

WORKING FOR GOD

Int.

1. Aim: To show some things we need and do not need to be of value in working for God.
2. II Tim. 2:15 - "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." **Workman** - a toiler, a teacher, worker, labourer
3. Each Christian today is a worker for God and he has his work to do.
 - a. Eph. 4:11-12 "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the **work of the ministry**, for the edifying of the body of Christ:"
 - b. Work of the ministry
 - i. Would include preaching the Gospel - Teaching Classes
 - ii. Also include other work - caring for the sick, feeding the hungry etc
4. The work of the Lord is the most important thing in all the world.
5. Here are some things we do not need and that we need to be of value in the work of the Lord!

Discussion

I. **THINGS NOT NEEDED TO BE OF VALUE IN THE WORK OF GOD**

A. Eloquence

1. Eloquence means to be a great speaker - good use of words
2. Moses was slow of speech and of a slow tongue - Ex. 4:10 "And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I [am] not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I [am] slow of speech, and of a slow tongue."

3. Paul was not an eloquent man:
 - a. I Cor. 2:1-4 "And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech"
 - b. II Cor. 10:10 "For [his] letters, say they, [are] weighty and powerful; but [his] bodily presence [is] weak, and [his] speech contemptible." (ASV) "....., and his speech of no account."
 - c. II Cor. 11:6 "But though [I be] **rude in speech**, yet not in knowledge; but we have been thoroughly made manifest among you in all things." (NKJV) Even though [I] [am] **untrained** in speech,...."
4. We do not need eloquence and great speaking ability to work for God

B. Education

1. Peter and John were unlearned and ignorant men - Acts 4:13 "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus." NKJV = uneducated and untrained
2. Ignorant - unskilled in any art [Thayer p. 297]
3. We do not need a college degree to be of value to the Lord in His work

C. Riches

1. It is not necessary to have great wealth to work for God
2. It is the common people who keep Christianity marching - Mark 12:37 "David therefore himself calleth him Lord; and whence is he [then] his son? And the common people heard him gladly."

3. The poor widow did much for the Lord - Mk. 12:41-44 = 2 mites
4. Riches are often dangerous and a hindrance to our spirituality - 1 Tim. 6:9-10 "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and [into] many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."
5. We do not need riches to be able to work for the Lord

D. Fine clothes

1. John the Baptist had clothing of camel's hair and a leathern girdle - Mt. 3:4
2. The inward appearance is more important than the outward appearance - I Pet. 3:3-4 "Whose adorning let it not be that outward [adorning] of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; 4 But [let it be] the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, [even the ornament] of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price."
3. I Sam. 16:7 The Lord looks on the heart "But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for [the LORD seeth] not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart."
4. Those who are beautiful within need not worry about the outside appearance
5. You do not need fine clothes to work for the Lord. God looks at the man and his work not his designer clothing.

E. Perfect physical health

1. Gaius - III Jn. 2 "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."
2. Paul had a thorn in the flesh - II Cor. 12:7 "And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure."
3. We do not need to be in perfect physical health to be of value in the work of the Lord.

F. Years of Instruction and experience

1. After Paul became a Christian he straightway preached Christ - Acts 9:19,20
2. We do not need years of instruction and experience before we can begin to work for the Lord.
3. We learn how to work by working
4. If we wait until we know everything before we work, then we'll never be ready to work for we'll never know everything
5. To be of value in the Lord's work you do not need years of instruction and experience !

G. Everything convenient and opportune

1. Paul and Silas didn't have it convenient in the Philippian jail - Acts 16:19-34
2. We hear too much about convenience in the Lord's work
3. The Lord expects us to make a sacrifice to work for Him

4. We do not need everything convenient and opportune to work for the Lord
 5. Jesus taught: On a mountain, by a well, on the seashore, in houses, in public gatherings
 6. We must be ready to teach others and help others even though everything is not convenient and opportune.
- H. These are some things we do not need to be of value in the Lord's work: eloquence, education, money, fine clothing, perfect health, years of experience and convenience.

II. THESE ARE THINGS WE MUST HAVE TO BE OF VALUE IN GOD'S WORK

A. Faith which produces the fruit of self-denial

1. Heb. 11:24-25 - "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; 25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;"
2. By faith Moses denied himself all the pleasure of sin in this world
3. To be of value in the Lord's work today we must by faith deny our self the pleasures of sin in this world

B. A Godly Life

1. Our life must show that we have been with Jesus
2. Acts 4:13 "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus." "They realized that they had been with Jesus." NKJV
3. Can people tell by your life that you are a Christian?
4. To be of value in the Lord's work you must be.

C. **Liberality**

1. We must be liberal givers to the cause of Christ
2. The poor widow is an example - Mark. 12:41-44
3. Give as we have prospered - 1 Cor. 16:1-2 - to succeed in business affairs
4. The brethren in Macedonia gave out of deep poverty. We would say they were foolish - II Cor. 8:1-7
5. Notice what the Bible says: "...see that ye abound in this grace also." II Cor. 8:7
6. The Lord wants cheerful givers - II Cor. 9:7
7. To be of value in the Lord's work we must be liberal in giving our money, our time and our life.

D. **An Uncompromising spirit like that of John the Baptist**

1. Matt. 14:3-10
2. John did not fail to proclaim the truth to any man even though it meant giving up his life
3. God does not want us to compromise the truth with anyone for any reason.
4. We must stand firm for the Word of god as John did showing his ZEAL, FAITHFULNESS and COURAGE
5. To be of value in the Lord's work we must have an uncompromising spirit concerning the truth
6. III. Uncompromising - Dr. Frances Kelsey - p. 91 The New Immorality

E. GOOD SPIRITUAL HEALTH

1. III John 1-2 "As thy soul prospereth"
2. "My heartfelt prayer for you, my very dear friend, is that you may be as healthy and prosperous in every way as you are in soul." Phillips
3. Three things necessary for a good life
 - a. Good healthy body
 - b. Being prosperous
 - c. Good healthy soul
4. Gaius had the healthy soul - therefore he had the assurance and promises of God that the other things of life would be taken care of
5. If your body and financial condition were as healthy as your soul, how would you be:
 - a. Weak and sickly - nearly dead or on the verge of death
 - b. Financially would you be in poverty - begging for something to eat
6. To be of value in the Lord's work we need a good healthy soul

F. Realize that we are a debtor

1. Rom. 1:14,15 "I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also."
2. We are in debt to others because of what Christ did for us
3. We are in debt to others because others taught us
4. To be of value in the Lord's work we must realize that we are in debt to help others know about God!

G. A love for souls

1. Paul had a love for souls and was doing everything possible to save them - Rom.10:1
2. 1 Cor. 9:22 "To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all [men], that I might by all means save some."
3. 1 Cor. 8:13 "Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend."
4. We must have this same love for souls to be of value in the work for God.
5. Do you love souls as much or more than money ?

Conclusion

1. Let us make up our mind that we will be workers for God
 2. Heb. 6:10-11 "For God [is] not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.
11 And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:"
 3. Titus 3:1 "Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work," "Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work." NKJV
 4. Therefore we need to do as Paul said: "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." Phil. 2:12
 5. Because John tells us that Jesus will "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward [is] with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." Rev. 22:12
 6. Will your works condemn you or save you ?
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Sermon by Arthur Pigman - March 25, 2007 Sunday Morning
Evans Church of Christ
515 Gibbs Road
Evans, Ga. 30809
706-855-1249
arthurpigman@cybrtyme.com
www.evansgachurchofchrist.org