

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

Volume 10

September 5, 2021

Number 31

OUR LABOUR IN THE LORD

John Edwards

The Bible describes Christians as labourers in the vineyard of the Lord (Mt. 20:1-16; 1 Cor. 3:9). Let's notice some things concerning our labour in the Lord.

THE BIBLE REGARDS THOSE WHO LABOUR IN THE LORD. The Bible makes special mention of those who laboured. Paul wrote, *“Greet Mary, who bestowed much labour on us”* (Rom. 16:6). Further, *“Salute Tryphena and Tryphosa, who laboured in the Lord. Salute the beloved Persis, which laboured much in the Lord”* (Rom. 16:12). Had you been living in New Testament days, would you have been mentioned as labouring much in the Lord?

OUR LABOUR IN THE LORD IS NOT IN VAIN. *“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord”* (1 Cor. 15:58). Most of what we do in this life is all for nought. But all that we do in the Lord is meaningful and worthwhile!

GOD KNOWS OUR LABOUR IN THE LORD. God

said, *“I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience...”* (Rev. 2:2). Our labour in the Lord never goes without notice! God knows what kind of workers we are. He knows how much we labour for Him.

GOD WILL NOT FORGET OUR LABOUR IN THE LORD. The Scriptures teach, *“For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister”* (Heb. 6:10). Most of the good we do in life is soon forgotten. Yet, God is always mindful of our labour in the Lord.

WE WILL BE REWARDED ACCORDING TO OUR OWN LABOUR IN THE LORD. *“Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour”* (1 Cor. 3:8). I must labour if I am to be rewarded! I need not expect to receive a reward for someone else's labour. What kind of reward is awaiting you?

WE MUST LABOUR IN THE LORD TO BE ACCEPTED OF GOD. *“Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him”* (2 Cor. 5:9). Do you want God's approval? It comes by labouring in the Lord!

WE MUST LABOUR IN

THE LORD TO ENTER INTO REST. The Lord has promised rest unto the weary (Mt. 11:28-30). *“Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief”* (Heb. 4:11). The rest is for those who labour!

WE MUST PRAY FOR MORE LABOURERS IN THE LORD. The Lord said, *“The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest”* (Mt. 9:37-38). When you pray, be sure to pray that the Lord will send forth more labourers into His harvest!

WHAT THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH IS NOT

John Edwards

The church of Christ is a divine institution with a divine mission. The primary mission of the Lord's church is to sound out the word of the Lord (1 Th. 1:8). Many churches are engaging in missions that are foreign to the Bible. Thus, we study.

NOT SOCIAL. Christianity is not a social religion; the gospel of Christ is not a social

gospel; and the church of Christ is not a social institution. Many religious bodies have socialized the services and work of the church by having fellowship halls, banquets, social hours with refreshments, or a cafeteria for social functions. The apostle Paul taught that the home is to be the center of social activity (1 Cor. 11:20-22). Further, *“For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost”* (Rom. 14:17). There is nothing wrong with Christians associating and eating together, but it must be limited to individual activity and not church activity.

NOT FINANCIAL. The church has no business being in business! The only means the church has of raising funds to do its work is by the freewill offerings of its own members upon the first day of the week (1 Cor. 16:1-2). Merchandising, manufacturing, and any other economic undertaking is outside the function and work of the Lord’s church.

NOT RECREATION. The church has no right to provide recreation or entertainment for either young or old. Church

sports teams, church sponsored parties, facilities for recreational activities and the like are without Bible authority. The only sport the church is to engage in is that of winning souls (Prov. 11:30).

NOT POLITICAL. Some view the Lord’s church as a political organization with a political agenda. The government is a separate divine institution from the Lord’s church (Rom. 13:1-7). The Lord said, *“My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence”* (Jn. 18:36). The church must not be involved in political affairs.

NOT SECULAR EDUCATION. The teaching of secular subjects such as literature, math, science, history and the like should not be made a part of the mission and work of the church. The church is to educate folks in the truth (1 Tim. 3:15).

No one has the right to use the church of our Lord to serve human aims or purposes. The

church must be kept faithful to the divine mission that God assigned to her.

REASONS FOR COMING TO BIBLE STUDY

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We have Bible classes on Sundays at 10 a.m. and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Here are some reasons you should come:

TO INCREASE YOUR KNOWLEDGE. God expects His people to know (Jn. 8:32). These classes are an opportunity to increase your knowledge.

TO PUT FIRST THINGS FIRST. The church must come first (Mt. 6:33). Being present for Bible study is one way you can put first things first.

TO GROW. God demands spiritual growth (1 Pet. 2:2). When one misses study, he deprives himself of food vital to his growth!

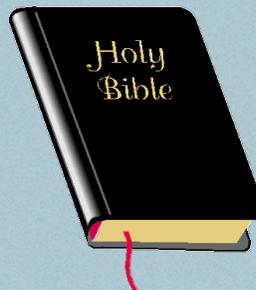
TO SET THE PROPER EXAMPLE. We all influence others by example (Mt. 5:16). What kind are you setting?

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

Assembling At:
4017 E Margaret DR
Terre Haute, IN 47803
[Exit 11 (I-70) W on HWY 46,
West on Margaret DR 1 mile]

Assembling Times:
Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

Come be with us!



We Speak Where the Bible Speaks.

We Are Silent Where the Bible Is Silent.

We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.

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