

A PLACE FOR EVERYONE IN THE CHURCH – 042310PM

Text. Eph. 2:8-10

Introduction:

- Eph. 2:10 – The Christian life is a busy life, a life of work.
- Jesus gave this example – Jn. 9:4.
- Paul encouraged industriousness – Tit. 3:1; 1 Cor. 15:58.
- Don't wait to be begged; volunteer your services; do anything you can when given opportunity.
- Not all works are glamorous but all are needed tasks – Gal. 6:10; 1 Cor. 12:12-25.
- **The Lord needs disciples who will do *anything* with their *all* and not care who gets the credit – Phil. 2:2-3.**
- Amos warned of those who would be "at ease in Zion" – Amo. 6:1. Cf. 2 The. 3:11 "For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies."
- **Mat. 20:1 – The church is compared to a vineyard and in vineyard you have to cultivate and care before you eat grapes.**
- Jas. 1:22 "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

Works for the Christian from God's Word

(Not all are listed, nor are these listed in order of importance)

- Visit orphans and widows – Jas. 1:27 (Means see to the needs of the defenseless and helpless.)
- Feed the hungry, satisfy the thirsty, tend to strangers, clothe the naked, visit the sick, visit those in prison – Mat. 25:35ff.
- Work with hands in order to help others – Eph. 4:28.
- **Talk about Jesus, invite others! – Jn. 1:40-46.**
- Convert erring brethren – Jas. 5:19-20; Gal. 6:1-2.
- Comfort one another – 2 Cor. 1:3-4; 1 The. 4:18.
- Sow seed (evangelize), edify – 1 Cor. 3:6; Rom. 14:19.
- Teach both publicly and from house to house – Acts 20:20.
- Train **faithful** teachers – 2 Tim. 2:2.
- Bring up children properly – Eph. 6:4.

- Care for physical needs of others – Acts 6:1-6.

Every Christian Can Be A Soul Winner!

- Jn. 15:1-8 – We glorify God by bearing fruit; those who do not we will be thrown into the fire and burned.
- Mat. 21:18-19 – Jesus cursed the fig tree because it was barren.
- Rom. 7:4 – You were saved to save others (Mat. 28:19-20; Jn. 15:58; Pro. 11:30).
- No exception because of sex:
- Acts 8:1-4 – Both men and women taught.
- Women are effective personal workers and teachers – Acts 18:26; 2 Tim. 1:5.
- No exception because of age:
- Older men – Tit. 2:2; 1 Tim. 3:1-11.
- Young men – Tit. 2:6-8; 1 Tim. 4:12.
- Older women & younger women – Tit. 2:3-3.
- No exception because of education:
- **Do not need a college education, or even know how to spell or read well, but can tell others about Christ, His church, and His plan of salvation.** (E.g. Walter Scott's five finger exercise taught to children.)
- There have been many Christians who were elders, preachers, Bible class teachers, who were effective and fruitful, but had little formal education. (E.g. Raccoon John Smith 6 mo. Jess Nutter 8th grade.)
- They had a hunger for the word, a great love for Christ, and a burning zeal for winning souls!

Decision:

- **There is work for everyone that contributes to the greatest work of saving souls.**
- The church needs more workers, more praying, more action, and more support and encouragement.
- Col. 3:23-25; 1 Cor. 10:31 – What ever you can do, do it with all your ability, and do it to the glory of God!