

Leaving The Work To Some

John Isaac Edwards

Paul wrote, “For we are labourers together with God...” (1 Cor. 3:9). We are taught, “... always abounding in the work of the Lord...” (1 Cor. 15:58). We sing, “I Want To Be A Worker”, “To The Work”, and “We’ll Work Till Jesus Comes”. Yet, many are satisfied to leave the work to some. Explore this with me.

1) **Someone Or Somebody**. Have you heard it said, “Someone needs to...” or “Why hasn’t somebody...?” Who is someone? Please give me the name of somebody. Do you remember Isaiah’s answer, when the Lord said, “Who shall I send, and who will go for us?” (Is. 6:8)? Did he say, “Send someone”, “somebody needs to go” or “There’s Micah, send him”? Nope! He replied, “Here am I; send me” (Is. 6:8). When Nehemiah heard of the bad state of his people and his place, he didn’t say, “Someone or somebody needs to go build...” He uttered, “...send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers’ sepulchres, that I may build it” (Neh. 2:5). What great attitudes! When you see a thing that needs to be done, why not just take care of it? You are someone! You are somebody!

2) **To Do Something**.

“Something needs to be done...”, we are told. What is something? Will you identify what something is? When Nehemiah went out by night and viewed the broken down walls and fire-burned gates of Jerusalem, he said, “Something needs to be done...”, right? You know better! He rather declared, “Ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach” (Neh. 2:17). They responded, “Let us rise up and build...” (Neh. 2:18). In fifty-two days, the wall was finished (Neh. 6:15) — “...for the people had a mind to work” (Neh. 4:6). What kind of mind do you have?

3) **Somehow Or Someway**. Folks will leave the work to some because they never seem to find a way or figure out how to get it done. “Where there’s a will, there’s a way” — right? Brethren at Antioch didn’t leave the work of relief to some. When there was great dearth throughout all the world, “Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea: Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the

hands of Barnabas and Saul” (Acts 11:27-30). This local church sent its own funds via its own messengers. Notice the text doesn’t say: “Which they thought about doing” or “Which they talked about doing”, but “Which also they did”! We need to be the kind of people who determine to do and do what we determine!

4) **Someday Or Sometime**. Remember when there were those who had taken strange wives in the days of Ezra? Proclamation was made throughout Judah and Jerusalem, unto the children of the captivity, that they should gather themselves together unto Jerusalem someday or sometime, right? No, it was said, “...within three days...” (Ezra 10:8). Work needs to be done within a specific time frame! Have you noticed how little gets accomplished when it is left to be done someday or sometime? That day and time never seems to come around! That’s like Governor Felix who said, “...when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee” (Acts 24:25). If you are waiting for “a convenient season”, it will never be more convenient than right now! Today is someday! Now is sometime! “...behold, now is

the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation” (2 Cor. 6:2). “But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin” (Heb. 3:13). Why put off till some future day what you can do today? “Boast not thyself of

to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth” (Prov. 27:1). Time is of essence!

Don’t be one to leave the work to some. Be a supplying-joint and working-part! “From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted

by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love” (Eph. 4:16). This will help the church grow!

“Son, Go Work To Day In My Vineyard”

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The words of a certain man to his two sons need to be heard and heeded by us today — “Son, go work to day in my vineyard” (Mt. 21:28).

1) **Son.** Have you thought about the fact that you are a child of God, as one baptized into Christ (Gal. 3:26-27)? What a great privilege to be a son! Paul wrote, “And because ye are sons...” (Gal. 4:6).

2) **Go.** This word moves us to ACTION! Christianity is a GOING religion. The Lord said, “But go ye and learn...” (Mt. 9:13), “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations...” (Mt. 28:19), “Go, and do...” (Lk. 10:37), and on that goes!

3) **Work.** We sing, “There is much to do, there’s work on ev’ry hand, Hark! the cry for help comes ringing thru the land; Jesus calls for reapers, I must active be, What wilt Thou, O Master? here am I, send me.” Jesus told His disciples, “Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest” (Jn. 4:35). And again, “The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few” (Mt. 9:37).

4) **To Day.** This is the only day we really have. Yesterday is forever gone, and of tomorrow there is no promise! “Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice...” (Heb. 3:7).

5) **In My Vineyard.** The Lord’s people are the Lord’s vineyard. This was true of Israel, “For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel...” (Is. 5:7). Today, the Lord’s church is the Lord’s vineyard. “For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard” (Mt. 20:1). As a vineyard, the church is a workplace. Do you know of a greater field of labor than the vineyard of the Lord?

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord...” (1 Cor. 15:58).

The Terre Haute **SPEAKER** is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

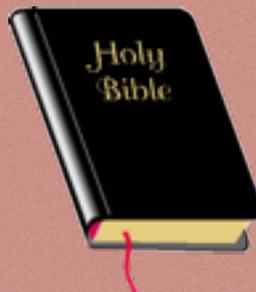
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