

WHY WORK?

It was reported that a man said: "I'm not lazy. I just don't like to work." Obviously, this man did not understand the importance of work. Let us consider some reasons why we need to work—especially why we need to work for God.

- **The Father and the Son Are Workers.** "But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work" (John 5:17). These are two examples we must all follow!

- **Labor for the Lord Is Not in Vain.** Paul declared:

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 (1 Cor. 15:58).

When the Great Depression hit, many wealthy people lost "everything" overnight. Servants of the living God do not have such insecurity, for we know that what we do for Him is treasure laid up in Heaven, and it is a treasure that is safe from all harm.

Jesus declared:

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also (Mat. 6:19–21; cf. 1 Tim. 6:17–19)

Jesus taught this in John 9:4: "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." The Lord realized that He had to be diligent and earnest in doing God's will while He had the time and opportunity. We must also know and practice this valuable principle. Anything worth doing is worth doing with our might, and the Lord's work is the most worthwhile of all. The wise man said:

Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, not device, not knowledge, not wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest (Ecc. 9:10).

One may be diligent in earthly affairs but slothful in spiritual matters. The rich farmer was very diligent in his business, but he left God out. How sad!

But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God (Luke 12:20–21).

- **God Condemns Slothfulness.**

Go to the ant, thou sluggard; Consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, And gathereth her food in the harvest. How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard: When wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, And thy want as an armed man (Pro. 6:6–11).

Paul teaches that Christians are to be "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord" (Rom. 12:11). The one-talent man was condemned as a "wicked and slothful servant" (Mat. 25:26).

- **Our Works Will Follow Us.**

And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them (Rev. 14:13).

The Bible says of righteous Abel that "he being dead yet speaketh" (Heb. 11:4).

- **Christ's Faithful Workers Will Be Rewarded Eternally in Heaven.** Jesus said of them:

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also (John 14:1–3).