



Northside Proclaimer

Proclaiming The Word Of The Lord

1 Thessalonians 1:8

Northside Church Of Christ Welcomes You!

March 15, 2015

“There’s Much Work To Be Done!”

Bryan Garlock

The Scriptures teach that God is pleased with those who work. Paul wrote, “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men...” (Col. 3:23). Elsewhere he wrote, “...aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands...” (1 Thess. 4:11). Finally, “...If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat” (2 Thess. 3:10). As one searches the Scriptures, he or she will find that God adequately covered every type of work known to man. Whether it is within the home, at work, at school or even within the church.

While it is sinful to have self-pride, thinking more highly of oneself than one ought, it is not sinful to want to do the best job you can, taking pride in your work. Concerning our service and work for the Lord, Paul taught, “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Eph. 2:10). Elsewhere he wrote that Jesus, “...gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works” (Titus 2:14). Further, Scripture equips us “...for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Finally, “Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain” (1 Cor. 15:58).

When it comes to working for the Lord, there is so much more to be done than just evangelize. While that is certainly the most important and main reason for our labor, there are many efforts that must come together for a desired result.

For instance, when visiting a church in Alabama once, we immediately noticed upon arrival that the outside walls were filthy with dirt and mold, the windows were nasty and the awnings were shredded to pieces and hanging everywhere. Inside was a sore sight as well. Whether or not the church could afford a nice building is beside the point. A couple gallons of bleach would have given the place a huge difference of appearance. This raises a question in my mind: “Should we be so concerned with evangelism that we neglect the church’s meeting house or if we neglect the church’s meeting house is this indicative of neglecting, or possibly even hindering, the evangelism as well?” Continued on back...

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church Of Christ

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Announcements

- Remember the shut in's.
- Pray for the church and one another.
- Remember the spiritual sick among us
- Men's Bible April 12th @ 3:30 PM
- No Kid's drill today
- Call or email me to add announcements, thanks.
- We have a new sister in Christ, Kim O'Madden. Please welcome her to the family of God.

Chronological Bible Reading Plan

Mar. 15 Deut. 11-13
Mar. 16 Deut. 14-16
Mar. 17 Deut. 17-20
Mar. 18 Deut. 21-23
Mar. 19 Deut. 24-27
Mar. 20 Deut. 28-29
Mar. 21 Deut. 30-31

Let us be honest. We should always strive to present the gospel and ourselves in the most positive, professional and appealing manner possible. This is not to say we should sugar coat the gospel. By no means! However, what could the church above do to help their work in evangelism? Consider the following suggestions: initiative, concern for the Lord's work and love. Surely we can admit that if the building was neglected, other areas of the work were also neglected, possibly even evangelism. Do we believe God is pleased with such a lack of concern? We should examine our individual roles here at Northside. What work needs to be done? What work are you doing? It has been said, "90% of the work of the church is done by 10% of the people and 90% of the people only do 10% of the work." To some Christians, showing up to services once on Sunday is 5%!

Nehemiah is a great example of how we are to work in the church today. When he saw a need within Jerusalem, he did not sit around and talk about it. He did not table it for two months and avoid coming to a decision. He did not just sit there and keep quiet. He prayerfully and tactfully got to work (Nehemiah 1-2). He said, "You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burned. Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer suffer derision" (2.17). The people were so encouraged by his report of God's care, they replied, "'Let us rise up and build.' So they strengthened their hands for the good work" (2.18).

Eventually, opposition came as it often does, but the text tells us they prayerfully worked through their obstacles, "...for the people had a mind to work" (chapter 4, note vs. 6). When the opposition heard that God intervened, the people were able to return, "...each to his work" (15). Further, Nehemiah was able to stop the oppression of the poor (chapter 5) and silence those who were trying to interfere with his work (chapter 6).

A wall that had lain in ruins for upwards of one hundred years or more now had men working to rebuild and make better. The text tells us, "So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty-two days. And when all our enemies heard of it, all the nations around us were afraid and fell greatly in their own esteem, for they perceived that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God" (6.15-16). Nehemiah saw a need, prayed and accomplished all the work needed in 52 days. This was a task possibly intended to take years of preparation and sweat, but because the people of God put their mind to work they succeeded.

Brethren, do we keep in mind that we were created in Christ Jesus for good works? Are we zealous for good works? Do we really believe that the Scriptures equip us for every good work? Are we abounding in the work of the Lord? If these things are not so in our lives we should strive for effort and application. Solomon said, "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might, for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol [grave], to which you are going" (Eccl. 9.10). There is much work to be done at Northside. Whether it is evangelism, upkeep to the building, benevolence, edification, attendance, timeliness, stepping up to teach a Bible class, etc. We can be successful just like Nehemiah and the people were. It will take love, dedication and pride in our service and work to God. BG