

Get To Work !

... ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence... **Isaiah 62:6b**

Back on January 20, 1961, president elect John F. Kennedy made a now iconic, or famous, inaugural speech. In it he declared, "Ask not what your Country can do for you, but rather, ask what you can do for your Country." As Saul, who became the greatest of all the Apostles – Paul, was on his way to Damascus to arrest the Christians there, there suddenly shined round about him a light from heaven and the Lord asked him, "*Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?*" And he said, "*Who art thou Lord?*" And the Lord said, "*I am Jesus whom thou persecutest.*" And he trembling and astonished said, "*Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?*" (Acts 9:3-6a).

WHAT WILT THOU HAVE ME TO DO? This should be the attitude of every born again Christian as soon as they're saved! Jesus already did His part for us when He came to this planet, born of a virgin (Matthew 1:23), to make known the Father's plan of salvation. At the age of 30 (Numbers 4:47) he began to preach, but for the most part, he was rejected. Then, He was arrested, illegally tried, beaten, spit upon, had a crown of thorns placed on His head, and finally was crucified on a wooden cross to pay the price for all of mankind's sins – thus freeing us from its bondage and making the way (John 14:6) for all of us to be reconciled back to God. As He hung there dying, He said "*It is finished*" (John 19:30), just before He gave up the ghost. So, is it too much to ask of us to go out and reveal, or make known, His holy word to an unsaved and dying world? And yet, in our 40 years of being Christians, we've heard every Tom, Dick, and Harry excuse from so-called Christians for not doing any work for the Lord!

Unfortunately, in these last days before the rapture of the Church, there are way too many Christians out there who are more intent on getting something from the Lord (Prosperity Gospel) instead of giving back to the Lord for all that He did for us. They will take the free gift of salvation, but it doesn't stop there. Christianity today, to a lot of people, is like rubbing the genie in the bottle... what can you give me now? Wife, husband, girlfriend, boyfriend, house, new car, job, money... it never ends (Revelation 3:14-20)! But to witness, pass out tracts, preach, and to pray for people in need, there seems to be very little interest.

As Jesus hung on the cross dying, He mercifully said just before giving up the ghost, "*Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do*" (Luke 23:34). Is it too much to ask of us to go out and reveal, or make known, His holy word to an unsaved and dying world? We should all have the same attitude as the apostle Paul who said as he was nearing the end of his life, "*For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing*" (2 Timothy 4:5-8).

Paul, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, gave all born-again Christians a command. He said, "*Preach the word, be instant (ready) in season, out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine*" (2 Timothy 4:2). Paul also said in 1 Corinthians 9:16, "*For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of, for necessity is laid upon me: yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!*"

The Bible, in 2 Corinthians 5:20, calls us "*ambassadors for Christ.*" An ambassador is supposed to make known his country's wishes on any given subject, and we are supposed to make known the Lord's plan of salvation to a sinful, unbelieving, and lost world.

At the judgment seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10) we are going to be judged for our works (1 Corinthians 3:10-15), not for our sins, which Jesus already paid for at the cross. What are you going to tell the Lord when you stand before Him and He asks, "What have you done for me since you got saved?"

Jesus spoke a parable in Luke chapter 19, verses 12-27... He said, "A certain nobleman (Jesus) went into a far country (Heaven) to receive for Himself a Kingdom (Daniel 7:13-14) and to return (Daniel 7:21-22). This is the second coming. Before He left however, He called His ten servants and delivered to them ten pounds and said "OCCUPY TILL I COME." Notice how all the servants were given a pound, not just some of them. What does this mean? It means we're all called to do the work of the Lord (Matthew 28:19-20). As Paul said in 2 Timothy 4:5, "*Watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, and make full proof of thy ministry.*" Getting back to the parable, when the Lord returns at the Rapture, He will then command these servants to be called unto Him to whom He had given the pound that He might know how much every man had gained. This is the judgment seat of Christ where our works for Jesus will be judged.

We serve a good, loving, and wonderful God. Not only did the Lord willingly give up His life for us, but, He also

wants to reward us for the work that we have done and are doing for Him, as evidenced by the following scriptures:

"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 Corinthians 15:58). And, *"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"* (Hebrews 6:10). We don't have to be rewarded for the work that we should willingly want to do for the Lord. We should all want to do that naturally after all that He has done, and will do, for us. Our new glorified bodies (1 Corinthians 15:51-53), our mansions (John 14:2-3), our eternal homes in the New Jerusalem both in heaven (Hebrews 12:22-23) and on the new earth (Revelation 21:2) in the presence of the Father and Jesus. These are just some of the things the Lord has prepared for us – His people, called by His name. This should make us all want to work, and work diligently, for the Lord at all times.

We are warned in the Bible to redeem the time for the days are evil (Ephesians 5:16). Also, in Romans 13:11-12a: *"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand:"* Israel is under daily rocket attacks from the Gaza Strip and now from Syria also. Israel's enemies are gathering on her borders on all sides and it is only a matter of time before all out war breaks out in the Middle East. Time is short and the Lord is coming soon to take His church home in the Rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17), so take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way to spread the gospel and tell others about God's love and the sacrifice for our sins that Jesus paid for on the cross (John 3:16). The first time the Lord was here, He gave us a warning: He said in John 9:4 *"I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work."* If there ever was a time when that scripture is about to be fulfilled – that time is NOW! So, in closing, we would like to say to everyone in the true church – GET TO WORK!

Amen

(All scripture references taken from the King James Bible)

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