

is to come for all God's people, trusting in Christ alone as Savior, and having lived and been busy to His praise. But along with that rest, we learn that our works here below, our busyness in His service here and now, will somehow follow us and impact us for greater good and blessing in the world to come!

No one who spends Himself for Christ and His church and His cause and His kingdom, showing His love and care to others, taking time to teach and raise others in God's way, living in word and deed to His praise, shall ever find it to have been in vain. Already in this life such busyness in God's service brings so much reward, and in the life to come there is still so much more reward, not as something we deserve or have earned as a right ever, but always as something which God freely grants for Jesus' sake, in honour to those who lived seeking to honour Him and His Word and His kingdom above all.

There is a promising side to busyness when busy being useful serving Yahweh. Even when you spend yourself here and lose health and wealth too perhaps in doing so, the gain is immeasurable in the world to come. No, I'm not promoting works religion at all in saying this, but I am emphasizing what James teaches that faith without works is dead, and I am reinforcing what Jesus taught that using your talents, which God gives you for the furtherance of His cause, then he or she who is faithful in the least things will become ruler over many things. (Matthew 25:23) Jesus teaches this also in Matthew 6:19-21, "*Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is there your heart will be also.*" Does your busyness reflect a heart for God and the world to come, or a heart for self and this world and its pleasures?

Busy - **burdened under Satan's yoke** or busy - **being useful serving Yahweh** in your place and station, family and situation. What is your answer? Busy Jesus and busy you - what is the connection in your life? What are you so busy with and about? Don't be too busy to consider this important question, yes, every day and week again. Amen? Amen!

**Hans Overduin, Radio Pastor**  
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**BANNER OF TRUTH RADIO BROADCAST**

*Radio Ministry of the FREE REFORMED CHURCHES of North America*

*Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee that it may be displayed because of the truth. (Psalm 60:4)*



### BUSY JESUS AND BUSY YOU [2]

Are you busy? We noted last time how Jesus when here on earth was very busy too. Our theme for these two messages is "Busy Jesus and busy you" looking at Mark 3:20-21. Here we read about Jesus and the disciples, "*And the multitude cometh together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread. And when His friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself.*" From this reference and others that we looked at last time, we have considered so far that there is a good side to being busy, but there is also a bad side to being busy. Jesus was and is busy only always in a right and perfect way, but we can be so often, and are always by nature, busy in wrong ways. The devil loves to keep people foolishly and vainly busy, too busy to think about the need to get right with God and to listen to His Word, and to prepare for the world to come. How many people plan eventually to get busy about these eternal matters, but they are always too busy to really take it seriously now. How about you and me in this regard?

This is a continuation of last week's message in connection with being always so busy. And now I come to my third point - there is a searching question with all your and my busyness. You need to ask these questions daily and not be too busy to do so. What are you mainly busy about? What are you mainly busy for? Is it true you are too busy in the mornings to take a few moments of quiet time in God's Word and with prayer for His blessing on each new day? No, I don't mean in the car behind the wheel on the way to work, but in time set aside in devotion to God and His Word? Is it true, you are too busy at work to come home for supper with your family? Too busy, not just on some rare occasion, or for a season, but it has become a daily habit, and regular trend...and could it be, so busy making money for the family and in pursuit of the lifestyle you want, it takes precedence over spending time in family devotions for you. Could that be true? You are too busy during the week with so many things you like to do or that you just need to do, that really you can't be counted on to be attending any weekday meeting at church, and no one should expect you to be there? But what happens when the sports games are on, especially with your favourite teams? You have time to sit on the couch and watch that, of course you wouldn't miss that, you say? If so are not your priorities in busyness all mixed up and wrong even?

