

## **I Want to be a Worker For Jesus**

### **Intro:**

1. Lesson summarized: How are we going to spend our time upon the earth?
2. Earthly life is structured so that irreversibly consumes time.
3. Our days are numbered, our time limited. We must avoid that which is a wasteful, unwise, or unproductive use of time. *"The night is coming when no one can work"* (Jn 9:4); *"See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil"* (Eph 5:15-16).

### **1. The Basic Concept of Work**

- A. The energy and effort (physical or mental) needed to accomplish a specific task.
- B. Most all worthwhile goals in life require work:
  1. Establishing and maintaining a family and home.
  2. Providing the material necessities of life.
  3. Spiritual growth and development.
  4. Preserving and promoting the kingdom of Christ.
- C. Our attitude toward the work that this life requires will determine to a large degree our personal happiness and eternal destiny.

### **Discussion**

1. T/F The best thing that could ever happen to me is to win the Publisher's Clearing-house Sweepstakes and never have to work again.
2. How must husbands and wives work to maintain a healthy and strong marriage?

### **2. Foundation Principles of Work**

- A. Man created for industrious activity - Gn 1:28; 2:15.
- B. Half-hearted, shoddy efforts are unacceptable - Ecc 9:10; Col 3:23. This is an important key to fulfillment and satisfaction.

C. All labor of which God approves is valuable - Eph 6:5-8.

D. Lawful labor is the key to God's approval - Col 3:17.

E. Of top priority is laboring for eternal life - Jn 6:27.

### ***Discussion***

1. How would working "as unto the Lord" help a Christian slave in the first century or a menial employee in the twentieth century?
2. How can our work ethic reflect badly upon Christ?
3. How can Jesus say, "Do not labor for the food which perishes ..." and Paul say, "If any-one will not work, neither shall he eat" (Jn 6:27; II Th 3:10)? Are they contradictory?

### **3. Balancing Work and Materialism**

A. {See chart}

B. Proper view of material goods:

1. Material things are not permanent - Mt 6:19-21.
2. Non-transferrable to spiritual world - 1 Tim 6:7; Ecc 5:15.
3. Complicate life; bring anxiety and trouble - Ecc 5:12.
4. Cannot serve God and mammon (Aramaic - A term for material riches that implies trust in them.) - Mt 6:24.

C. We can become so consumed with the daily chore of supplying our daily and future needs that we forget to look past them to the ultimate goal - spiritual service.

### ***Discussion***

1. T/F Jesus teaches in Lk 12:18-19 that it is wrong to store up for retirement.
2. Can you think of some warning signs of greed and covetousness?

### **4. Work in the Kingdom**

A. If great effort is required to bring the physical world into submission, is surprising that it also takes a great amount of work to bring souls into submission to Christ?

1. Some have an “I can’t” attitude that gives up before trying.
2. Others have adopted the spirit of the age: “It’s not my problem.”
3. Jesus acknowledged the work to be done but lamented “*the laborers are few*” (Mt 9:37-38).

B. Paul’s instruction to Titus in Crete:

1. What were the Cretans known for? Tit 1:12.
2. Titus should be a \_\_\_\_\_ of good works (2:7).
3. The brethren in Crete should be:
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ for good works (2:14).
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ for every good work (3:1).
  - c. Careful to \_\_\_\_\_ good works (3:8, 14).

C. Areas where work is needed:

1. Teaching:
  - a. Of young wives/mothers - Tit 2:3-5.
  - b. Of the congregation - 1 Tim 4:6, 11, 16; 2 Tim 4:1-2.
  - c. Of other teachers - 2 Tim 2:2.
2. Encouragement: Gal 6:1-5 - Rather than consume each other (Gal 5:15), the Galatians needed to help brethren who had been overcome by the world.
3. Evangelism: There are lost people whose best hope to learn the truth is **YOU!**

**Discussion**

1. What things hinder us from engaging in spiritual work as diligently as we should?
2. T/F The church is in good enough shape that there is not much left to be done.

**Conclusion:** “*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord*” (1 Cor 15:58).