

WORD OF THE DAY



WORD OF THE DAY (Ephesians 2:8-9)

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

And the Award Goes to...



Everyone Works. Work is something that for most of us is inescapable. For the Christian we see that God commands us to work in various ways. Even at the beginning of human existence we are greeted with a God who is working. God's work started in Genesis when God created the heavens and the earth. God created the stars and the moon; the plants and the birds; and God created male and female. After God rested from His work; meaning a cessation of activity and not a recharging due to fatigue; the tradition of work continued with God's crown jewel, humanity. Adam was given the task of working in the garden to care for it, and today, people work at jobs in order to pay for the expenses of life. Even those who have the opportunity of receiving support from the government must first complete the preliminary task of paperwork in order to qualify for these benefits.

Christian Work. While it is true that the majority of individuals have to work to provide for their means of living, Christian work is different. Christian work is the work of kingdom building. We get a glimpse of what Christian work is from the parable of the sheep and goats in which the King returns to reward His servants. We are told that it involves feeding the hungry, clothing the naked(homeless), and visiting the sick and those in prison (Matthew 25:32). Christian work also relates to being a good steward (manager) and multiplying what God has given us. The parable of the talents illustrates this as we see the master rewarding the servant(s) who took what they were given and increased it for the master.

While normal everyday work gets rewarded by our employer, Christian work, whether it is using our time/talents/treasure to multiply Kingdom resources or whether it is serving others (feeding, visiting, hospitality,etc), will get rewarded by God.

The Boast of Grace. Although God will reward us for all the Christian work that we do, it is important that we remember that this Christian work does not contribute or add to our salvation (being saved). In our verse of the day, we are told, "*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*" While we are called to do good works, Paul informs us that these good works don't save us from our sins and therefore we cannot boast or take credit for our salvation. Paul tells us that our salvation is a gift from God, so that no one can be arrogant or have God indebted to owe them compensation or an award for the work of their salvation. It is said that we are not saved by good works, but we are saved to do good works. Imagine a prisoner on death row who is pardoned by the governor and given a second chance to use their skills for good instead of evil. This prisoner who has been pardoned was not saved because they were good, but they were saved so that they could do the good planned for them. And in such a situation, although the prisoner gets rewarded for the new good work that they will do, ultimately the honor and glory goes to the one who has saved them.

-Your brother in Christ, WNL

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

If we could boast to God, then God would be the one looking up to us in admiration.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Dear God, thank you for giving me work to do. Allow me to not focus on getting the credit but focus on getting the work done; knowing that ultimately all credit goes to you. May this comfort my heart; receiving the compensation without credit to boast nor the consequence of sin. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.



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