

WORKING THE WORKS OF HIM WHO SENT US

(John 9:4)

Introduction:

1. Our Lord spoke these words after being asked why the man born blind was born blind. Jesus said that it was so God could be glorified by the “work” of Christ. Our Lord then gave us a beautiful admonition: work while it is day (while you are alive and able to serve God), because the day will come when you cannot serve God (in the grave-Eccl. 9:10).
2. It is appropriate, with Labor Day observed tomorrow, to take some time to consider the work that is to be done in the day.
3. Let us consider: the works of God, our works, and the perseverance of the work.

Discussion:

- I. The Works of God (Col. 2:11-14 = ESV note passive and active).
 - A. God’s work through Christ.
 1. God blessed us, chose us, adopted us, made us acceptable, redeemed us, forgave us, revealed Himself to us, gave us an inheritance, saved us, sealed us, and gave us a down payment (Eph. 1:3-14).
 2. God works all for good to us, predestined us, called us, justified us, and glorified us (Rom. 8:28-30).
 - B. God’s work through the Bible = He revealed His will for us (Eph. 3:1-7; 2 Pet. 1:20, 21, 3).
 - C. God’s work through the Church = (He gave us fellowship, revealing His will, accomplishing His purpose, and gave us bold/confident access to His grace (Eph. 3:8-12).
 - D. God’s work through Providence = He has armed us to overcome, equipped us to serve, and works all to good (Eph. 6:10-20; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; Rom. 8:28).
- II. Our Works.
 - A. Our work for our own salvation (Phil. 2:12 = work out = katargazomai = to work to completion, achievement).
 1. 2 Thess. 1:8 = Learning and Living; Knowing and Growing; Believing and Becoming.
 2. Rom. 6:3-6 = Death and Resurrection; Obedience and Reward.
 - B. Family (save self and then serve = Deut. 6:4-9).
 1. Spouses (Eph. 5:22-33; 1 Pet. 3:1-7).
 2. Children and parents (Eph. 6:1-4).
 - C. All (Matt. 5:13-16; 1 Thess. 4:12, 1; cp. 1 John 1:7).
- III. The Perseverance of the Work.
 - A. God’s steadfastness is perfect (Mal. 3:6; Jas. 1:17) and His “work” stands complete.
 - B. Our steadfastness is three-fold.
 1. Confession = acknowledging reality of God, His will, and His revealed nature (Deut. 6:24; Matt. 11:28-30).
 2. Consistency = growing in Christ-likeness day-by-day; abounding (2 Pet. 1:8).
 3. Constancy = Continuing in Christ-likeness until our death and even if it precipitates our death (Rev. 2:10 = unto = achri = the sense of terminus = when can faithfulness be completed).

Conclusion:

1. Matt. 25:19 = the settling of accounts is coming, and be assured it will come.
2. Thus the admonition to “work” while we are able (alive), because the day will come when we can no longer work (after death).
3. Invitation.

MORE ON “WORKING THE WORKS OF HIM WHO SENT US”

1. The working of Christ as example: John 4:34; 5:19, 36; 17:4.
2. God worked and then rested (Gen. 2:2). This became an observance in the Law of Moses (Ex. 20:8-11). This was all to help us to understand the imperative of working while we are this side of the grave (Heb. 3, 4).
3. Note a little thread from Is. 55:11 to Eph. 1:19 (working); 3:7 (effective working); 4:16 (effective working); Phil. 3:21 (working); Col. 1:29 (working); 2:12 (working); 1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Thess. 2:9 (working); 2:11 (strong). God has worked and continues working via His word that man might be saved. God’s *energeia* is ours to use or ignore.
4. Our work is to allow God’s work to save us, to continue to allow God’s work to sanctify us, and to work God’s work in His world according to His will.
5. James 2 is not contradictory to Eph. 2:8, 9.

Eph. 2:8, 9 is a parallel account to Rom. 3:19-28. The “works” that cannot save us are the “works of the Law”.

James 2 speaks of the “works of faith” which is obedience to the word of God. Obedience has ALWAYS been and shall ALWAYS be the means of salvation.
6. We already discussed the truth of 2 Cor. 5:10, but compare that with what John saw regarding the judgment at the end of time in Rev. 20:11-15, esp. vv 12, 13 (ergon).

PRAYER LIST FOR WEEK STARTING AUGUST 27th

Those with long term issues

Audrey Brostrom, Louise Williams, Cliff and Rachel Greenawalt and their family, Ruth Vaughn as she lives with diabetes, and Harrison Waldron.

Those with short term issues

- ▶ Darrell McKee as he continues his fight against cancer.
- ▶ Frances Davis as she struggles with some health issues.
- ▶ Tony, Lynnette, and Giavanna Galbier as they begin their new life together.
- ▶ That John Pellin might find a place to live closer to the building.
- ▶ Cassandra Foster, Buzzy Nelsen’s granddaughter, who has three young daughters, is battling cancer, and just lost her home to a fire.
- ▶ Our members who are struggling with sickness/colds/injuries.
- ▶ Our members who are traveling (Lauryn Corbelli in Europe).
- ▶ Our college students who are away from us in body but not in spirit.
- ▶ Our leadership in the church; that they might be faithful, strong, and bold.