

## BIBLE LIGHT AND TRUTH

# Reflections on Scripture

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“SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS” MATT 6:23

## HOW ARE YOU EMPLOYED?

Day by day most of us travel to work and are occupied with whatever tasks we must undertake in our employment. We work because of the necessity to earn a living and whilst at work the focus is upon whatever needs to be done to achieve the aims and objectives of our role.

If we are a conscientious worker then that is recognised in one way or another and at the very least, we receive a wage for our labours. If we are less than diligent and resent being at work, then time passes slowly, morale is low, standard of work is unsatisfactory and sooner or later we will lose our job.

When not at work, our time is generally spent ‘working’ at whatever jobs need to be done for ourselves or pursuing hobbies and other interests. In one way or another we are fully ‘employed’ in achieving whatever is needed to fulfil the varying needs and desires that we have in our day to day lives. This level of work, apart from the routine ‘chores’, is enjoyable and we would willingly spend more time engaged our hobbies and other interests.

Now with this in mind, how are you employed in the service of God? Are you a willing worker or a shirker? How much time do you spend in His service compared to your own service? There is not a day that should go by without some work being done for God, something that serves Him by contributing towards His aims and objectives. Moreover this time and effort

should be willingly and enthusiastically given. Any lack of enthusiasm or service grudgingly given will affect not only our morale, but also the zeal and morale of our brethren and sisters.

The Lord our God can be served by any, be they young or old, male or female, inexperienced or experienced, all He asks for is a willing attitude of mind and sincere desire to seek His ways. Acceptable service is shown by diligence in all aspects of life, but most of all by a humble willingness to put aside self and selfishness.

Willing service is shown by the putting on of a Christ-like attitude of mind and displaying Christ-like characteristics in our relationships with others. Willing service is shown by dedication to ecclesial activities, attendance at all the meetings and support for our brethren and sisters. Willing service is shown by putting aside our own plans, even when activities in the Lord’s service come at ‘inconvenient’ times.

Most of all we serve God by ensuring that we are ready for whatever duty may come. We can prepare by taking steps to ensure that we are strong in the faith, knowledgeable of His word and by putting His word into practice day by day.

Willing acceptable service is about preparation, being reliable and diligent, being in a position to help, support and encourage our brethren and sisters and being willing to preach the word in season

and out of season.

Time must be made each day for reading, study and meditation, no matter how busy we may be. Time must be made to “seek those things which are above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God.” Therefore says Paul:

“set your minds on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” Col 3:1-3

Now Peter said:

“I now realise how true it is that God does not show favouritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.” Acts 10:34-35

Paul also writes:

“There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; but glory, honour and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For God does not show favouritism.” Rom 2:9-11

So then, strive to be a willing worker and not a shirker! God will accept those who revere Him and **do** what is right. The Lord our God displays no favouritism, all who seek Him will receive a just reward, a gift that only He can bestow. The promise is clear:

“When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory”

Andy P.



## Reflections

**A Heart at Peace:** Give me a heart that cherishes goodwill; that is alike backward to injure, and forward to serve; that forgoes itself for the benefit of others; that breathes kindness in its utterances, and clothes its movements in kindness too; that—like its Maker—delights in mercy.

**Tact:** Tact is not merely shown in saying the right thing at the right time to the right people; it is shown quite as much in many things that are left unsaid and apparently unnoticed, or are only lightly and evasively touched.

Tact lies on the borderland of character and intellect. It implies self-restraint, good temper, quick and kindly sympathy with the feelings of others. It implies also a perception of the finer shadings of character and expression, the intellectual gifts which enable a man to place himself in touch with great varieties of dispositions and to catch those more delicate notes of feeling to which a coarser nature is insensible.

**Kindness and love:** The best part of a true man or woman's life is that unseen part which consists of words and actions too small to be described, yet too beautiful to be forgotten. Those little, numerous, undistinguished acts of kindness that spring from God-generated love.

Anon



Jesus said:

**"If you love me, you will obey what I command."**

### **Live For Others**

*Live for others:* 'tis the noblest life to live. If we only have a little—of that little let us give. Think of others—trouble then will flee away, Every day be bright and sunny—sunshine lighting up the way.

*Work for others:* labour then will be a rest. Burning all that's mean and selfish—bringing out the very best.

