

Equipping The Saints

“...For the equipping of the saints for the work of service...” ~ Ephesians 4:12

July 5, 2015

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Dear Reader:

The purpose of this bulletin is simple: to equip the saints. Paul told Timothy that “**All Scripture**” is able to make “**the man of God... equipped for every good work**” (1 Tim. 3:16-17). When the saints are equipped with God’s Word, and using that equipment, “**the growth of the body**” will occur (Eph. 4:16). Let me briefly explain how to use this tool.

Articles: The articles found here will be for the growth and edification of the saints. They will focus on encouraging us to better service, as well as address topics and issues of interest.

Notes: On the back page you will find a space for notes. This space can be used to make note of announcements, jot down Bible verses, or scribble questions. Please use this space in whatever ways are helpful to you.

Inserts: Inside each bulletin you will find some material for you to use in teaching the lost. This thought provoking material is provided in a format that can be easily handed to friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, waiters, etc.

It is my sincere desire that you use this tool to its fullest potential. Use this tool to glorify God!

~Andrew B. Dow

The Lord's Work & Yours

(By Andrew Dow)

There are a number of songs in our hymnal that encourage us to work for the Lord. We sometimes sing without thought lyrics like, “*Work for the night is coming,*” “*I want to be a worker for the Lord,*” “*To the work! To the work! We are servants of God.*” How often, though, do we leave the building and never give our work to the Lord another thought? If we are truly servants of God, we must make His work our work.

What Is The Lord's Work?

The Lord explained His work when He said, “**The Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost**” (Luke 19:10). The Work of the Lord could not be summarized any clearer or more concisely than in this short statement.

This is further evident by our Lord’s actions. Philippians 2:1-11 tells us how far Jesus was willing to go in order to provide salvation. It is written that “**Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom**” (Matthew 9:35).

Beyond his earthly ministry, Jesus made it possible for His work to continue after His ascension. Before His death, the Lord said to the apostles, “**The Holy Spirit... will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you**” (John 14:26). Before He ascended to heaven, Jesus said to His disciples, “**Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I**

commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20). Make no mistake: the work of the Lord is saving souls.

Following The Master’s Lead

Let me make a quick side point here: if we are truly Christians, by definition we are followers of Christ. God’s Word tells us how we can know if we are truly Christians—“**By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked”** (1 John 2:5b-6). It’s simple: Christians imitate Christ. So, if you are a Christian, you should ask yourself this question...

What Is Your Work?

If I am a Christian, I must make it my aim in life to imitate Christ in all things; I must make the Lord’s work my work. Therefore, if the Lord’s work is saving souls, my work is saving souls. Paul’s mentality should be our own: “**For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel”** (1 Corinthians 9:16). Like our Lord said, “**When you do all the things which are commanded you, say, ‘We are unworthy slaves; we have done only that which we ought to have done’”** (Luke 17:10).

Saving souls is not the work of the exceptionally talented or the few outspoken brethren. It is the work of every Christian. It is our responsibility to tell others of His love and grace. Saving souls is a work worth doing because it is the Lord’s work. “**Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord”** (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Notes:

AM Lesson:

*A New Commandment:
Love Like Christ
(John 13:34-35)*

PM Lesson:

*The Prayer of
Jehoshaphat
(2 Chronicles 20:5-12)*

"Go therefore and make disciples..." (Matthew 28:19-20)