

IS GOOD ENOUGH, GOOD ENOUGH?

1Pet 2:9-12; 2Tim 2:15

Introduction:

- A. God has never done anything that was not good Gen 1:31
- B. Christians should show forth excellence of God's ways
Eph 2:10 we are His workmanship
- C. Sometimes without thinking service to Lord becomes habit
- D. We get careless and settle for "good enough"
- E. Lord's work demands and deserves more out of us

DISCUSSION:

I. MAN SETTLES FOR LESS THAN GOD DOES

- A. Scriptures demand excellence 1Pet 2:9(ASV); 2Tim 2:15;
Heb 2:1; 1Tim 4:13; Heb 11:6; Phil 3:13-14; 2Pet 1:5;
Heb 12:15; 2Pet 3:13-14; 2Tim 4:2; Jude 3; Gal 6:9,10
- B. Man falls short Rom 3:23
 1. Man has always settled for less - Gen 3:7, 21
(Aprons vs Coats - physical example; God's excellence demanded more)
 2. Never think we have "done too much" Lk 17:10
- C. With God's instruction and our desire and commitment we can rise above morals of world and do great things

II. AN ATTITUDE OF MEDIOCRITY

- A. Being average, common place (Not bad, nor good)
 1. We have disposition attuned to "just getting by"
 2. God's people characterized by excellence
- B. With this attitude we offer work and service to our Lord Hag 1:3-9 (esp 4); Mal 1:6-14 (esp 8)
 1. Consider offerings God required from Israel - the best - first fruits, without spot or blemish, not lame
 2. Teaches us God wants more than just average
 3. Advice of Solomon - Prov 3:9
- C. Work demands we not take path of least resistance - if so mediocrity will only increase
 1. Takes conscious effort to overcome it
 2. Decide "I" am going to do more - then do it!

III. AN ATTITUDE OF EXCELLENCE

- A. Ask ourselves "Do we really want to settle for less-than-excellence"? Then let the excellence begin with me!
Eccl 9:10; Col 3:23-24; 1Pet 2:9 (ASV) (Can't show His excellence by settling for mediocrity)
- B. Our standard of excellence for Lord should surpass our personal endeavors 1Cor 15:58; 2Cor 9:6
- C. Should have high commitment to excellence in personal life and in work as congregation
 1. Moses warned to follow pattern Heb 8 (Commitment to excellence in building of Tabernacle)

2. A physical representation of the Church. Moses did not settle for mediocrity. He used best men he could find for jobs that were to be done
3. People brought so much that they had to be told not to bring anymore
4. Consider sacrifices; rebuilt walls of Jerusalem Neh 4:6

IV. EXCELLENCE APPLIED

- A. Consider 2Tim 2:15
 1. Told what to do - "Show self approved unto God"
 2. Told why to do it - "To be workmen that need not be ashamed"
 3. Depends on "GIVE DILIGENCE" (if we are settling for less than excellence - then shame on us)
- B. Some things to consider
 1. In preparation for Bible classes, do you skim the text to answer the questions, or dig into the text to find the deeper meaning/applications
 2. In our assembling ourselves together, does it mean as much to you as other things do? Do we worship in "Spirit and in Truth"? Do we worry as much about worship as we do about "our" afternoon?
 3. Do you plan to start taking an active part in the work and are you working toward that end? (Teaching class, Serving in assembly, etc)
 4. Christian living: Do we display the same character traits around others as we do when here? Do we actively seek for ways to serve God?
 5. Giving: Do we give cheerfully or begrudge what we give? Do we purpose in our hearts to give as we have prospered

CONCLUSION:

- A. We should strive to "give our best for the Master", which means going beyond the ordinary. We are to "show forth the excellencies of Him that called us" 1Pet 2:9 ASV
- B. 2Cor 5:14-15 - the love of Christ constrains us!
- C. Personal check
 1. Do I settle for less-than-excellent work in myself while demanding it out of others?
 2. Do I settle for less-than-excellent work in myself and in others?
 3. We should never be complacent!
- D. God gave most excellent sacrifice to save us!
 1. What should we give to Him?
 2. We should give our life to Him
 3. If you have not obeyed why not obey now?

revised from an outline by Johnny Hooks