

WORK IS A FOUR-LETTER WORD 239

TEXT: Col. 3:22-23.

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The world uses so many short curse words that the expression "A four-letter word" is almost synonymous with filthy communication- Col. 3:8. **But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth**
- B. Some joke and say "work" is a four-letter word.
- C. God has always expected man to put his best effort into his job.
 - 1. Ecc. 9:10 "What your hand finds to do with all your might..."
 - 2. Col. 3:22-23 Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men
- D. Many in the church deny the need to work.
- E. If one talks about work he is turned off, notice how important work is in the Bible.
 - 1. The word work and works is used 604 times in the Bible.
 - 2. Heb. 6:10 For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.
 - 3. Believe is a work- Jn. 6:28- 29 Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.
 - 4. 1 Tim. 6:18 Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share,
 - 5. Titus 2:7 to be a pattern of in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility,
 - 6. 1 Thess. 1:3 Faith is a work. remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father,
 - 7. Heb. 10:24 Provoke or stir up love and good works. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,

8. Matt. 26:6-10 good work And when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured it on His head as He sat at the table. But when His disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste? For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to the poor. But when Jesus was aware of it, He said to them, Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me.

F. The work of the church is to teach the gospel- Mk. 16:15-16. And He said to them, Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

1. The key to church growth is church W O R K.
2. That how the early church grew and how we can grow-Acts 8:4 Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.

BODY:

I. W- STANDS FOR WILLINGNESS.

- A. Service to God must originate in a willing heart.
- B. 2 Cor. 8:12. For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have.
- C. Worship of God must be practiced in spirit and in truth.
- D. Question: Can worship (evangelism) be done grudgingly and please God.
- E. People do what they want to do!
- F. Do you want to be involved in good works?
- G. Dorcas Acts 9:36 At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did.

II. O-STANDS FOR OPPORTUNITY.

- A. Christians, wiling to do god works will look for opportunities.
- B. W/o being alert, occasions will pass us by.
- C. Daily living presents us opportunities.
 1. Matt. 5:13-16. So people may see your good works. You are the salt of the

earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven

2. 1 Pet. 2:12 having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

D. Open up the subject, "This happened at church."

E. Leave a good tract, or bulletin, etc.

F. Many will reject but we must keep on seeking- Matt. 7: 13-14 Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

III. R-STANDS FOR REWARD.

A. Perhaps some have forgotten the great reward, which awaits the faithful child of God.

B. Works do not save us.

1. Eph. 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

2. Titus 3:4-5 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,.

3. It is our duty- Lk. 17:10 So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.'

C. Works do not save but our labor is not in vain- 1 Cor. 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

D. 1 Pet. 1:4 Greater blessing are reserved in heaven for us. **to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,**

E. We should rejoice when one obeys- Lk. 15:10 Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

F. Even if others don't obey we still will receive a reward for being faithful.

1. 1 Cor. 3:14-15 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.
2. 2 Pet. 1:5-11. But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love . For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

F. Jn. 14:1-3. Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

IV. K-STANDS FOR KINDNESS.

A. All our efforts must be done in kindness and love.

1. 2 Pet. 1:7. to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.
2. 1 Cor. 13:1-3 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

B. Paul rejoiced that the gospel was preached even by those who did so out of strife- Phil. 1:15-18 Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from good will: The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains; but the latter out of love , knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel. What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.

C. How many will listen to one who preaches with such an attitude?

D. We need to love the souls of lost people enough to take God's word to them.

E. Let us resolve to guide them gently into the right way.

CONCLUSION:

A. Work is not a dirty word even if it has four letters.

B. Work will not kill you.

C. Working for the Lord will pay-off here and now and in the life to come.