

REWARDS of ACCOMPLISHMENT

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The need of evaluating self, and by knowing well that knowledge would be gained and be the reward, a blessing, the product of accomplishments, thus this study began. I accepted the challenge to make an in-depth study of the subject, "Work or Works." What a challenge the blessing turned out to be. It is true that the work principle, as well as all other principles which I have labored to analyze and study, fall into the same category that of thought provoking labor, nevertheless, a labor of love and a blessing of reward.

All my studies have been needed in my life and I have greatly benefited by having done them. I have been rewarded and blessed by my studies and I have found them all to be an endless source of motivating strengths to me as each have caused me to desire more knowledge of the operating and working arena of the Christian's life in service to God and my fellow man—my neighbor. My prayer is that I will continue to serve in diligence and perseverance and with God's help and your help I will!

I continue in prayer that I will affect knowledge gained more diligently in wisdom and that I will be continually active in work to glorify God that I will be judged faithful when I stand where no man stands alone. Dear beloved I want to go to Heaven....I want all of us to go to Heaven. God wants, "*that all men be saved*" (I Timothy 2:4). He will do His part! You and I must do our part, and by His Grace we all will go to Heaven.

I am continuing my study method by researching the Scriptures and using Bible text, which the inspired writers have written and explained to us on this chosen subject. I will be using word definitions from the dictionary and referring or quoting "The Layman's Bible Encyclopedia." I will be using like, near kin and or synonymous words and this is for the purpose of helping to better understand.

There are different connotations to words. Often the reason for this is in man's definition versus the Biblical meaning and or translation in some instances. In my studies it has been of benefit to me to do word studies. This has become a method which I have used in all my writings and I have incorporated this into my writings. Man's defining and analysis does not take away from the consecrated word writings when they are used rightly, but still proper safeguards in the study and discussions of Biblical principles must be taken.

I want now to set forth some dictionary definition of the words, "work/works". The word "*work*" is defined in Funk & Wagnall in very lengthy detail; all are very interesting to me. You know, I have not in all my years taken note of all the detail in the dictionary's definition of work. I learned in this study that when you define/explain works from the inspired Word of the Bible, you really get into a learning arena. It is a good study and very rewarding. Time well spent I will say. And I pray that I have done it justice.

WORK defined: **1.** Continued exertion or activity, whether physical or mental, directed to some purpose or end. **2.** The act, obligation, engagement that one does or undertakes in return for something, of value, i.e. a reward, accomplishment, or (and I have added), a blessing. **3.** That which is produced by or by labor; a designed product.

That is not all, but I do want to set forth some of the other "word-connected" sayings, which I have heard all my life but they have drifted away from my mind, i.e. these

expressions: -in the works, - to give (someone) the works, – to shoot the works, – to work off, – work in, – to work on, – to work out, – to work over, – to work up, – work a day, – work basket, – work bench, – work book, – work force, – work horse, – working capital, – working class, – working day, – working papers, – work load, – work room , – work sheet. Oh, there are many more. I just thought it to be interesting, but a fun thing to go over these expressions. I did them to get us in the state of mind to look at work/works as set forth in the Scriptures, which I will call a feat, an accomplishment.

[WORKS]: In the Gospel, according to John, “Works usually refers to the Miracles of Jesus. Paul and James used the word in a special sense to denote the performance of certain outward acts by which men seek to be accepted of God. Paul contrasts these works with faith in Christ through which the believer is justified apart from all works of merit. James makes it clear, however, that vital faith will always manifest itself in works and that without manifestation faith is dead. Other passages make it clear that the performances of good works are evidence of the new life in Christ.” (Page 882, The Layman’s Bible Encyclopedia).

In John 5:36-37, Jesus explains in part to the Jewish leaders because they rejected Him by saying, *“But I have a greater witness than John’s; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish – the very works that I do, bear witness of Me, that the Father sent Me. And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me...”*

Jesus in His own defense and in effort to prevent being stoned said to the Jews in, John 10:37-38, *“If I do not do the works of my Father, do not believe; but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him.”*

Can you see a parallel here? Christ our example, our Lord and Savior, did the works which His Father sent Him to do. To be Christ-like, we must do the work which we are commanded to do. We will look into this more later on.

When we consider the subject of this study there are other associated words which come to mind and are referenced with Scripture, i.e.: Labor; toil; deed; feat; and wrought; and they are not all. When we are involved in any of these efforts, action is required of us. Effort is work and should not frighten us. Effort is, or should be, a joy to our heart and we should “jump” at it. A life of doing that which is commanded is required of each of us. It is a life of joy to our heart. It is a life of pleasurable fun, a blessing. God’s blessings are rewards that are immeasurable. It is the right way of life. It’s God’s way. AMEN!

The Layman’s Bible Encyclopedia, page 454, has a commentary on labor, which I am citing here. [LABOR]: “Physical or mental toil or exertion; effort directed toward some useful end work. The Hebrews viewed work as a divine ordinance for human life, binding on all men. It is frequently stated that labor was a curse of the fall of men; an examination of Genesis 1-3, however shows this to be an erroneous view. Adam was placed in the garden with the responsibilities to care for it and to exercise his dominion over the creation. The effect of the curse was to introduce drudgery, bitterness, and suffering into what was originally designed to be man’s proper function. To those who are redeemed in Christ, this

curse is removed and work once again became joyful service given for the greater glory of God. Work is a natural part of man's existence, but it is not the only part."

