

WORKERS TOGETHER WITH GOD

By Jerry L. Henderson

Ben's sermon Wednesday evening was taken from Nehemiah chapter 3 and from that chapter he illustrated very vividly how it takes everyone, no matter their station or status in life, to do the work God wants done. So, make no mistake about it, there is work involved in salvation. Paul said in Phil 2:12 we must work out our own salvation with fear and trembling and James 2:14-17 teaches us that faith must be accompanied with work if we want salvation. In Neh 4:6 the Scripture says Israel built the wall of Jerusalem because they had a mind to work.

We just must understand from the Scriptures that as God's children we are required to work. John 9:4 shows that there is a sense of urgency involved in our work. We must work the works of God and we must do it while it is day because the night is coming when we cannot work. Solomon in Eccl 9:10 advises us to work hard, that is, with all our might whatever needs to be done. Then from Matt 25:14-30 it is apparent that we must use all our ability in taking advantage of all our opportunities to work for the Lord, who is our Master. We must work regardless of the level of our ability. The talents in this parable represent opportunities to work. These talents were not special abilities because they were given according to "their several abilities". Because these opportunities (talents) were given to each man according to his ability we realize that each one was required to use the ability God had given him in taking advantage of the opportunities he had to work. This demonstrates that God holds us accountable for the opportunities we have, to work for Him based on our ability as Paul shows in 1Cor 12:12-26. In Eph 4:16 Paul shows that every part of the body is to be a part of the work of edification or the building up of the body.

We must work together with God, not against Him 2Cor 6:1. Paul indicates in this passage that if we are not workers together with him we have received the grace of God in vain. There is no neutrality in this work that is ours. Jesus said in Matt 12:30 if we are not with Him we are against Him, if we are not gathering with Him, we are scattering abroad. We must not be involved in teaching the doctrines of men Matt 15:9. As you continue reading in that chapter in verses 13 and 14 Jesus says whatever was not planted by His Father will be rooted up. So, we must be careful in our work for God to not plant anything but the seed of the kingdom, which is the Word of God Lk 8:11. The apostle Paul was once a worker against God Acts 26:9; 1Tim 1:13. However, after he learned the Truth he began to work diligently with God the work he was given to do, according to his ability.

Not only must we work together with God, we must work together with each other as Paul shows in 1Cor 3:6-10. Paul noted that he planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. Paul urged the Corinthian church to be joined together in the same mind and the same judgment 1Cor 1:10, and, Paul told the church in Philippi to be of one accord Phil 2:2. That means the Christians in each of these congregations were working together as one unit in carrying out the work God had given to each local congregation. Our Lord said in Matt 12:25 that a divided group cannot stand. Therefore, there must be unity in a local church in order that the Lord's work can be accomplished.

Paul urged the church in Corinth to be steadfast and unmovable in the work of the Lord and that their labor for the Lord would not be in vain 1Cor 15:58. Paul makes it clear

in Gal 6:4 that each individual has his/her own work to do. We cannot rely on the work that some other individual does, we must do our own work. Remember as Paul noted in Gal 6:7 we will reap just exactly what we sow. That means that we will get out of something no more than what we put into it. Are you working together with God?