There is a searching side to our busyness. What are you busy about? What are you so busy for? What are your priorities in and with your busyness? Do you always have time for those things that somehow serve yourself and promote self indulgence in this world and its pleasures and treasures...but you are too busy mostly, to serve others, and to focus and concentrate with others on the things of God's eternal kingdom and the matters of salvation from sin through Christ, the Saviour? Does your busyness reflect you know the one thing most needful for our children and grandchildren is that they be born again by God's Holy Spirit, and be rooted and grounded in the truth? Does your busyness show you realize the one thing most needful above all things is that people come to know the Lord and become converted to Him by grace through faith in Jesus and His Word? What does your busyness reflect as your greatest passion in life? Jesus, in our Scripture passage, was thought to be beside himself, being so busy in the things and service of God! Do we reflect the same - busy in God's way or busy only always in our own way? What are you so busy with and about? Is your consuming interest and focus the Lord and His church and kingdom or could it be that you have actually become much more busy with everything else of this life, and burdened under Satan's yoke - busy in that way, so busy for here and now, without even realizing how much.

The plea with this sermon is don't be busy in the bad sense, but realizing busyness is part of life, be busy in a good way. Busy, not burdened under Satan's yoke, but if I may change the acronym, **being useful serving** Yahweh, with Yahweh being another Hebrew term for Jehovah. Busy - are you? Busy, that is, **being useful serving** Yahweh and His church and kingdom? True Christians, by God's grace, seek and pray and work to be busy in this way, being useful serving Yahweh. When you are busy in this way, it shows in your diligence and commitment in the raising of your family in the way of God's Word, and in your personal pursuits and priorities in life in seeking God and serving Him. It shows then also in your diligence and commitment and care with all matters related to the Christian church and its local and international ministry and needs. It shows in your involvement and encouragement in the various ministries of Christian service available to us every week again. God's true people, busy in a right sense, agree with what someone said, "Let us wear out for Jesus and not rust out!"

The world may think you are crazy so spending yourself for the things of God and giving yourself and of your resources for His service and for the wellbeing and extension of His church and kingdom, but so be it. In the end who will prove to have been the wisest? Jesus says in John 12:25-26, "*He that loves his life [indulging in everything of it for himself] shall lose it, and he that hates his life in this world, shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve Me, let Him follow Me; and where I am, there shall also My servant be: If any man serve Me, him will My Father honour.*" Likewise in

Matthew 10:39, Jesus states, "*He that finds his life, shall lose it: and he that loses his life for my sake, shall find it.*" Do you understand these verses, dear friend? Are you busy in life, so busy finding life here and now, or giving of your life here and now in faith in Jesus and in service to Him and for His cause? In an average week, how much of your life is caught up in worldly pursuits and self-pleasures, and how much is focused on godly pursuits and Christian ministries?

There is a good side to being busy, and there is a bad side to busyness. Where do you, do I, stand in this regard? Will you ask this question with all your busyness? Do your children and does your spouse see your chief aim and goal in life with all your busyness is to glorify God and enjoy Him now already but also in eternity, and that your greatest longing is that many more might come to know Him and be saved before it is forever too late?

Jesus in His busyness gave Himself and spent Himself in His Father's business with one main aim - sinners to save! For this He sometimes would not eat, once even for forty days! For this He sometimes would not sleep, spending nights in prayer or waking up early for a time of prayer before the busy schedule of the day. How Jesus spent Himself and wore Himself out sinners to save, and now as the exalted Saviour in glory, Jesus is busy calling and saving sinners through His preached Word, and by His Spirit's blessing that Word, and isn't it true that love and care so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all? Can it be that even as a confessing Christian, you have made yourself so very busy with all kinds of matters, but have so very little time for the Lord, seeking and serving Him? Be still, and know that I am God, the Lord says. Do you know what that is about in your life? Seek first, that is chiefly and primarily and constantly, the kingdom of God and its righteousness and all the others things of life will be supplied as required, the Lord promises. Do you reflect a believing response to that word of Jesus?

Busy. How so? **Burdened under Satan's yoke** or **Being useful serving** Yahweh and living to His praise? I want to end this message about "busy Jesus and busy you" still looking briefly at a fourth point. We have seen there is a good side to busyness and a bad side with busyness and there is a searching question with busyness. Now consider with me yet the promising side in busyness. Here I am thinking of God's promises that none who spend themselves in busyness in God's service will regret it. Trusting Jesus as Saviour and living to His praise in our families, and for the extension of His church and kingdom, as God gives opportunity, then you will not be put to shame, but find also in that way eternal gain, by God's grace. Think here of the words of Revelation 14:13 where we read, "*Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them.*" Here we learn that eternal rest