

PRESSING ON IN 2024

AN EVALUATION OF WORK

1. A Year of Work

- a. We did a lot of work: building move, scheduled 175+ days (avg 14/mo)
 - i. Traveling mtgs (May, August), Tract table (fairs, college), seminar, meals, study workshop, bookshelf (+25%), publishing, admin, online, children
 - ii. +support other groups (MI, OH, IL, KY, GA, PA, FL, etc.), +not scheduled
- b. It is good to work, but not all work is good – Titus 2:14, 3:8-9
- c. Work does not always mean success – Gal 4:11, Phi 2:16, 2 Tim 2:7
- d. We should evaluate, examine, judge, correct our work – 1 Cor 3:13

2. The Work of the Lord

- a. What makes our work good? If it is given of the Lord – Eph 2:10, 2 Cor 5:16-18
 - i. We must know what God gave to do today (6x charts, 10x earthly ministry)
 - ii. God's will: 1 Tim 2:4 and Eph 3:9, then (gospel and dispensational lessons)
- b. The Lord did not tell us to make books, tracts, sites, recordings, buildings, seminars
 - i. These are tools/means to an end, what is the true ministry of the church?
- c. 2023 seminar: every man, understanding, growth, exhortation, unity, integrity, fruit
 - i. Some work is easier than others – (Glory in the cross vs. Universalism/hell)
- d. Is our work of the Lord? Are we fulfilling it? Col 4:17

3. Work of the Ministry

- a. There are wrong reasons to be M.A.D: no tithing, no required attendance, no work!
- b. God ordained us to be workmen/ministers/stewards – Eph 2:10, 2 Tim 2:15, 3:17
 - i. Flesh will work for more nickels, noses, notoriety, but... 2 Cor 11:18, 12:11
 - ii. Flesh boasts in skill, knowledge, sacrifice, but ... 1 Cor 13:1-3, 13
- c. Paul labored more abundantly, in what way? – 1 Cor 15:10-11, Col 4:12
- d. If it is a labor of love, our heart is right – 1 Thess 1:3, 2 Cor 9:7-8, 11:23-28
- e. If we use our liberty to serve each other, then we will reap – Gal 5:13, 6:9

4. God Gives the Increase

- a. Our priority is not increase from social media, donations, recognition
- b. God increases his body (not bank or buildings) – Col 2:19, 1 Cor 3:6, 7
- c. We labor together with God, working on his body – 1 Cor 3:8-10
- d. The fruit of what God gives is faithfulness to the truth – 1 Cor 4:1-2, Titus 1:9
- e. Our work not in vain, since God gives us victory – 1 Cor 15:57-58 (Romans)
- f. *What causes failure?* Ignorance, unwilling to endure, cares of the world - 1 Th 3:5
- g. Workers are few, but faithful workers are far fewer – 2 Tim 2:2, 4:2-5
- h. How to identify faithful workmen? They stand for truth w/integrity (2 Timothy)
- i. The mark is not here yet, let us press toward it for the prize – Phi 3:13-16