

# Churches Grow When Members Work

## LESSON EIGHT - THE CHARACTER OF GOD'S WORKER

**TEXT: 1 Tim. 3:14-15; Luke 8:11**

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH TO PREACH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS .
- B. BEFORE THE CHURCH UNDERTAKES ANY WORK OF THIS KIND, THOSE IN THE CHURCH MUST CONSIDER CAREFULLY THE CHARACTER OF THE PERSON WHO IS TO DO THIS WORK AND HIS CONDUCT.
- C. WHAT DOES THE NEW TESTAMENT SAY ABOUT PERSONAL EVANGELISM? THERE ARE NOT MANY PASSAGES THAT DEAL WITH IT SPECIFICALLY. BUT THESE THREE DO( **Phil. 2:14-16; Col. 4:5-6; 1 Pet. 3:15-16** ).
- D. WE WANT TO DISCUSS THESE PASSAGES IN THIS LESSON. THREE AREAS ARE BROUGHT OUT IN EACH OF THESE AND WE WANT TO DISCUSS THEM IN THE LIGHT OF THESE PASSAGES.

### I. IF PERSONAL WORK IS TO BE SUCCESSFUL, PERSONAL DAILY OBEDIENCE OF THE WORKER IS A MUST.

- A. **Phil. 2:5-11.** CHRIST'S OBEDIENCE AND SERVITUDE TO BE IMITATED. BECAUSE OF HIS SERVITUDE, HE WAS REWARDED...WE MAY INFER THAT WE TOO WILL BE REWARDED.
  - 1. This description of Christ's complete sacrifice followed by an exhortation to proper life and work( **vs. 12-16** ).
    - a. "**work out your own salvation**" **κατεργαζομαι**, "bring about, produce, cause to happen."( **Eph. 2:10** ). We cause our salvation by yielding to his will. This word is emphatic. Obedience and purity of character.
    - b. "**with fear and trembling**" - reverence & respect for God's order.
    - c. Why? **Because God works in us...ενεργεο**, He energizes us so that our will and work might be for his good pleasure, for the accomplishment of his will. What a man wills, he does! He must allow God to work through him by bringing his will and his actions under God's control.
- B. **Col. 3:5-11.** THE CHANGING OF THE CHARACTER AND OUR CONDUCT TOWARD OTHERS IS DISCUSSED BEFORE THE EXHORTATION. THIS PASSAGE CONTAINS THE TEACHING OF A PRINCIPLE CONCERNING OUR CONDUCT.
- C. **1 Pet. 2:1-2, 11-12; 4:1-4, 15-16.**

### II. IF PERSONAL WORK IS GOING TO BE SUCCESSFUL, THERE MUST BE PEACE AMONG GOD'S PEOPLE.

- A. **Phil. 2:14.** "DO ALL THINGS WITHOUT QUESTIONINGS AND WITHOUT MURMURINGS."
  - 1. The life of the Christian ought to be a life of contentment ( **Phil. 4:6-7; 1 Pet. 5:7** ).
  - 2. Rather than gripe about everything that doesn't go our way and worry about everything that doesn't look like it is going to, let us rejoice( **1 Thes. 5:16** ).
  - 3. **1 Cor. 10:10.** What should the world see?( **Phil. 2:15** ).
- B. **Col. 3:8-9, 11, 12-17.**
- C. **1 Pet. 3:8-9; 4:7-11.**

### III. WE MUST STRIVE TO DO ALL THAT OPPORTUNITY AND ABILITY ALLOW.

- A. **Phil. 2:14-16.** THE WORD MUST BE "**HELD FORTH**."
- B. **Col. 4:2-6:**
  - 1. We are to pray for opportunity( **vs. 3** ).
  - 2. Redeem the time, sacrificing pleasure for opportunity.
  - 3. Our speech must befit that which we are doing( **vs. 6** ).
  - 4. Ye indicates personal responsibility, each one describes responsibilities scope.
- C. **1 Pet. 3:15.** **ALWAYS** BE READY.
  - 1. "being ready always"
  - 2. "give answer to every man"
  - 3. "with meekness and fear"

## **CONCLUSION:**

IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT YOU MIGHT ASK JUST WHY I AM WHAT I AM. I AM A CHRISTIAN BECAUSE I WANT SOMETHING( **1 Pet. 1:3-5** ). I AM A CHRISTIAN BECAUSE I LOVE SOMEONE( **John 14:15** ). AS CHRISTIANS, WHAT DOES GOD EXPECT OF US?