

What it Means to Work With God 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

In order to glorify God in the work He has given us to do, we need to remember that it is a **privilege** to be able to work for him. A privilege is a “special honor given to someone”. This is not based on our merit, but on His grace. (1 Timothy 1:12-16)

The Foundation of Our Work - 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

- Vs. 17: Before you were saved, you were a child of wrath, and your Father was not God, but was Satan. Once saved, you become a child of God! (John 8:44) (John 1:12)
- Vs. 18: We have been given the ministry of reconciliation
- Vs.19: We have been entrusted with the message of reconciliation
- Vs.20: We are now Ambassadors for Christ. We represent Him in how we both *speak* and *act* .

The Task at Hand - 2 Corinthians 6:1-3

We work *together with God*, a partnership with Him. Because of this we are never helpless or alone. “I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matt 28:20)

Two types of appeals: 1. To the lost (Acts 4:12) 2. To genuine believers who are not living as they ought to be. (1 Cor 15:10-11).

“We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry”. - We ought to be living in such a way that gives credibility to the gospel, not bring shame to it. (Phil 1:27, 1 Cor 9:25-27)

The Troubles and Tools of Ministry - 2 Corinthians 6:4-7

As believers, we may experience troubles while we are working for God. Paul lists 9 difficult or “negative” experiences he had to endure. This endurance is more than just “hanging on”. It is a triumphal patience, associated elsewhere in scripture with Tribulation (Rom 5:3), Faith (James 1:3) Hope (1 Thess 1:3), Joy (Col 1:11) and Future Glory (Romans 2:7 + 8:25). Endurance through trial is an amazing testimony!

He also lists 9 “positives” as well. **Purity** (1 Tim 1:5), **Knowledge** (Col 1:9), **Patience and Kindness** (2 Tim 2:24-26) **Holy Spirit** (1 Cor 12:11) **Genuine Love** (1 John 4:19) **Truthful Speech** (1 Pet 3:15), **The Power of God** (Rom 1:16), **Weapons of Righteousness** (2 Cor 10:3-5)

The Paradoxes of Ministry - 2 Corinthians 6:8-10

Each one of these paradoxes have a reality for this life, as well as one for eternity. **Honor and Dishonor, Slander and Praise** (John 15:18), **Impostors, yet True** (John 7:12), **Unknown, yet Well Known** (1 Cor 8:3), **Dying, yet Living - Punished, yet Not Killed** (2 Cor 4:10-12) **Poor, yet Making Many Rich - Having Nothing, yet Possessing Everything** (1 Pet 1:4), **Sorrowful, But Always Rejoicing** (John 16:33)

“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord, your labor is never in vain” - 1 Corinthians 15:58

Announcements:

★**DONATIONS:** Throughout the month of August we are collecting monetary donations for the Bobb family, who live and serve in Cambodia. For more information about the Bobbs and their work in Cambodia, please see the bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary. There is a container on the back table for your monetary donations, or you can give on Venmo, please make sure to note that it is for the Bobbs.

★**HOSPITALITY MINISTRY MEETING:** If you currently serve in the Hospitality Ministry, or if you are interested in serving in that ministry, there will be a meeting THIS Sunday, August 18th, immediately following the worship service. Please plan to stay for this important meeting. If you have any questions, please see Madison Ardrey.

★**MENS BREAKFAST:** Men, mark your calendars, the monthly Men's Breakfast is scheduled for NEXT Saturday, August 24th, at 7am, at Big Apple Café — Log Pond. Please RSVP to Zach Adams by Wednesday, August 21st. (740)618-0739

★**END OF SUMMER FELLOWSHIP:** Mark your calendars and plan on attending our end of End of Summer gathering NEXT Sunday, August 25th, starting at 5pm, at Andy's house (1062 National Drive SE; Hebron). More details and sign-up list to come on Sunday!