

In search of...



Truth & Right

Volume 07 Issue 46

November 11, 2012

Your Hands Say a Lot

Of all the parts of the body that you as a human being use on a day-to-day basis, perhaps none get used as often as your hands. Everything from typing a text to working on a farm takes the use of one's hands. Our fingers and opposable thumbs let us do so much and yet we probably take them for granted sometimes. Do you know that the bible has a lot to say about hands? God tells us through His Word what we are to be doing with our hands & why. He also warns us about the danger

we can put ourselves in if we're not being careful with what our hands are doing. As with your speech, your dress, and your facial expression, your hands say a lot about you: they can reveal your age, your occupation, or even your nervousness. So what do your hands say?

In the Bible we see a passage that tells us exactly what we need to be doing with our hands: "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your

might, for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going." (Eccl. 9:10) Whatever we do, whatever we work towards, the Lord wants us to do it wholly and not in a half-hearted manner. Do not work only when the boss is looking. Do not take shortcuts or try to do a million things at once. Focus. The end result will be worth it.

The scriptures also teach us why this is so important: "Slaves, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. 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." (Col. 3:22-24) See? We are told to work with the attitude that we are not working for men, but for God. Human employers can be hard to respect, and work is often not fun, but if we approach this with thinking that we are working for our Lord, everything changes.

Have you ever heard the phrase, "Idle hands are the devil's playthings"? Chances are that you have, and the meaning of this saying is not a complicated one; if we are not busy doing what we ought, then Satan has an opportunity to get

us to do things we ought not. Satan is smart and he is a hard worker. Understand that he will not hesitate to take every chance he gets and to twist things that we like to sinful means. If you don't believe me, just take a look at what God's word has to say about it: "For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living." (2 Thess. 3:11-12) Gossip and contentiousness are just a couple of evil works that can result from good people having too much time on their hands.

It truly is remarkable to consider all that our hands can do: we use them to communicate, to work, to play, and everything in between. Yet as with everything we have in this life, they are tools, and thus can be used either for good or for evil. We need to be careful in how we're using what God has given us. Look at this passage, in Mark 9:42-43, "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the

unquenchable fire.” Obviously Jesus was not recommending that people there literally maim themselves, but his point was clear, that we can sin with our hands. And no matter how much we might depend on our hands and think that we could not do without them, even they are unessential when it comes to following after God. So if you have a hobby or interest that gets you involved in sin, you need to cut it off from your life, and get as far away from it as you can.

So far we have seen how the Bible tells us what we need to do with our hands, why we have to work with them with such an ethic, and what not to do with our hands. But there is one last passage I would like for us to think about: “Beware lest you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.’ You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may confirm His covenant that He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.” (Deut. 8:17-18) Simply put, our hands, and all the amazing things we can do with them, are not our own. God gave them to us. Just like every other physical blessing that we can possess and use, God gives us hands in order that we may glorify Him. Be humble and thankful!

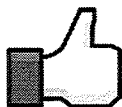
As the title of this article

states, your hands say a lot about you. They can show others something about your occupation, your interests, or your family or your age. Hands can be strong or weak, skillful or clumsy. But as the point I’ve been making this whole time is getting at: are your hands telling others that you follow Jesus Christ? Hopefully they say that you are busy with the Lord’s work, like Jesus said as a boy, “And he said to them, ‘Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?’” (Luke 2:49) God expects us to be busy for Him, because there is much to be done. Recognize the power & potential that He has put in your hands, and use what talents you have for His kingdom.

May your hands always be busy helping others, working hard, and not being dirtied with the works of the flesh. Be thankful for all that you have, and seek opportunities to use your abilities for God’s work.

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This bulletin is published by the
WELLSBURG CHURCH OF CHRIST



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<http://www.truthandright.org>

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God's Mercies

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- Jesus forgave a woman caught in A_____ (John 8)
- King H_____’s life was extended (2 Kings 20:4-6)
- Sending Israel Q_____ in the wilderness (Ex. 16:11-13)
- Ten men were healed of L_____ (Luke 17:11-19)
- Through mercy E_____ conceived (Luke 1:57-58)
- God gave E_____ good health (Phil. 2:27)
- Mercy was shown as a S_____ (Psa. 121)
- Jesus is called the P_____ for our sins (1 John 2:2)
- A S_____ was shown mercy in a parable (Luke 10:33)
- One the cross, Jesus said “Father, F_____ them...” (Luke 23:34)
- We are shown mercy while still E_____ of God (Rom. 5:10)