

OUR WORK FOR THE LORD
1 CORINTHIANS 3:5-15

Introduction

In *verse 13*, the APOSTLE PAUL wrote that when we get to glory and stand before the LORD at the JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST that **“every man’s WORK shall be made MANIFEST.”**

The word **“WORK”** there means **“labor or something that is done with DETERMINATION.”** Let’s think about that for a moment! The WORK we do for the LORD will MANIFEST how DETERMINED we were for HIM!

The words **“made manifest”** means **“to show,” “to make apparent,”** or **“to bring out into the light.”**

In other words, what the APOSTLE PAUL is saying is that **the substance of everything that we do for the LORD will one day be made known!** That’s is a sobering thought isn’t it?

Many times folks start out well to do a WORK for the LORD, but then at some point they FAIL or even QUIT because they grow weary in the WORK or don’t have the DETERMINATION to see it through to the end. *Galatians 6:9– “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”*

Most of the time when we WORK for personal gain we do so with DETERMINATION because we know there is a PERFORMANCE REVIEW that involves a PROMOTION or BONUS or some other kind of REWARD at the end. We need to WORK for the LORD in the same way!

Again, *Verse 13* says, **“Every man’s work shall be made manifest.”**

So in view of all of this, how should we WORK FOR THE LORD? Shouldn’t we want to SERVE the LORD in the most effective manner possible! How can we EFFECTIVELY WORK FOR THE LORD?

Let me give you a number of things that we see from the SCRIPTURE...

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I. WE NEED TO WORK WITH ENTHUSIASM!

Colossians 3:23-24– “And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.”

Ecclesiastes 9:10– “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.”

Psalms 103:1– “Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.”

Romans 12:11– “Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord.”

- A. Those who LACK INTEREST are INEFFECTIVE in WORKING for the LORD!
- B. Those who LACK FERVOR are INEFFECTIVE in WORKING for the LORD!
- C. Those who LACK INTEREST and FERVOR give the IMPRESSION that WORKING for the LORD is NOT VERY IMPORTANT!
- D. We must WORK for the LORD with ENTHUSIASM! PAUL was one who WORKED WITH ENTHUSIASM!

WE NEED TO WORK WITH ENTHUSIASM!

II. WE NEED TO WORK WITH EARNESTNESS!

Galatians 4:18– “But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing. . .”

- A. Sadly, Many Believers Live Their Lives Without The Necessary EARNESTNESS!

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- 1. Some FAIL to take their RESPONSIBILITIES to be a WITNESS FOR CHRIST SERIOUSLY!**
Every **BELIEVER** has that **RESPONSIBILITY!**
- 2. Some FAIL to take their PLACES OF SERVICE in the CHURCH SERIOUSLY!**
It doesn't matter how **HUMBLE** or how **GREAT** that **PLACE OF SERVICE** is!
- 3. Some FAIL to take their STEWARDSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES SERIOUSLY!**
(**GIVING OF TIME, TALENT, TREASURE!**)

B. But, BELIEVERS Who Live Their Lives With EARNESTNESS Are Bound To Make A Difference For The LORD! (*1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 2 Corinthians 4:1-2*)

*WE NEED TO WORK WITH ENTHUSIASM!
WE NEED TO WORK WITH EARNESTNESS!*

III. WE NEED TO WORK WITH EXPECTATION! (FAITH!)

A. Some BELIEVERS Lack FAITH When Working For The LORD!
Take the **LORD'S DISCIPLES** for example. How many times did the **LORD** call them out for their lack of **FAITH?**
"O ye of little faith?"

If we do not expect results, chances are we won't get them.

- 1. Do We BELIEVE The GOSPEL Is The POWER OF GOD UNTO SALVATION?** (*Romans 1:16*)
- 2. Do We BELIEVE That ALL POWER Is Given Unto JESUS?** (*Matthew 28:18-20*)
- 3. Do We BELIEVE In The LAWS OF THE HARVEST?** (*Galatians 6:9*)

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- 4. Do We BELIEVE That The LORD IS ABLE TO DO EXCEEDING ABUNDANTLY ABOVE ALL WE ASK OR THINK?** (*Ephesians 3:20*)
- 5. Do We BELIEVE That The LORD WILL NEVER LEAVE US NOR FORSAKE US And That HE IS OUR HELPER?** (*Hebrews 13:5-6*)
- 6. Do We BELIEVE the LORD Will Bless Our Efforts?** (*Vs 8, 14*)
1 Corinthians 15:58– "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."
- 7. Do We BELIEVE GOD Is FAITHFUL?**
1 Corinthians 1:9– "God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord."

B. When We WORK FOR THE LORD, We Must Do So With CONFIDENCE In GOD And HIS WORD!
(**FAITH!**)

C. It Takes FAITH To RECEIVE CHRIST; It Takes FAITH To Bring Others To A Saving Knowledge Of CHRIST; It Takes FAITH TO PLEASE GOD!
(*Hebrews 11:6*)

*WE NEED TO WORK WITH ENTHUSIASM!
WE NEED TO WORK WITH EARNESTNESS!
WE NEED TO WORK WITH EXPECTATION! (FAITH)*

IV. WE NEED TO WORK WITH ENDURANCE!
(*1 Timothy 4:10; 2 Timothy 2:1-3, 10; 3:10-11; 4:5*)

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- A. Many BELIEVERS Are Looking For An Easy Way To SERVE THE LORD!**
So, they FAIL in the LORD'S work when ENDURANCE is REQUIRED!
- B. To Be EFFECTIVE SERVANTS OF GOD, We MUST PERSEVERE!**
We must ENDURE DIFFICULTIES and DISTRESSES without being overcome.

V. WE NEED TO WORK WITH ENJOYMENT!

- A. Those Who Work GRUDGINGLY Are Mostly Ineffective In What They Do.**
They fail to display the JOY OF THE LORD!

Nehemiah 8:10—"The joy of the Lord is your strength!"

Philippians 3:1—"Rejoice in the Lord."

Philippians 4:4—"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice."

- B. Working HAPPILY Brings Results!**
Acts 16:25—"Paul and Silas "prayed , and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them."
They could have had a pity party!
They could have lashed out at their accusers!
They chose to sing and pray!

Conclusion

Are you SAVED? Listen, if you're trying to WORK FOR THE LORD, but you're not BORN AGAIN, that is the root of your problem! You need to get SAVED so you can have the possibility of WORKING EFFECTIVELY FOR THE LORD!

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If you are SAVED, let me ask you a question. What are you doing for GOD? Every CHILD OF GOD has a RESPONSIBILITY TO DO SOMETHING FOR GOD! The LORD has left us here for a PURPOSE! That PURPOSE is to GLORIFY HIM by DOING SOMETHING FOR HIM!

It is impossible to WORK EFFECTIVELY FOR THE LORD if we are not working! Look at *verse 9* again. We are to be *laborers together with God!*

Look at *John 4:35-38*.

If you are doing something for the LORD, are you being EFFECTIVE in your WORK for HIM?

1. Are you working with enthusiasm?
2. Are you working with earnestness?
3. Are you working with expectation?
4. Are you working with endurance?
5. Are you working with enjoyment?