

WORKERS FOR THE LORD

[主的工人]

(Acts 17:6) [189]

INTRODUCTION

1. The church has had some success in the 20th century, but nothing like the church in the first century.
 - A. Acts 17:6 (189).
 - B. Acts 8:4 (174).
 - C. Rm. 10:18 (221).
 - D. Col. 1:23 (284).
2. As the song says, “Like a mighty army moves the church of God.”
 - A. But unlike a military army, the church consists of volunteers who are allowed to do what they please.
 - a. There are no draftees.
 - b. Slackers are seldom disciplined (if ever).
 - c. Sleepers are not court-martialed.
 - d. Disobedience is not considered very serious.
 - B. The promises of God made to the church are conditional.
 - a. When Christ addressed the seven churches of Asia, he told five of them to repent.
 - b. We receive the reward **if** we are loyal and faithful.
 - C. There are no blessings promised for lukewarmness (Rev. 3:15,16) [358].
 - a. No promised blessings for filling a pew.
 - b. Or for being a spectator.
 - c. Or for being a criticizer.
 - d. But only for faithfulness and hard work.
 1. 1 Cor. 15:58 (246).
 2. Gal. 6:9 (267).
 3. Rev. 2:10 (336).
 - D. We must have a spirit that is described in our text.
3. Three passages that challenge us in the service of God.
 - A. “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might” (Eccl. 9:10) [802].
 - B. “The king's business required haste” (1 Sam. 21:8) [364].
 - C. “And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men” (Col. 3:23) [286].
4. We need to help brethren to see the need for every Christian to be a worker for the Lord.

I. HOW TO RESTORE THE SPIRIT OF DEDICATION. [如何復興中實的觀念].

A. We must reestablish the fact that the church is a place of work.

- a. The church has work to do.
- b. The church is made up of people, it is not the building.
- c. Too long we have let the idea prevail that the church is a dormitory where men sleep rather than a vineyard of activity.
 1. As a race, we are to run (Heb. 12:1,2) [324].
 2. As in a contest, we are to strive (1 Cor. 9:25) [238].
 3. As a soldier, we are to fight (1 Tm. 6:12) [301].
- d. Both Jesus and Paul are excellent examples of workers.
 1. "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (Jn. 9:4) [140].
 2. "Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears" (Acts 20:31) [195].
- e. Work strengthens the Christian (2 Tm. 4:7,8) [305].
- f. A failure to work will condemn the soul (Jn. 15:2,6) [150].

B. We need to build our programs on sacrifice and hard work.

- a. A religion of **conviction** rather than **convenience**.
- b. Giving up for Jesus, instead of giving him our spare time.
- c. Jesus demands complete dedication.
 1. Rm. 12:1,2 (222).
 2. Mt. 16:24-26 (23).
- d. We have sympathized and catered to the lazy and lukewarm.
 1. The auditorium better equipped than the classroom.
 2. Jesus spewed them out of his mouth (Rev. 3:14-19) [358].
- e. "That's why we thought of you" story.
- f. Our young people are looking for something to which they can give their lives.

C. We must urge every member to cooperate fully with every program of work approved by the elders.

- a. To be working members and not by-standers.
- b. "Spectatoritis" is killing the church.
- c. It is similar to a football game. There are 22 men on the field who need rest, while there are tens of thousands of fans who need exercise.
- d. We must find a way to get our members out of the grandstands and onto the playing field.

D. We must learn to talk the church UP and not DOWN at every opportunity.

- a. We need to have congregational pride.
- b. We need to develop the "We" feeling.

E. **We have to begin to act and talk as though working, active members is the expected thing.**

- a. This needs to be the **rule** instead of the exception.
- b. Love for Christ naturally causes us to want to serve him.

F. **We must help keep each other from discouragement.**

- a. This is Satan's most effective tool.
- b. Is. 55:11 (867). "God's word will not return void."
- c. We need to be incurable optimists. (Story about the little boy who throws up the ball and tries to hit it. Pessimist/Optimist.)
- d. Rm. 8:28,31 (218). "All things work together – If God be for us, who can be against us."

G. **"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:6,7 (280)).**

II. **WE NEED TO PREACH THE WHOLE GOSPEL TO THE WHOLE WORLD.** [我們需要把福音傳給萬民].

A. We are not getting the job done – locally or worldwide.

B. We must get the pure gospel to the world.

- a. Rm. 1:16,17 (209).
- b. Mt. 7:13,14,21-23 (9).
- c. Jn. 8:32 (139).
- d. Jn. 17:17 (154).
- e. Gal. 1:6-9 (261).
- f. Rm. 10:17 (221).
- g. Heb. 11:6 (322).
- h. Acts 17:30 (190).
- i. Mt. 10:32,33 (14).
- j. Acts 22:16 (198).
- k. 1 Jn. 1:7-9 (345).
- l. Jn. 4:24 (130).
- m. Rm. 12:1,2 (222).
- n. 2 Tm. 2:24-26 (304).

