

In Praise Of Work

An admiring fan had just attended a spectacular recital by a world-class pianist.

On meeting the artist later, the fan exclaimed, “*I would give anything if I could play the piano like you.*”

“*No you would not,*” came the calm, matter-of-fact reply. “*To play the piano like I have just done demands playing the piano eight hours a day, six days a week, for 20 years. Are you willing to do that?*”

This is true, for a good number of our failures occur because we are not willing to expend the amount of time of pure effort required to succeed.

The bottom line in achievement in anything is honing a talent, performing a job well, developing a good character trait, all of which takes long hours of hard work.

Sure, some people inherit fortunes, or become famous because they were in the right place at the right time.

Some people, because of inherited talent, have limited success without a great deal of work.

But this is not the case for the vast majority of human beings.

For us, succeeding at anything is simply a matter of dedicated hard work, **not** inherited talent or luck.

In this modern world, the vast majority of people work only to earn enough to leave work behind and enjoy some personal pleasure or recreation.

We all need to remember that we need to find pleasure in our work because we spend more time working than doing anything else in our lives.

Work may not seem good when you have to haul yourself out of bed at six on a cold morning, or you have to do the same job for the umpteenth time, but it is good, for the all-wise Creator God tells us that it is.

Genesis 1:31 [New King James] “*Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.*”

After the Creator God recreated the surface of the earth [**Psalm 104:30**] making it splendid and beautiful again. God looked at His work and saw it was very good.

Honest work and right attitudes of mind towards work will always hold us in good stead.

The Creator God still works –

John 5:17 [NIV] “*Jesus said to them, ‘My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working.’*”

Both God the Father and Jesus Christ continue to work, God’s work is now on a spiritual level as God fulfils the second part of His original desire, [Genesis 1:26-27] to create beings that are in His “likeness,” Hebrew word “*demûwth*” meaning attributes and character. The physical creation that we see all around us is but a taste of God’s great work.

God's spiritual creation, to have a personal relationship with billions of human beings, is beyond our ability to comprehend, [Psalms 104:31].

Job 14:14-15 [New King James] *“If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait, till my change comes. You shall call, and I will answer You; You shall desire the work of Your hands.”*

Note this spiritual work of God is two-sided, we have to work hard as if it was all up to us, but without God's help we will never become the complete, mature, holy being that God desires to give the gift of eternal life, [1 Peter 1:15-16].

Galatians 5:22-25 [New King James] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”*

For these holy characteristics of God to become ours, we have to “walk in the Spirit,” that is, keep close to Him and follow His lead, [Romans 8:14].

Why do true Christian Churches apply the term “work” to the great commission we have been given, [Matthew 28:18-20], because it is our training ground to learn how to work in yet greater commissions with our Saviour Jesus Christ, [Revelation 20:4-6; Revelation 20:11-13].

These commissions, for all true disciples of Jesus Christ, that is true Christians who allow the Holy Spirit to work in and through us, [Romans 8:8-11].

Ecclesiastes 9:10 [New King James] *“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.”*

God expects us to work hard, true Christianity is not a part-time job.

Romans 12:1 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

Our work as a Christian is a total sacrifice of our own desires. The Greek word translated “bodies” is “sōma” meaning our total life force, our physical body, our mind and our human spirit, [Job 32:8].

Ecclesiastes 5:19-20 [NIV] *“Moreover, when God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and **be happy in his work, this is a gift of God.** He seldom reflects on the days of his life, because God keeps him occupied with gladness of heart.”*

Working for our Creator God will bring to us joy and contentment, for it is a gift from God that we can enjoy to the very end of our physical life.

If we ignore this wonderful opportunity to dedicate our lives to working for our Creator God and Saviour, the apostle Paul gives such people a powerful prod.

2 Thessalonians 3:10 [New King James] *“For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.”*

This was after he had given a personal example of hard work, [verses 7-9].

Acts 4:12 [New King James] *“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”*

Salvation from eternal death is **only** through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, by accepting it in faith instead of our own death.

But even our part in this salvation involves work on our part.

Philippians 2:12-16 [New King James] *“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or laboured in vain.**”*

God “works in” us through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit as we “work out” love, compassion and faithfulness in our relationships with other human beings.

Revelation 22:12 [NIV] *“Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.”*

Our reward for all our work for our Saviour Jesus Christ, He will bring with Him at His Second Coming.

Let's all get to work!