It has been said, and I have heard it said, by some that work of labor is tough. I recall my saying after a long hard day of work as a share-cropper's son, on the farm, chopping cotton, cleaning out the mule stalls and the pig pen, clearing and cleaning out fence rows, and cutting and chopping wood that it was hard work and that I was tired. Well, it was hard and I was tired. Also, I have heard it said that a labor of love is not work. You know what? I can't say that I believe that. If we accomplish something it is work and we will be given credit for it as working for the Lord.

There are those who shun work or labor as much as they can. With all my heart I believe that we all need to know the true definition of work, yea, the definition of work as set forth in a good dictionary. Most of all, we all must know the definition of work as identified in God's Holy Word, to include the how and the how long to work. This is a "we should", "thou shall", or "we just have to". I am confident that we know the rewards, which will be gained, and received by doing good work.

Included in man's mind, his Biblical heart, there is the need to know his responsibilities, not only the definition of work, but to know what work to do, also when, where, and how to do it. How about words? What about the expression "Talk the talk?" Note the words of a song, which we sing in worship:

"DO ALL IN THE NAME OF THE LORD"

What 'er you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord.
Do naught in name of man or creed; do all in the name of the Lord.

Till toils and labor here are done, do all in the name of the Lord.
Dear Christian friends, if you'd be one, do all in the name of the Lord.

I want to do a few more definitions of words, words which are often used when we consider work. After that I want us to consider several lessons taught us by the Scriptures, and let's see if we "Walk the walk."

[TOIL]: 1). Fatiguing work; labor. 2. Any oppressive task. 3. Any notable work accomplished by labor. 4. To work arduously, (hardship or difficulty).

[DEED]: 1. Action as opposed to words. 2. A notable achievement. 3. An act.

[FEAT]: A notable act, as one displaying skill or daring.

[WROUGHT]: 1. Beaten or hammered into shape by tools. 2. Worked, molded. 3. Made with delicacy...elaborated carefully.

With what is said above, let's now go to the scriptures and look for works of our own, and launch out more diligently in faith and love for our need of being found faithful. We are commanded to work. 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 His good pleasure."

For us to be Christ-like, we must work. We just have to do it is the best way to say it. In what Jesus said in (John 17:4), the heart of Jesus' prayer was as He prayed, "*I have glorified You on earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.*" We here on earth, now, cannot do anything less in doing the will of our Father.

The Apostle Paul in suffering for his ministry with the Corinthians said to them, in 2 Corinthians 6: 1-2, "*We then as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: 'in an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you.'*" Works are of great benefit for us to receive the Grace of God. Note the words of Christ in Matthew 16:27, "*For the Son of man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.*" When this advent occurs this will be the time when no man can work. Time will be up; there will be no need to work. Here, in time, "We labor and look for a home...just a humble abode among men..." But in Heaven there's waiting a Mansion above, and we are invited to come-in.

There are great lessons in the Bible for us concerning work, building, laboring, and doing the will of God. Note what is said in (1 Corinthians 3:9) and following. What a blessing when we are told *we are laborers*, workers if you will, *together with God*. We are told that we are *God's husbandry*, and we are *God's building*. Paul said that he had *laid the foundation and another buildeth thereon*. Paul warned us by saying, "*Let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.*"

You build by working. God's people, the church, are laborers and workers together with God (1 Corinthians 3:9; 2 Corinthians 6:1). Preaching, and teaching Christ and Him crucified is the message, the foundation Paul spoke of and it is the foundation of our salvation. We must *take heed*. Each one of us is personally responsible for preserving and spreading the truth of God's message. Also collectively, the responsibility is ours.

Read (1 Corinthians 3:13, 14, and 15), and note how our work is tested and the reward, which will be ours if we remain faithful. We are the temple of God and the temple of God is holy. If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy them. Can it be, that not working defiles the temple? YOU KNOW THE ANSWER!

In 2 Thessalonians 2:17, we are exhorted to comfort our hearts and establish ourselves in every good word and works. God wants everything we say and do to glorify Him. And you know something? There is no insignificant work for the Lord.

God bless you for studying along with me on this great subject. A needed subject for me, and I know that. I have received great joy and benefit in doing and preparing this study. My prayer is that it will be a blessing to you also. Let us Honor and Glorify Him in our work(s) and our walk here on earth, "Hand in Hand with, we must walk each day!

I 'm telling you something—"I love you!" I have cited, below, a poem I wrote back in November 1990, which I gave the title, "Life's Deeds." Please note that deed is named a couple times in the poem. But note also how well the poem reads should you use the word "work" instead of deed. I suppose you could accept that deed and work are synonymous.

I invite you to view all the writings on my Website, www.geocities.com/dubbyt. Please note other writings and other poems. There is a writing posted that I am sure you

will want to view and copy. The writing title is, "The Church of The Bible, Christ's Church." It has a two-page enclosure, the title is, "What Must I Do To Be Saved." Please study both of these writings with an honest and receptive heart for truth and obedience. You will be blessed! God bless you for studying with me on this good study of "Work". We all have work to do. In doing God's work, in love, you will be found faithful. God loves you...and I do too! Your servant in the Lord...

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L I F E ' S D E E D S

To do the deeds, which should be done, must be our goal each day, always our best through acts of love is after all the better way.

We may not be able to accomplish all which should be done, but doing whatever we can, in love, is the way a victory is won.

To make our mark while here we are and time is our ally, we must remain diligent and anxiously doing as time goes passing by.

Rewards for deeds are many, which are worth more than fortune and fame, as taught by Proverbs; "Gold and silver is not the proper worth of a good name."

Let's live and love and do God's will as each day comes along, there will be no regrets; for we know our reward when the final curtain is drawn.

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