

## CHRISTIAN INDUSTRY REVISED and REVIVED

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In my humble evaluation our thinking should energize all of our studies, of and about our God given attributes, our duties, and responsibilities. However, our thinking must be guided, permeated if you please, by the great principles of God's Word. What are you saying, you ask? It will be answered, and I think you will agree, so keep reading and studying with me.

For now, I say, take note of this injunction, "*Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things*" (Philippians 4:8).

Now, substitute "deliberate" for think and it can be explained this way: The scripture challenges us to think, to think deeply, deliberately and continually fill our minds with what is good. You know we become like the things on which we reflect. You know the proverb which says to us, "As we think so are we" (Proverbs 23:7). Now you tell me, if we, if all mankind were to think on the things which are true, honest, just, lovely, virtuous and of good report that would be what the world which GOD created would be. It would be second only to Heaven is one way to look at it! So why does not mankind do this? The answer is, "It could be if man 'willed' it to be." Man's will is powerful with God's help.

Do you think, well let me ask it this way, "What is the Lord seeing when HE looks into the hearts of men?" Man demonstrates (reveals) his heart by his actions. The appearance of one's heart is evident when observed by God...and yes by others...oh yes, and by self, if we would be honest. Our actions, our ways, is the mirror which gives the true reflection of each of us. There...are...no...Exceptions!

In study and preparation for this writing, I looked with interest at an outline of "Christian Activity." The outline was set up for the purpose of addressing several activities for Christians. There was a part of the outline identified as, "Industry: Productive Activity". It became a challenge to me, and so with that I accepted the challenge and gave this study the title, "CHRISTIAN INDUSTRY."

It was with gladness of heart and joy to my soul that I began my research and thinking about the subject of this study. I'm telling you the truth; I have never given thought to the expression, "Christian Industry." Many times, however, I have thought of the duty and the responsibility which one has to God, to one's neighbor, their fellow man, and thus to each other. And truly this study with the title given is in the same realm.

Productive activity, Christian Industry, is what we think, say, and do and such must be guided by the scriptures. God's words are so beautiful, necessary, and helpful and we need to study them over and over and by doing so they become beautiful as do our lives. They become more and more helpful. In study of the scriptures we learn more, different, and needed lessons, which if analyzed, we learn more, and better how to serve the God of Heaven. In that way we are progressing toward becoming a five talented steward.

With a study using the word “Industry” in the title, let’s look at the word. I have mentioned the fact in other studies that our English words often times have more than one definition. Even so, you could mix words from each of the different definitions and come up with yet another definition, or caveat, and still be right. For the purpose of this study, let’s use the expression to define industry as: Diligent and regular application to work or at a task. Do you think that sums it up? Of course the words used earlier, productive activity, are really good and sound words.

**1. CHRISTIAN INDUSTRIES: {WORKING FAITHFULLY AND DILIGENTLY TO SUPPLY PHYSICAL NEEDS OF SELF AND OTHERS}**

In 1 Thessalonians 4:9-11, we are exhorted to live a life, which is pleasing to God. And in so living we are taught of God to love one another. We are urged to practice our love so that it will increase more and more; that we study, aspire to lead a quiet, peaceful, and productive life, to mind our own business, and to work with our own hands, that we may provide for our needs and for those of our dependents. This is commanded of us, and this should be our goal. It is our duty, and it is our responsibility. 1 Timothy 5:8 says, *“But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.”* Loving responsibility for one’s family is a major requirement of Christian’s faith. II Thessalonians 3:11, *“...there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.”* And in Ephesians 4:28, the apostle Paul is admonishing the Christians there not to walk as the rest of the Gentiles. That they should put off the old man and live the new life in Christ. In verse 25 Paul is saying to them, *put away lying.* In v. 28, *“...let him labor, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.”* Christianity gives dignity to labor. Labor, which is ‘productive activity’, is what we’re discussing.

