

WORKERS

-Ryan Parsons-

Over the years, I have worked various odd jobs, allowing me to learn many different things. You have heard some of the stories. In all my employment adventures, I have also learned that different kinds of people exist. Some people can't wait to leave work from the moment they arrive, and some cannot get to work fast enough in the morning. Likewise, some are there for one thing, money. To them, nothing else matters. On the other hand, I have experienced workers that love the work so much that they just might pay rather than be paid for the job. Having spent a little time in a position that forced me to hire and fire the individuals I supervised, I learned that there are a myriad of attitudes when it comes to working.

The Bible has much to say about the idea of work. Paul tells the Ephesian Christians that we not only were created by a working God, but we were created for the purpose of work (Ephesians 2:10, Genesis 2:15). The goal of our work is for "his good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13, Colossians 1:10). Paul goes on to tell the Colossian church that everything we do, we do it for the Lord and not for men (Colossians 3:23). Moreover, this work is something that should excite us (Titus 2:11-14).

What is this work the Bible speaks about repeatedly? God's word says our work is His ministry (Ephesians 4:12). Furtherance of the kingdom is the number one task our "employer" calls us to. Sadly, Jesus says, "laborers are few (Matthew 9:35-38)."

All this is why Paul's words in Romans are so significant. Prisca and Aquila, Mary, Urbanus, Tryphaena and Tryphosa, Persis, and Timothy are just a few of the names mentioned by Paul in Romans 16. They are all described as "workers." To the Corinthian Christians, Paul exhorted them: *Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.* 1 Corinthians 15:58

Working for the Lord is never a waste of time and effort. It is precisely what we were made for. So may the refrain from 1837 be on our hearts and lips as we jump into a new week.

We'll work till Jesus comes,
We'll work till Jesus comes,
We'll work till Jesus comes,
And we'll be gathered home.

We'll Work till Jesus Comes | Elizabeth K. Mills