



CrossRoads Notes:

Turn your Bibles to 1 Corinthians 3:6-8,10

Title: Trusted Servants

Theme: Hallmarks of a Trusting Laborer

Series: Laboring Together With God

Introduction: There is a swinging pendulum of reactions in the church of Jesus Christ in regard to the attitude of her laborers. When one sees the results of the child of God who is a sluggard they have a tendency to give up in their service to the Lord or they start to become like the controlling laborer. They become over disciplined and lay down guidelines too strict for themselves and they expect everyone else to follow them. .

Proposition: I would propose to you that the best way to be a servant to the Lord is by being a "Trusting laborer."

Interrogative Sentence: *Just what is the hallmark of the trusting laborer?*

Transitional Sentence: *Three weeks ago we took a Biblical look at what the Bible says about the sluggard in a message entitled "What God Won't Bless." Two weeks we took a look at what can happen to God's anointed when he refuses to surrender to and obey the instructions of God, thus becoming a "Controlling Laborer." Today we will look at that the laborer that is a blessing to God and the Body of Christ.*

The hallmark of the trusting laborer is the Holy Spirit fruit that is evident in his life, no matter what the harvest is that the Lord brings forth from his efforts.

The trusting laborer is like Habakkuk who wrote, "Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior." (Habakkuk 3:17-18) The Holy Spirit so wants you to understand, the "Trusting Laborer" finds his joy in the Lord not in the results of his work. Results are God's business.

The trusting laborer keeps God's Word and he fully understands the benefits of being diligent. However, he is not diligent because it gets results. He wishes to honor God, Christ and walk in step with the Holy Spirit. The trusting laborer realizes the results of his labor are entirely up to God, the Lord of the harvest.

This trusting laborer is diligent, disciplined and labors to exhaustion. The Apostle Paul wrote, “I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep...” (2 Corinthians 11:27) The Kings James Bible says, “In weariness...” the Apostle Paul did his ministerial labors. (Matthew Henry Commentary; Barnes Notes; The Bible Exposition Commentary; The Pulpit Commentary)
 (1 Corinthians 3:8)
 (1 Corinthians 15:58)

In three different Bible verses I mentioned the word “labor” (kopos) meaning wearisome efforts. (The Complete Word Study Dictionary; Vines) The practical application is, “That good ministers labor and labor, work and work to the point of fatigue and exhaustion; to the point that he can go no further. He exerts every ounce of energy and effort in his body for the sake of God and Christ and trusting in the strength of and leading of the Holy Spirit. He continues to minister the Word even when men ridicule, revile, mock, curse, and persecute him.” (Practical Word Studies in the New Testament)

Why? Because of his love for Jesus and he will do all he can to present a message of truth and live out truth for the sake of Christ and the church.
 (Colossians 3:23)

The trustful laborer does his work with diligence, not idly and slothfully. He does his work cheerfully, not discontented at the providence of God which put the child of God in that work relationship. Every job, career opportunity or position held is to be considered as duty to God when the work is being done faithfully in duty to men.

Man who hated his job / Got a raise (Colossians 3:23)

When you do all your work for Jesus, He will never let you down. Somehow and in some way He will see that you get blessed, whether be a janitor or overseer the trusting laborer is a worker who says, “This is just another day to show thanks to the Lord by the way I do my work.”

Transitional Sentence: *A trusting laborer gives God what He deserves, undivided trust and devotion.* He wants to hear and study the Word of God and he delights in all that God teaches him. He does not do it because he wants to gain favor but He wants to have more of Christ in his life, to know how to please God and to get the Lord’s work done.
 (Psalm 119:13-16)
 (Psalm 37:4)

Illustration: Josiah Laughlin

Illustration: Caleb, Jared and Josiah Laughlin / Christmas

Illustration: Government Employees laid off

Transitional Sentence: *The hallmark of a trusting laborer is the worker who expresses a life of faithfulness to God, no matter what harvest he sees come forth.*
(Hebrews 10:38)

This laborer plows, sows seed and waters and harvest at the proper times and take what God gives Him. If a disaster comes, he is disappointed but not overcome because his delight is in enjoying the enablement of God, having Christ and fellowship in the Holy Spirit.

He is able to acknowledge the Lord in all his ways by asking questions like, "Will this please the Lord? Will this enhance my relationship with Christ? Does this glorify Christ in my life and does it proclaim to others the life-changing message of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ?"

A Trusting laborer for the Lord was the Apostle Paul:
(Acts 22:3)
(1 Timothy 1:15)
(1 Timothy 1:16)
(2 Corinthians 2:16)
(2 Corinthians 1:8-11)

In closing: *Christians, whether working in full-time ministry, in this world's labor force or in the home are constantly falling into one of these three types: 1.) Undisciplined Laborer. 2.) Controlling Laborer or 3.) Trusting Laborer.*

Just this past January 8, Christians celebrated the faithfulness of missionaries Jim Elliot, Pete Fleming, Ed McCully, Nate Saints and Roger Youderian. These trusting laborers were killed by what many refer as the Auca Indians back in 1956.

Among those five men, Jim Elliot was a man sold out to God. He trusted God and the Lord knew he could trust him. In the fall of 1945 Jim entered Wheaton College with a total commitment to the Lord. He allowed the Lord to apply different disciplines in his life so he could get prepared for all that God had for him. In summer of 1947 the Lord made the way for Jim to stay with a missionary family in Mexico, just another training procedure for what lay ahead. Jim trusted God for His daily training and strengthening.

Now that all the material on Jim Elliot's life is compiled, you can see that how all his life God had ordained this event, the event of their death for the salvation of savage souls to come to Christ. All that God took Jim through, and the trusting laborer that Jim was and continued to be, prepared him to take the risk of meeting the Auca Indians. Jim had heard of the reputation of this group of Indians. They kept themselves isolated and they were known to be hostile.

Jim's character proved him to be a trusting laborer, it took him out on that mission field where he was killed because an Auca, known as "George," lied, saying about some white men were planning to eat them.

It wasn't until three years later in 1959 that Jim's wife, Elisabeth Elliot and Rachel Saint went to live with the very Indians who killed their husbands to share the gospel with them. God knew He could trust them. When they did as the Lord asked, souls got saved. Not only have souls been saved, but now 50 years later, young men and women are still hearing their call to go in the missions fields. Seeing God's faithfulness in Jim's life is encouraging them to make their mark, being seen as trusting laborers in the Lord's work.

Just as in Jim's life, call to God and faithful labors laid the seeds for an abundant harvest, each Christian can plant the seeds that will produce a harvest as God pours His Holy Spirit out to call forth a harvest for Him. Successful seed planting is done by rejecting the temptations of being a sluggard, an "Undisciplined Laborer." By rejecting that draw of becoming a "Controlling Laborer" a person who wants to retain control and not fully obey God's instructions. Successful seed planting that is pleasing to God and beneficial to the Kingdom of God is accomplished by that "Trusting Laborer."

Let us pray!