**2. CHRISTIAN INDUSTRIES: {WORKING FAITHFULLY AND DILIGENTLY IN THE KINGDOM OF THE LORD JESUS, WORKING TOGETHER WITH GOD}**

In II Corinthians 6:1, the apostle Paul is speaking of his suffering for his ministry says, *“We then, as workers together with Him plead with you to receive not a blessing of God in vain.”* Is it not a blessing that through the grace of God we can be fellow workers, and partners with Him? 1 Corinthians 3:9, says it this way, *“For we are laborers together with God...”* In the last Chapter of Mark, verses 15 and 16 Jesus commissions the eleven disciples with what we call the “Great Commission,” to go into all the, (the entire) world and preach the gospel. In Mark 16:19-20, says, *“So then, after the Lord had spoken unto them, HE was received up into Heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they (the Disciples), went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.”* Now, I ask, “Is that working faithfully and diligently in the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus?” Is that not Productive Christian Activity? Can we defend our activity? Is our activity Christian Industry?

**3. CHRISTIAN INDUSTRIES: {WORKING FAITHFULLY AND DILIGENTLY IN THE KINGDOM OF THE LORD JESUS, WORKING OUT ONE’S OWN SALVATION}**

In working out our own salvation, we know God will do His part, by grace we are saved, but we must do our part. Here the inspired words of the apostle Paul in Philippians 2:12-13,

*“...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling: for it is God who works in you, both to will and to do, for His good pleasure.”* There’s the good partnership! God is on our side, and it pleases Him when we join hands and work. Our work, our industry, is to be with fear and trembling which denotes a deep reverence that comes from knowing that God is at work in us, and that we are able to fulfill His purpose for our lives.

2 Peter 1:5, reasons with us to give diligence to faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love. Then in verses 10 and 11, tells us to, *“be even more diligent to make your calling and election sure: for if you do these things, (those things listed in verse 5), you shall never fall: for so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”*

**4. CHRISTIAN INDUSTRY: {WORKING FAITHFULLY AND DILIGENTLY IN THE KINGDOM OF THE LORD JESUS, WORKING MANFULLY, ABUNDANTLY AND FRUITFULLY}.**

In this paragraph number “4” heading, there are some strong adjectives/adverb used which should be recognized, defined, and explained. You see they are used in describing, work in the Kingdom of the Lord. Look at manfully/manly: Having qualities and virtues of, as courage, determination, strength, etc. These qualities can and should apply to humankind, and must be developed in Christians. What do you say, Amen? Abundantly and fruitfully, planting and watering is in order. *“Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor”* (1 Corinthians 3:8).

In 1 Corinthians 15:58, *“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”* Note this from 1 Corinthians 16:13-14, *“Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong; let all that you do be done with love.”* That’s our marching orders, in part, as we faithfully and diligently works in the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus. Jesus said in, John 15 as He talked about being the true vine and God the Father the vine-dresser, Jesus expressed it as His desire of us, to abide in Him, and His words and by this the Father is glorified, that we bear much fruit; so we shall be His, “Jesus’ disciple.”

**5. CHRISTIAN INDUSTRIES: {WORKING FAITHFULLY AND DILIGENTLY IN THE KINGDOM OF THE LORD JESUS, WORKING CONSISTENTLY AND SACRIFICIALLY}.**

Take note of the powerful words of James 1:23-25, *“If anyone is a hearer of the Word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect Law of Liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the ‘work’ this one will be blessed in what he does.”* You are counted and blessed if you are consistently “doing” in the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus.

In working faithfully and consistently we know good works follow faith. Faith working together and thus by works faith was made perfect. Your faith is justified by your works. Both are required to be called a friend of God, (James 2:22-24). We must consistently work in the Kingdom of the Lord and we must adhere, be attached, and devoted in faith, and follow without deviation to the will of our Lord. We must act persistently, to keep up an

unremitting pressure to endure in the face of opposition.” *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service. Don’t conform to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God”* (Romans 12:1-2). We Christians must have an attitude of resistance to the values, goals, and activities of the world which would pressure us into their shape. We should continually be molded from within by the power of God. If we are persecuted by persistence to life, not of this world, and if sacrifice be our lot, praise God and glorify Him and keep living and doing His will. Refresh your mind, and let it motivate you, by thinking what sacrifice God made through Christ for us and say, amen! Note: Let this paragraph be the signature paragraph of this study. “HALLELUJAH, PRAISE JEHOVAH!”

