

In search of...



Truth & Right

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Back to the Grind

Autumn is quickly coming upon us, and to some, this is reason for alarm. Thoughts like "Where did my summer go?", and "The year is going by too fast" might just be running through your head. By and large, probably the most common thought associated with this time of year is school starting back once more. Teachers and students alike are either excited or fearful when it comes to the semesters that lie ahead. But whatever your personal feelings are, the facts

remain the same: summer is over, and so is the break, so it is time to get back to work.

Time off is a necessary thing, and it is good to have the opportunity to relax and not have to worry about deadlines or this or that. God Himself understands the importance of not working, because the scriptures tell us in Gen. 2:2-3, "And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the

seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.” In the parable of the rich fool, Jesus points out this attitude. After his crops had yielded much (as a result of much work and much blessing from God), we read: “And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”’” (Luke 12:18-19) Of course, the man was a fool because he did not plan with God in mind, but we can relate to wanting a break after working hard for some time.

Whether you are in school, whether you teach or not, you know what it is like to have to get back in the swing of things after being away for some time. It can be difficult to readjust to a heavy workload or a tight schedule once you’ve gotten used to not having one. But there is always more work to be done. Solomon wrote about this in Ecclesiastes 2:18-23, “I hated all my toil in which I toil under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after me, and who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will be master

of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun, because sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun? For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity.”

Reading this passage is not meant to be pessimistic or depressing. It is just a reminder that the work we do here, however necessary for the time being, ultimately comes to nothing. That being said, the work we have to do here IS necessary. Whether you’re talking about “secular” work one must do in order to survive, as noted in 2 Thess. 3:10, “For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.” In order to live on this Earth and prosper, you have to be willing to work. And there is much work to do! This is especially true for those with families, because 1 Tim. 5:8 says, “But if anyone does not provide for his

relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”

What these passages talk about is serious! Do you have a serious work ethic? Are you willing to do what it takes, no matter how difficult, to not only survive yourself but also see to it that others are provided for as well? Don't think, though, that just our work to put food on the table is important. Much more valuable, and sadly much more rare in occasion, is the work we can do for the Lord. He told us Himself that He wants us to be busy in His Kingdom. In Matt. 20:1-16 Jesus uses a parable to compare the kingdom to laborers in a vineyard. They were hired & expected to work. Not all the laborers were able to work for the same amount of time, but they all worked hard and thus were all paid the same day's wage.

A Christian's reward (not a wage) is eternal life in Heaven. That is our goal, and that is just one of the many reasons we should have for why we diligently work for God. Jesus made this point clear in John 4:35-36, when He said, "Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.

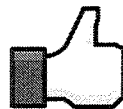
Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.” Christ told His disciples and is telling us the same thing: the time to work is NOW!

If you have been “taking it easy” when it comes to laboring for God, snap out of it! Like it or not, this is the only time here we are going to have. Our time is short, and some opportunities only come around once. If you haven't had a conversation with someone about the Bible in a while, try it; it might not be easy, but that's what happens when you let yourself get out of practice. Invite people to services, be that shining example to them, and who knows? You could make a difference in them coming to Christ.

Do not let yourself slack off or get comfortable where you are- that is called being stagnant. Get up, go out, and get to work, because there's plenty to be done before Christ returns.

Jarred Currence

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 S T P R P Z A Y Z M T H R I A X J Z S S
 G X B W B A B M H K N J U Y W V I J O X

- B_____ was a grain in the land of Canaan
- H_____ and milk "flowed" in the promised land
- Q_____ were sent by God to the wandering Israelites
- O_____ are common, and have a Mount named for them
- F_____ grow on trees, and Jesus cursed one once
- L_____ is another word for beans, a valuable crop
- P_____ were not in the Wilderness
- G_____ were grown for food and also for their juice for wine
- F_____ were caught in nets and were a staple of the Israelite diet
- S_____ were raised for sacrifice, for food, and for their wool
- R_____ are dried grapes, often used in cakes