CONCLUSION

1. To have our name on the church roll isn't enough. Filling a pew a few hours a week will not get the job done.

A. We must sacrifice (Mt. 16:24-26) [23].

B. We must be actively involved in the work of the Lord.

2. The Lord wants each one of us to be workers in his vineyard. (Song: "I Want To Be A Worker For The Lord.") **We shouldn't sing this song if we don't mean it!**

3. Invitation.

ADDENDA

THE HARMLESS CHURCH

1. It is small and inactive.
 - A. Just the opposite of the first century church.
 - B. This group of Christians bothers nobody, and nobody bothers them.
 - C. This is the kind of congregation the lazy and lukewarm like.
 - D. This is the type the devil likes too!
 - a. He doesn't have to work.
 - b. He is not forced to flee (Jas. 4:7) [332].
2. If the Lord spoke to his church today, it is likely the message would be the same as it was to five of the seven churches of Asia. He told them to repent!
 - A. Acts 17:30 (190).
 - B. 2 Pet. 3:9 (343).
3. David and Goliath.
 - A. We need more David's.
 - B. The church in the first century was not harmless (Acts 17:6) [189].

主的工人
(徒 17:6) [189]

前言

第二十世紀教會的成功沒有第一世紀教會的成功那麼大。

徒 17:6 (189). 羅 10:18 (221).

徒 8:4 (174). 西 1:23 (284).

神所賜給教會的應許是有條件的。
基督對亞西亞教會說話時、告訴五個教會悔改。
我們忠實的話、就得到報酬。

冷淡的不會得到這報酬 (啟 3:15,16) [358].

只坐在椅子上、沒有報酬。

林前 15:58 (246).

加 6:9 (267).

啟 2:10 (336).

鼓勵我們事奉神的三個經節。

傳 9:10 (802).

撒 21:8 (364).

西 3:23 (286).

(一) 如何復興中實的觀念。

我們必須再證明教會是作工的地方。

神給教會工作。

教會是人、不是教堂。

來 12:1,2 (324).

林前 9:25 (238).

提前 6:12 (301).

好例子：耶穌、保羅。

約 9:4 (140).

徒 20:31 (195).

提後 4:7,8 (305).

不工作就沉淪 (約 15:2,6) [150].

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羅 12:1,2 (222).

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我們必須勝過失望.

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我們必須禱告(腓 4:6,7) [280].

(二) 我們需要把福音傳給萬民.

羅 1:16,17 (209).

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結論

太 16:24-26 (23).

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INTRODUCTION

1. The church has had some success in modern times, but nothing like the church in the first century.

A. Acts 17:6.

“And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also” (Acts 17:6).

B. Acts 8:4.

“Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word” (Acts 8:4).

C. Rm. 10:18.

“But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world” (Romans 10:18).

D. Col. 1:23.

“And be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven” (Colossians 1:23).

2. As one song says, “Like a mighty army moves the church of God.”

A. But unlike a military army, the church consists of volunteers who are allowed to do what they please.

- a. There are no draftees.
- b. Slackers are seldom disciplined (if ever).
- c. Sleepers are not court-martialed.
- d. Disobedience is not considered very serious.

B. The promises of God made to the church are conditional.

- a. When Christ addressed the seven churches of Asia, he told five of them to repent.

- b. We receive the reward **if** we are loyal and faithful.
- C. There are no blessings promised for lukewarmness (Rev. 3:15,16).

“I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth” (Revelation 3:15,16).

- a. No promised blessings for filling a pew.
- b. Or for being a spectator.
- c. Or for being a criticizer.
- d. But only for faithfulness and hard work.
 - 1. 1 Cor. 15:58.

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:58).

- 2. Gal. 6:9.

“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not” (Galatians 6:9).

- 3. Rev. 2:10.

“Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life” (Revelation 2:10).

- D. We must have a spirit that is described in our text.
- 3. Three passages that challenge us in the service of God.
 - A. “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might” (Eccl. 9:10).
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- A. **We must reestablish the fact that the church is a place of work.**
 - a. The church has work to do.

- b. The church is made up of people, it is not the building.
- c. Too long we have let the idea prevail that the church is a dormitory where men sleep rather than a vineyard of activity.

1. As a race, we are to run (Heb. 12:1,2).

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:1,2).

2. As in a contest, we are to strive (1 Cor. 9:25).

“And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible” (1 Corinthians 9:25).

3. As a soldier, we are to fight (1 Tm. 6:12).

“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses” (1 Timothy 6:12).

- d. Both Jesus and Paul are excellent examples of workers.
 1. “I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work” (Jn. 9:4).
 2. “Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears” (Acts 20:31).
- e. Work strengthens the Christian (2 Tm. 4:7,8).

“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 4:7,8).

- f. A failure to work will condemn the soul (Jn. 15:2,6).

“Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that

bearth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned” (John 15:2,6).

B. We need to build our programs on sacrifice and hard work.

- a. A religion of **conviction** rather than **convenience**.
- b. Giving up for Jesus, instead of giving him our spare time.
- c. Jesus demands complete dedication.
 1. Rm. 12:1,2.

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Romans 12:1,2).

2. Mt. 16:24-26.

“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matthew 16:24-26).

- d. We have sympathized and catered to the lazy and lukewarm.
 1. The auditorium better equipped than the classroom.
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D. We must learn to talk the church UP and not DOWN at every opportunity.

- a. We need to have congregational pride. (2 Kinds of Pride).

- 1. Bad.
- 2. Pleasure, satisfaction, joy.
- b. We need to develop the “We” feeling.
- E. **We have to begin to act and talk as though working, active members is the expected thing.**
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“So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it” (Isaiah 55:11).

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“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6,7).

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