. Evangelism
- b. Visitation
- c. Different privileges during worship services (prayers, singing, Lord's Supper, preaching, counting the attendance, etc.).
- d. Every involvement of ours is a great opportunity to show God that we Love Him.

C. God is not concerned in us telling Him that we love Him; He wants us to show Him with our actions.

- a. Let us remember that "actions speak, louder than voice".
- b. What are we telling God by our actions?

D. Let us take advantage of this great opportunity of showing our Creator that we love Him!

IV. BLESSING # 2: SPIRITUAL GROWTH.

- A. This is a great blessing we receive when we get busy at doing the Lord's work.
- B. Notice what Jesus said in John 4:34
 - a. "Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work".—If this is our attitude, then, we will grow spiritually!
 - b. What is our food? It is my prayer that **doing God's will** is the answer!
- C. The more we study the Scriptures, the more we learn about what to do in the Lord's kingdom. This is why we must study the Word of God.
 - a. Jeremiah 15:16 "Your words were found, and I ate them, and your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart..."
 - b. Job 23:12 "I have not departed from the commandments of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food"
 - c. 1 Peter 2:2 "As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby"
- D. God's Word tells us what to do. Therefore, the more we study, the more we learn about what things we can do for Him.
 - a. Many Christians do not know in what areas to help and how to do the work because they do not study the Scriptures to learn about these things.
 - b. We must be diligent students of the Word so that we can present ourselves approved unto God as a workman that needs not to be

ashamed, and which handles aright the Word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15).

- E. How is your spiritual growth? It is manifest to others? Can people actually tell that we are growing spiritually?
- F. Brethren, the only way to grow spiritually is to keep ourselves busy in the work of the Lord!

V. BLESSING # 3: WE BECOME A GREAT EXAMPLE AND A POSITIVE INFLUENCE TO OTHERS.

- A. Yes brethren, when we keep ourselves busy in the work of the Lord, we enjoy the blessing of becoming a great example to others.
- B. We are commanded to be good examples:
 - a. 1 Timothy 4:12
 - b. Matthew 5:16
 - c. 1 Corinthians 11:1
 - d. Philippians 3:17
 - e. 3 John 11
- C. Personally, I have been encouraged by many of our brethren to stay busy in the work of the Lord. Many gospel preachers have set a great example concerning staying busy for the Lord.
 - a. Example concerning evangelism
 - b. Example concerning memorizing God's Word
 - c. Example concerning mission work
 - d. Example concerning teaching and preaching
 - e. Example concerning visitation
 - f. Example concerning loving one another
 - g. Etc.
- D. The church at Thessalonica became a great example to other churches (1 Thessalonians 1:7

E. What kind of example are you projecting? People need to see us getting busy in the work of the Lord.

VI. BLESSING # 4: THE SALVATION OF OTHERS.

- A. Did you know that the more we work for the Lord, the more souls will have an opportunity to be saved?
- B. Salvation will not come to those who do not work for the Lord!
 - a. When we work diligently in the kingdom of God, we become a great example to others, and encourage them to do the same.
 - b. When they imitate our example, this will work towards their salvation.
- C. Our involvement in evangelism will provide a way for many to hear the gospel and be saved.

D. As active members of the body of Christ, we will get busy at...

- a. Having Bible studies with several people
- b. Bringing our neighbors and friends to church services
- c. Distributing Bible literature everywhere we go
- d. Teaching Bible classes at the church building which will help Christians grow spiritually
- e. Giving more for the work of the Lord
- E. All of these things, and more, will help many to be encourage and be saved.
- F. Being an inactive member in the body of Christ will not help anyone get to heaven; much less yourself!

VII. BLESSING # 5: OUR NAMES WILL REMAIN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE.

A. This is one great blessing that the apostle Paul mentions in Philippians 4:3

- a. "And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life"
- b. Only those who work for the Lord will have their names written in the Book of Life.
- c. Is your name written there?
- B. Notice what the following passages teach:
 - a. Revelation 3:5 "He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot our his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before my Father and before His angels". Not one person, who does not work for the Lord, will receive this blessing!
 - b. Revelation 2:10 "...Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life". No one will receive this crown of life, who does not work for the Lord. Being faithful until death does not only mean to be willing to give your life for the Lord, if so is the case, but it also means to maintain yourself busy in the Lord's work.
- C. What a great blessing to know that our labor in the Lord is not in vain, and that our names are found in the Book of Life, because we have done what was required of us!

CONCLUSION:

- 1. In this lesson we have considered 5 blessings that we as Christians enjoy when we work for the Lord.
- 2. May the Lord give us the wisdom and the strength to serve Him all the days of our lives!
- 3. May all of these blessings that have been considered encourage us to keep on, keeping on in the work of God!

- 4. It may not be easy, but God is with us (Hebrews 13:5; Matthew 28:20; Psalm 34:19).
- 5. Therefore, if we want to be in heaven, let us work till Jesus comes.

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