**6. CHRISTIAN INDUSTRY: {WALKING WORTHILY AND WISELY; WORTHILY OF THE CALLING}.**

In Ephesians 4:1-3, Paul makes a plea to us as he begins by saying, *“I beseech you to walk ‘worthy’ of the calling which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”* We must show, by our long-suffering, consideration for others and make allowance for their shortcomings. We do this with lowliness and gentleness in attitudes, which are the essence of love. The reciprocating effect of our doing this will bring unity and peace, unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. We are brought together in the Church in unity, by our obedience to God. We must work at preserving that unity. We are revived again, as we are reminded, of these great blessings of duty by Paul in, Colossians 1:9-10, as he, after learning of the Colossians’ faith, prayed, *“For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that you might be filled with knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.”*

**7. CHRISTIAN INDUSTRY: {WALKING WORTHILY AND WISELY; BY FAITH REDEEMING THE TIME}**

*“See that you walk circumspectly, (watchful/cautious), not as fools but as wise redeeming the ‘time,’ because the days are evil”* (Ephesians 5:15-16). As we walk, meaning as we go through life, as we live, we are cautioned to be attentive to everything. We must be watchful, and cautious. In doing so we are wise, not foolish, and walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit. The principle can be expanded to say, living thoughtfully, using time well, and doing God’s will; that is our Christian Industry in this instance. Walk in the ways with God, hand in hand with Jesus, redeeming time and using it whenever possible for doing good is God’s will. (Time, yea days, or one’s life are being used by so many in doing evil...and that is tragic and sinful (cf Colossians 4:5). Live wisely before those outside of salvation. We need to make good use, redeeming time, because of the short time we have to work.

**8. CHRISTIAN INDUSTRY: {WALKING WORTHILY AND WISELY; BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT}.**

Yes, the scriptures tell, teach, and command us to walk by faith, not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7) Yes, again, our walk is our living, our doing, our industry, our Christian Industry; and it is productive activity...let's do it, ok!

Our life in total is wrapped up in the three fundamental principles of the Christian life...they are, faith, hope, and love. It has been explained this way: These greater realities—faith, hope and love, have eternal significance. Eventually faith will become sight, (2 Corinthians 5:7) hope will be fulfilled; however, love, the greatest of all, (1 Corinthians 13:13), will remain unchanged. Love is God's purpose for His people...always.

Let's look at the nature of faith as revealed in the scriptures. Looking at, Hebrews 11:1, *"Now faith is the substance, (realization), of things hoped for, the evidence, (confidence), of things not seen."* We know, we are confident...no doubt in our heart, the faith by which the righteous live by is certain that things hoped for, God's promised blessing, will be fulfilled. Faith is also confident of things not seen, God's power and faithfulness.

**9. CHRISTIAN INDUSTRIES: {WALKING WORTHILY AND WISELY; IN THE LIGHT}.** *"...God is light and in Him is no darkness at all"* (1 John 1:5). Revealing that God is light is to describe Holy Character of God. We are admonished, *"If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, HIS Son, cleanses us from all sin"* (1 John 1:7). When we walk obediently in the light, the light, which He gives us, results in fellowship with God and with all true believers. This is possible by Christ's blood, which cleanses us and keeps us clean from all sin. Walking in the light is walking in love. Walking is living.

