

"COME AND SEE: GRATEFUL FOR WORK"

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**COME
AND
SEE**
WHAT GOD HAS DONE

(Vs) Proverbs 16:3 states - "Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established" (ESV).

This wonderful verse speaks of our responsibility to serve God with our work and the result of discharging our duty faithfully...

- (Vs) Proverbs 16:3 states, "Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established."
- **Def:** The verb, "Commit," in Hebrew literally means "to roll."
- Another passage can give us insight into what using this idea of "rolling something to the Lord" actually represents...

(Vs) Gen. 29:3 - "...and when all the flocks were gathered there, the shepherds would roll the stone from the mouth of the well and water the sheep and put the stone back in its place over the mouth of the well."

- The work of rolling the stone was to both provide for and protect from...

"The Sheep needed access to the water but also protection from what falling in would do to them."

- In this way the sheep could be saved both from thirst and from themselves.
- **The Hebrew syntax also reveals the idea that we commit our work to the Lord *in order that* our plans will be established...**

(Vs) Proverbs 16:3 "Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established."

Notice: "We must do the first part if we expect God to fulfill the second part."

- This means... If we completely depend upon God in our work, He will "establish" our plans...
- That is, He will "bring about" our plans. Or "cause (our plans) to happen."
- We can expect God to bring our work to fruition in God's way and in God's time when we depend on Him in our efforts...

“This is an important part of committing our work to God. For it is seeking and following God, when our work aligns with His will, that success will follow.”

(Vs) Joshua 1:8 – “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”

Obedience = Success

(Vs) Psalm 1:1-3 – “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.”

- **Note:** Although we can generally expect God to bless our work when we operate according to His ways in dependence upon Him – this does not mean we will never lose a job or have trouble in our work. Instead, we can expect God to fulfill His promise of Romans 8... (Vs) Romans 8:28 – “We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.”
- This means... When we commit our ways and our work to the Lord, He will bless our efforts according to His perfect will in ways beyond our understanding.
- We should serve the Lord faithfully and then leave the results to Him.

For many years, this was common knowledge... And I can prove it!

Illustration: Cologne Cathedral

Facts:

- Construction of Cologne Cathedral began in 1248
- The cathedral is the largest Gothic church in Northern Europe
- The completion of Germany's largest cathedral was celebrated as a national event on 14 August 1880, 632 years after construction had begun.
- What I was told when I was there was, “The building is as tall below as it is above.”
- “Generations of workers never saw the building break the surface...”
- They whole heartedly believed this verse:

(Vs) Col. 3:23,24 – “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.”

- And not just these people in Cologne...

- ST. PETER'S BASILICA, ROME – Started in 1506, wasn't completed til 1626 (120 years) -
- LAS LAJAS SANCTUARY, COLOMBIA – It took 200 years from start to finish
- SALT CATHEDRAL OF ZIPAQUIRA, CUNDINAMARCA, COLOMBIA – 1932-1954 (22 Years)
Built 600 feet down inside the tunnels of a salt mine.

We work because God Works!

- And, God's works can be seen everywhere!
- The most obvious would be throughout His Creation.

(Vs) Psalm 95:3-5 – "For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In His hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are His also. The sea is His, for He made it, and His hands formed the dry land."

- Jesus himself mentions He, himself, came to work when he was just a child...

(Vs) Luke 2:49 – "Why is it that you have been searching for me?" He replied; "did you not know that it is my duty to be engaged upon my Father's business?" – Weymouth New Testament

My favorite example...

- *(Vs) Luke 24:2 – "And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb."* Gods work was completed – The commitment He made to save us accomplished!
- This means because of His work...we now have all the access we could ever want
- The Stone was Rolled away and...

"The Sheep (We) needed access to the (Living) water, but also protection (Salvation) from what falling in (Sin and Death) would do to them."

This is what the work of the Cross accomplished!

But what happens when it feels like no matter how hard we work, nothing will ever change?

- Job... A man of great struggle! (Vs) Job 23:1-5, 8,9
- God responds to Job... "For four chapters..."
- And His response summarized is... "Look to me in all your ways and actions!"
- Or as Paul said... (Vs) Phil. 1:6 "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."