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Working and Waiting for Christ



By Steven J. Hogan

~ A Saturday Morning Post #284 ~

[A much more detailed article covering the same subject about work has just been posted. I would encourage you to read that too.]

In these end-times, we are to work for God while we wait for Christ. And God has much work that He wants to do and wants us to do before He sends His Son back to earth. What a privilege to work for God in the last years of this church age. Jesus told us, *"Do business with this until I come."* Luke 19:13, Mark 13:33-34

God gives many stories about people doing His work. Noah built the ark, Moses led the Israelites, Joshua commanded an army, David was a king, Nehemiah built a wall, Jesus was our Savior, Mary was His mother, Paul was a preacher, etc. Now we are getting close to the end of this age, and we should be super motivated to do the work God wants us to do before Christ comes back to earth.

Today, we will be looking at several Bible passages that speak about work:

Luke 17:7-10. *"So you too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy slaves; we have done only that which we ought to have done.'"* (Lk. 17:19). Working for God isn't doing whatever you want whenever you want. God is your Master and you are His slave, and you are to be doing His work all the time. And don't expect God to thank you – you're His slave, and when you work for Him, you're doing what you ought to do.

Colossians 3:22-24. *"Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men."* God is your perfect and supreme Master, and you're His slave, and He is always watching you work. Work isn't just an 8-4 or 9-5 job – it's working for God all the time and in *"whatever you do."* It can be physical work like mowing the yard, or it can be mental work like working in an office, or it can be spiritualwork like sharing the gospel. All these are examples of working for God.

Working for God when you are on earth results in heavenly and eternal rewards. *"From the Lord you will receive the reward of your inheritance"* (Col. 3:24, 1 Cor. 3:8). You are to wholeheartedly work for God, for it pleases Him, blesses others, and results in you being richly rewarded. Matt. 6:6, Rev. 22:12

Luke 12:13-21. You're to think about work from a godly, eternal perspective, and not be like unbelievers who work from a fleshly, temporal perspective.

1. An unbeliever is selfish. He works and makes money for himself.
2. An unbeliever invests money for his retirement, and he stores up possessions. But he doesn't think about the state of his sinful soul, and if he doesn't repent while he's on earth, then he will be punished forever and severely in hell.

3. Believers are to work to make money for their needs, other's needs, and for God's purposes. *"By working hard... you must help the weak... 'it is more blessed to give than to receive.'"* Acts 20:33-35
4. It's prudent to save money for the future. But never put your hope in money. Put your hope in God and use the money you have for the lives of others and for His glory. This is your best investment, and the returns are out of this world.
5. Don't retire like unbelievers who want to *"take it easy, eat, drink, and be merry"* (Luke 12:19). You may retire from a job where you're making money, but you are to never retire from working for God. Acts 13:36, 20:24, 28:30-31

Ephesians 2:8-10. *"We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."*
1. You are not saved by your *"good"* works, but you are saved by God's grace, and one reason you are saved is so that by God's grace you can do good works.
2. You are created in Christ Jesus. Don't be like an unbeliever working at a job for his own good and his own glory, but work for God and His glory. 1 Cor. 10:31 – *"Whether then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."*

3. You are God's workmanship. God made you just the way He wants you to be, giving you abilities when you were born and spiritual gifts when you were born again. *"May ... God ... equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ."* Heb. 13:20-21
4. The work you do for God is good work. It's work that is needed, beneficial, and important, whether it's for your family, the church, your country, or the world.

5. God knew and planned all these good works in eternity past.
6. Christians are to walk in these good works. As you go through life, you will discover and do the work God planned for you. Pray, *"Teach me*

to do Your will, for You are my God; let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground." Ps. 143:10, Pr. 16:9

Here are several other important principles about work:
* Serve the Lord with gladness. Ps. 100:1
* Work by faith, not by sight. 2 Cor. 5:7
* Work hard. Mark 12:30, 2 Tim 2:6, 1 Cor. 15:10, 2 Chron. 31:20-21
* Have a mind to work. Neh. 4:6

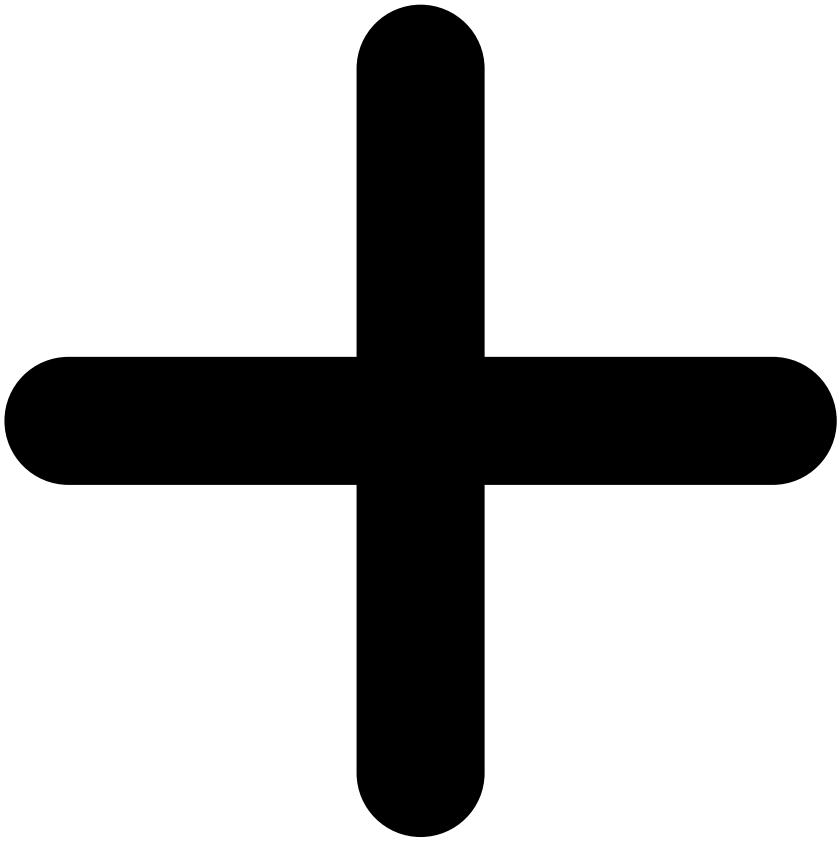
* You must be holy to do the work of God. 2 Tim. 2:20-21
* Doing God's work is a primary reason you are living. Ps. 40:8, John 17:4
* The work God wants you to do is unique, is special. Ps. 139:13-16
* Working with others is usually better than working alone. Eccl. 4:9

* God wants you to be satisfied with the results of your work. Prov. 12:14
* You must persevere to fulfill all the work God wants you to do. Col. 1:9-12
* God wants you to rest. Mark 1:35
* Finish all the work God wants you to do. 2 Tim. 4:7, Acts 13:36
* Glorify God by doing all the work He wants you to do. John 17:4

It's very encouraging to work for God the Father and Jesus Christ, His Son. Be thankful that you can do the work They want you to do, work that has eternal value, that is a blessing to you and others, and that relates directly to Christ's coming. *"You turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven."* 1 Thess. 1:9-10

P.S. *"I delight to do Thy will"* (Ps. 48:8). I pray that work for God and love to work for God. Here are two detailed articles that tell you most everything you need to know about work: *"The Excellent End-Times'*

Worker” and *“Wholeheartedly Working for God in the End-Times.”*



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