*Weep with others:* in their sorrows take some part. Shew them deeds of loving kindness—try to cheer the lonely heart.

*Sing with others:* in each pleasure have a share. Life is often what we make it—full of joy or petty care. It is wondrous in its beauty; thousand things that bring delight. Friendships dear, and smiling faces, trees and flowers that feast our sight.

*Live for others:* 'tis the only life to live. We receive in double measure, whatsoever things we give.

### **SELF-EXAMINATION**

Am I really striving to crucify the flesh completely and follow Christ wholeheartedly, or only in so far as agreeable to me and makes the least demands of me?

## **"SPEAK LORD FOR THY SERVANT HEARETH"**

The sense of hearing is an important one, part of the five senses (sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch) by which we discern what is going on around us. We are given two ears, and they are complicated structures! We are "fearfully and wonderfully made".

The piece on the side of the head which we call the ear is fleshy and is mostly cartilage, and "bendy". All sound comes in waves of vibration through the air, and the outer ear is merely a sound-catcher to funnel the vibrations down a tube to the more important parts of the structure. It also makes earwax which is antiseptic to keep the tube healthy.

At the bottom of the tube is the ear-drum which receives the vibrations and passes them on into the section known as the "middle ear" where 3 small bones (the hammer, anvil and

stirrup) vibrate in a very tiny space full of air. They pass the vibrations on to a second ear-drum. The middle ear is connected to the throat by the Eustachian tube to allow a free passage of air up to it from the mouth.

The second ear-drum is embedded in bone (behind the outer ear) and is connected to the nerves which are the real "hearing" centres — they transmit the vibrations to the brain and translate them into messages we can recognise and remember. With these nerves are three semi-circular canals filled with fluid which control our sense of balance — very sensitive.

The brain can receive a range of sounds from very high to very low and can register them in the memory so we can recognise sounds and voices.

A child who is born deaf will not be able to talk, having never heard sounds to reproduce by imitation.

Loss of hearing can be from many causes: some diseases, like measles; too much wax in the ear; damage to the little bones from too loud sounds, such as a pneumatic drill or continual loud music; hardening of the little bones; or infection in the middle ear, from the throat.

We can willingly ignore background noise and concentrate on what we want to hear! And there are none so deaf as those who WON'T hear.

Israel were commanded "not to curse the deaf" (Leviticus 19 v 14). Jesus healed a deaf man (Mark 7 v 31-37) and helped him to "speak plain" at the same time.

Sis D. Oakley

## **THE BRIDE**

There can be no question that in dealing with the New Jerusalem, we are dealing with a symbol of 'The Bride, the Lamb's Wife,' and therefore a symbol of the saints in the corporate completeness of the day of their manifested glory. What a boundless field of grateful contemplation is here opened to the minds of weary saints, who have here no continuing city, and who groan within themselves at the present hour.

They languish on the highway while they pursue their way Zionwards. They are few, scattered, tired and faint. The road is rough, the air is cold, and the night is dark. Their spirits oft times quail within them, and they are ready to give up. Is it not a great reviving hope and courage to look forward and know that in

a short time at the longest they will find themselves at the end of the weary journey, within the walls of the glorious house of God, where there are myriads of saints, clad in the garments of praise and mantled in the immortal strength of a glorified nature?

Our hopes may droop—our hearts despond sometimes; "for a season, if need be, we are in heaviness through manifold temptations." But it is only for a moment. New Jerusalem awaits: the family of God—a large family—an intelligent family—a loving family—a family with a thrilling history, bridging all the earth's dark ages—is the coming institution of the age of gladness promised from the beginning.

By the vision shown to John, though not by that alone, we

look forward and see them enthroned in Zion, with all power in their hands, all wealth at their disposal, all strength and life and joy in their possession, for the glory of earth's Creator, and the universal blessing of man.

(R. R.)

## **CONSECRATION**

Consecration is the keyword to a useful life. It is a surrendered life—surrendered to the will, plan, and purpose of God. It is a life in which God has a large place—the heart. Give God the heart, and the problem of ambition, of motive, of love, of service, for you is solved for ever.

Consecrate your all to God, and every doubt and misgiving will flee away. The sunlight of a heaven chosen service will cast its ray into your pathway, and lead you into usefulness."