"The Blessings of Serving the Lord"

(Why I Serve Jesus Christ)

Selected Scriptures

8/11/02

Introduction: God expects exclusive service

Being comes before Doing

See: Galatians 6:1-10

a. Be a Burden Bearer (v.1-5)

b. Be a Blessing Sharer (v.6-10)

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

Some encouragement for weary servants:

1. *Serving the Lord*…Returns the Greatest Gratitude

Hebrews 12:28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

2. *Serving the Lord*…Fulfills Life's Greatest Purpose

1 Cor. 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

3. *Serving the Lord*…Meets People's Greatest Needs

2 Corinthians 5:18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

2 Cor. 9:12 For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;

4. *Serving the Lord*…Taps into the Greatest Power

Col. 1:29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

5. *Serving the Lord*…Receives the Greatest Honor

John 12:26 If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.

6. *Serving the Lord*…Pays the Greatest Rewards

1 Corinthians 3:14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

7. *Serving the Lord*…Fills the Heart with the Greatest Joy

1 Thessalonians 2:19 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

John 15:11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

8. *Serving the Lord*…Brings God the Utmost Pleasure

2 Cor. 5:9 Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.

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Matthew 4:10

Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve (religious service; Spiritual Service).

Matthew 6:24

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Being comes before Doing

You must be saved before you can serve

You should sit at Jesus feet more and be busy less

Luke 10:42 But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her

See: Galatians 6:1-10

a. Be a <u>Burden Bearer</u> (v.1-5)

(Note: context of the book. "Legalism vs. Liberty" The legalist is not interested in bearing burdens. instead, he adds to the burdens of others (Acts 15:10; Mt.23:4).

v.1) Matthew 18 is to be followed. The sinning brother is like a broken bone in the body, and he needs to be restored.

v.2) Need concern, and alertness to needs (a sensitivity)
(believers are to <u>assist</u> in carrying burdens, not take over the whole burden themselves.)

v.3) Don't be one who thinks "I never need help!" or "I have great moral strength and never fall"

v.4) "prove"- Examine, test for genuineness.
Merely to compare oneself to a stumbling brother and then to feel smugly superior is to use the <u>wrong yardstick</u>. We are often like the little boy who proudly announced he was nine feet tall because he had make his own

ruler out of wood and measured himself. Our standard is the Word of God.

There is no place for competition in the work of God. (we only compete against sin and Satan). Don't try to make others look bad, just to make yourself look good.

v.5) Is not a contradiction with verse 2.
"burdens" (v.2) = heavy burden
"Burden" (v.5) = Soldier's pack; points to individual responsibility. (Mt. 11:30 "My burden is light")

b. Be a Blessing Sharer (v.6-10)

v.6) What we do with material things is an evidence of how we value spiritual things.
Jesus said "the laborer is worthy of his hire (Lk.10:7) cp. Paul's statement in I Cor.9:11,14.

v.7) Everybody, sooner or later, sits down at the "banquet Hall" of consequences.

If it was not for this law, the whole principle of "cause and effect" would fail. (chaos would result) for example: the farmer who sows wheat, expects wheat.

This verse shows that:
Your activities do not escape God's notice
Mock = an intention to outwit, and thereby make God out to look ridiculous. Some sneer at God thinking "He is dead"

You are wrong to think that you can sin and get away with it. (the opposite is true also- you can't do good and not be rewarded for it)

9 Basic principles about farming:

1. **You are free to plant various seed** ("Whatsoever")
2. **You must sow (plant) to reap (harvest)**
3. **If you plant you will harvest**
4. **You will reap exactly what you plant (in kind)**
5. **You will reap more than what you plant (in quantity)**
6. **You will reap at a different season than when you planted**
7. **Reaping is impartial, predictable, unavoidable, and immutable**
8. **You can't alter the harvest, only the planting**
9. **You can't do anything about the past, but you can do something about the future** (begin planting new seed!)

The reaped consequences are <u>just</u> and <u>certain</u> (unavoidable)
God holds the scales with an even balance.

v.8) Money spent only on self results in <u>corruption</u>. No spiritual harvest or blessings.

ex. money can buy a bed, but not sleep
food an appetite.
house a home.
medicine health.
amusement happiness
gifts love
a crucifix a Savior

ex. sow prayer.....reap answers
sow dedication..... reap accomplishment

Don't invest your life for gratifying your fleshly nature.
Don't be a "Dead Sea" Christian. The Dead Sea is just that - dead.

Though millions of tons of fresh water pour into it weekly, it has no outlet.
Nothing goes out. Nothing can live in that body of water.
Give, and it will be given to you, pressed down shaken together and running over.

v.9) We tend to grow weary when we do not see <u>immediate</u> results. (ex. in USA, we want everything <u>fast</u>! - food, speedy computers, printing etc.)

v.10) Members of the same family have a special responsibility for one another. "Charity begins at home"

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

Some encouragement for weary servants:

1. *Serving the Lord*…Returns the Greatest <u>Gratitude</u>

Service is my reasonable service in light of what he has done for me

Hebrews 12:28
Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

Romans 12:1
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.

Luke 17:10
So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.

2. *Serving the Lord*…Fulfills Life's Greatest <u>Purpose</u>

1 Cor. 15:58
Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

3. *Serving the Lord*…Meets People's Greatest <u>Needs</u>

2 Corinthians 5:18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

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For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;

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Col. 1:29
Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

1 Peter 4:11
If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

5. *Serving the Lord*…Receives the Greatest <u>Honor</u>

John 12:26
If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.

Matthew 20:26,28
But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; …Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Note: The Highest order of created beings are angels and their lives involve ministry
Hebrews 1:14
Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

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