

GOD'S WORKER

The apostle Paul in 1Cor. 15:58 said: *"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."* (KJV). We are to be about the work God has given us to do and as noted in this verse it will not be in vain or useless. Jesus in Matt. 12:30 makes it very clear that we are either working for God or against him. Therefore, we are either God's worker or the devil's, there is no in between. This text gives some characteristics of God's worker. Let's look at some of these characteristics.

God's worker is steadfast, that is, he is stable or unmovable. God's worker is not easily influenced by false teaching Eph. 4:14. Nor is he easily influenced by distractions and discouragement. He does not allow even persecutions or adversities to keep him from working. When there is a lack of visible results from his work, he just keeps on working. He doesn't even allow personal problems to hinder his work for the Lord. God's worker understands that trials and tribulations strengthen his faith 1Pet. 1:7.

God's worker is always working, he never quits. Jesus, in Jhn 9:4 said: *"I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work"* (KJV). The idea of working while it is day recognizes a sense of urgency in the work necessary, like the apostles in Acts 5:42. They worked daily; they did not cease to work. Paul refused to think he had it made, he pressed on to the mark. The crying need of our time is persistence or perseverance. We need importunity as Jesus illustrated in Lk. 11:5-8, which means shameless persistence, not just persistence, but shameless persistence. There is way too much "sputtering" service; too much giving up.

God's worker is always abounding, that is, he is overflowing in God's work. There is a message for all who would just "get by". God's worker is willing to go the second mile Matt. 5:41. For a worker to reap bountifully, he must sow bountifully 2Cor. 9:6. There are several examples of this in the New Testament. The Macedonians gave "beyond their power" 2Cor. 8:3. Paul's statement made in Rom. 1:15 *"so as much as in me is"* indicates he would give the task of preaching in Rome everything he had and then some. It was said of Mary: *"she hath done what she could"* Mk. 14:8. And there was the four who demonstrated their faith by going to extra ordinary means or uncovering the roof to get someone to Jesus Mk. 2:3-5. All of these indicate that people were willing to give extra effort in their work for God.

You will notice also in this verse that God's worker does God's work and not his own. Not all work done in religion is God's work. God is not honored when the work being done is without scriptural authority. The emphasis today is on a gospel that is socially acceptable. But you will remember that in Gal. 1:6-9 Paul makes it clear that one must not preach any other Gospel than what has been preached. And 2Jhn. 1:9 makes it very clear that if we go beyond the doctrine of Christ we do not have God. God's worker does that which is authorized by the Lord, that unto which the man of God is furnished completely 2Tim. 3:16,17.

God's worker does not work in vain. Much if not most of the "religious" work done today is, in fact, vain, that is it is empty or meaningless, it has absolutely no value Mk. 7:6-13. Whatever is done without authority is vain. Whatever is done from the wrong motive is vain. Whatever we start and do not finish is vain Lk. 9:62. Yet nothing is done in vain in the Lord's work, not even giving a cup of cool water Mk. 9:41 or the widow's mite Mk. 12:41-44. Any small thing that is done in service to the Lord and for the Lord is God's work and is not in vain.

If our work is to be for the Lord, if we are to be God's worker we must allow nothing to distract us. We must always be working abundantly in the Lord's work

and not our own. Only in this kind of work will we have the approval of the Lord and thereby have hope beyond this life. Are you always abounding in the work of the Lord? (JLH)