

WITNESSFORJESUS.COM

YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD WORK

In the last few decades there has been a lot of emphasis on finding that occupation which your heart truly loves and pursuing that. To those who are able to find that in life, I say, "Hip, hip, hooray!" But most people don't get that privilege. They must work at something in which perhaps they don't find any real satisfaction.

The counsel of the wise is not necessarily to work at that which you love, but to work with a whole heart at whatever you find on your plate. In the context of a society in which slavery was the norm, the Apostle Paul advised the Colossians in chapter 3: 22-24, "Slaves, obey your masters in everything, not only while being watched and in order to please them, but wholeheartedly, fearing the Lord. *Whatever your task, put yourselves into it, as done for the Lord and not for men, since you know you will receive your inheritance as reward from the Lord. You serve Christ the Lord.*"

Proverbs 10:4 says "Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth." Proverbs 12:24 says "Diligent hands will rule, but laziness ends in slave labor." What is that saying? I believe it is saying that if you want to be in a successful position, you must learn to be diligent in your work. It makes no real difference whether your work is glamorous or humble in the eyes of your society; if you are diligent, not lazy about your work; if you are consistent, reliable and thorough in learning and applying the right methods, it will tend to elevate you financially and socially. Proverbs 22:29 says, "Do you see a man diligent in his business? He shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before obscure men."

When a man becomes known as a true professional in his occupation, one who knows his field of work and works with a whole-hearted attitude, who is reliable

and steady and trustworthy, his opportunities steadily increase. His potential for greater income and more stature increases. Think about it: When you hire someone to do a job for you, such as work on your car, what kind of person do you want? Do you want a careless, ignorant, unreliable person to open up the motor and tinker? Or do you want an honest, knowledgeable, diligent person to work on that engine? Be the kind of person you would want to hire.

Related to this thought is the concept of being self-reliant. It is my firm conviction that one should earn one's own money and possessions. The apostle Paul addressed this in his second letter to the Thessalonians, chapter 3, verses 6-12. He mentions that he and his companions were not idle, living off the work of others. He says, "We did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labor *we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you.* This was not because we did not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate.... We gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat... Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living." Another translation says, "that they eat the bread they earn themselves."

God will provide for those who are willing to work, who make the effort to find employment to meet their needs and who seek His blessing. Jesus said, "My Father works until right now, and I work." Look around at the creation. Activity is everywhere. God is an active God, a Creator. We are made in His image, to be like Him. Being active is part of being like Him.

email: one@witnessforjesus.com