

2 Timothy 2 v 6

The Husbandman

The christian is like a soldier (Eph 6 v 10 - 13); an athlete (Heb 12 v 1 - 2a) and an agricultural labourer.

(1) The Farmer

(a) Literally a “geoworker” as in geography or geology - mapping the earth, studying the earth.

(b) A vocation of great dignity. This was man’s first calling. (Gen 2 v 15) Thoughtful manual labour is God glorifying. We are not to be driven by ambition to neglect the Lord’s Day. But there is also the danger of laziness. (Prov 24 v 30 - 34)

(c) In spiritual farming God the Father is the husbandman. (John 15 v 1 - 2). The vine faithfully represents the living union between Christ and believers. (Matt 7 v 21 - 23). Ministers are “labourers together with God”. An astonishing concept. (1 Cor 3 v 6 - 9)

(2) The Fatigue

(a) The standard quip is that the minister has an easy life because he only works on Sunday.

(b) Laboureth equals working so hard as to be wearied. This is to be a spiritual labour. (James 5; Heb 18) Perfectly exemplified in the Saviour. (Mark 1 v 32,35; John 4 v 6, 34, 35 - 36; Luke 22 v 44)

(c) A caring labour depending upon God. (James 5 v 7).

(3) The fruits.

(a) He who labours should have first benefit. (Deut 20 v 6)

(b) What fruits? (Not chapter 5 v 1 - 19 here). Seeing lives transformed - sanctification (Gal 5 v 22 -26)

(c) In his own life also. “his own faith...strengthened, his hope quickened, his love deepened and the flame of his gift enlivened so that he will be blessed “in his doing”

Conclusion: We must be soaring like an eagle, fighting like a soldier, running like an athlete and digging like a farmer. All without giving up. (Gal 6 v 7 - 8, 9)