Jesus said in John 8:12, *"I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."* To walk in darkness is to live in sin and in ignorance of the salvation, which Christ brings. John 1:4 tells us, *"In Him was life; and the life was the light of man."* Christ's life constituted light and righteousness, which comes when we accept eternal life, offered in Christ. Christ said, *"As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world"* (John 9:5). The brilliance of the light of Christ always dispels darkness. Conversely, the darkness of this world can never overcome Christ's light. Amen!

**10. CHRISTIAN INDUSTRIES: {WALKING WORTHILY AND WISELY, EVEN AS HE WALKED}.**

In 1 John 2:6 it is said, *"He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked."* Jesus himself invites us to, *"Take My Yoke upon you and learn of Me, for I am meek, gentle, and lowly in heart, and you shall find rest for your soul"* (Matthew 11:29). Do you realize your jeopardy if you spurn that invitation? Jesus again speaking in, John 13:15, *"For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you."* His example furnishes a model for our life style and He promises that we will be blessed if we lived as He lived.

Jesus again invites us, *“If you keep my commandments, you shall abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love”* (John 15:10). If we as servants are submissive and we do good and suffer, Christ tells us in, 1 Peter 2:21, *“For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps.”*

**11. CHRISTIAN INDUSTRY: {LOOKIN STEADILY AND CONSTANTLY; TO SELF LEST TEMPTATION OVERTAKE AND OVERCOME}.**

Let us be counseled by the words of Galatians 6:1, *“Brethren, if a man is overtaken, caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.”* To overcome is to be victorious. Christians are exhorted to faithfully endure to the end so that they may enter into full enjoyment of their blessings as God’s children. The book of Revelation is a book about victory. In Revelation 21:7, we are blessed with the knowledge, *“He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be my son.”* What we must do with our “will?” Think right, do right, stay right, stay on the straight and narrow, fight that old devil and win, and inherit the blessings and privilege as God’s children.

**12. CHRISTIAN INDUSTRIES: [LOOKING STEADILY AND CONSTANTLY; TO OTHERS, “EACH TO THE THINGS OF THE OTHER”].**

The total, all that needs to be said, of this point is summarized very completely in, Philippians 2:3-4, this way. *“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory, (selfish ambition or conceit); but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.”* Acting in this way, selfishness is eliminated and giving honor to others promoting brotherly love.

**13. CHRISTIAN INDUSTRIES: {LOOKING STEADILY AND CONSTANTLY TO JESUS; TO THINGS ABOVE}.**

*“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which easily ensnared us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right of the throne of God”* (Hebrews 12:1-2). In Colossians 3:1-2, *“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”*

In looking unto Jesus and seeking those things above where Christ is, we must be steadily and constantly living Christlikeness in our Christian Industry—our productive activity. *“Therefore, as the ‘elect of God,’ holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, long-suffering, bearing with one another, and forgiving one another”* (Colossians 3:12-13).

Beloved, we must tell ourselves this. We must tell ourselves this and believe it. In faith and love we must do it. If we want to go to Heaven, we had better do it, because if we don’t, we will not be found faithful. There’s nothing more serious in all our activity.

It is God's sovereign choice whom He elects. It is God's right to determine the conditions upon which HE will show mercy. We are informed of this in His word. Note what God said to Moses in, Exodus 33:19. He said, "*I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.*" God said it, we must believe—we must.

It was my desire and prayer that this study effort was rewarding by reminding again and again of the need to build up our faith, to rejuvenate our thoughts and activities. Yes, our activities are important. How important you may ask? Our Christian Activity must be faithfully and diligently doing His will in His Kingdom, as the words of a song:

Looking for a city, where we'll never die.  
There the sainted million never say good-bye,  
There we'll meet our Savior and our loved ones too,  
Come O Holy Savior, All our hopes renew.

Truly all our hopes will be renewed if we but only live our lives looking for that city, the dwelling place of our Savior, seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Oh, I hope your reward is great for having studied with me on this subject. My faith tells me that it was of benefit.

God bless you and let's study together again in the near future. "I tell you again; I love you."

Joy, peace, happiness, and love to all—always!

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