

The Farmer's Diligence, part 1

2 Timothy 2:3-7

³Suffer hardship with *me*, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier. ⁵Also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules. ⁶The hard-working farmer ought to be the first to receive his share of the crops. ⁷Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

God sees the hard work of His children, and rewards the hardest workers first and most. He calls us to do the same.

This principle is woven into the fabric of our faith.

Hebrews 11:6

⁶And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

There is a relationship between degree of diligence and rate of reward!

Proverbs 12:27

A lazy man does not roast his prey, But the precious possession of a man *is* diligence.

Jeremiah 29:13

¹³You will seek Me and find *Me* when you search for Me with all your heart.

If you seek God more than others, you will find Him to a greater degree. This is the first and greatest reward!

There is no promise (of good) for half-hearted seeking, but there certainly are plenty of cautions!

Jeremiah 48:10

¹⁰"Cursed be the one who does the Lord's work negligently, And cursed be the one who restrains his sword from blood.

Revelation 3:15-16

¹⁵'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. ¹⁶So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.

God's work requires a constant tension of the spiritual and physical.

Prayer and planning, fellowship with God and with people, receiving a Word and applying that Word, Being disciplined by Jesus and discipling others, etc.

God rewards hard work in the household of faith, among his people.

1 Timothy 5:17

¹⁷The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

¹² But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, ¹³ and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.

Honor in the church is not given based on titles alone, but on diligence!

God rewards hard work in His harvest outside the church, among the lost and broken of this world.

Luke 10:1-3

10 Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come. ² And He was saying to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. ³ Go; behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.

God's harvest comes from the blessing of God upon diligent work, spiritual and practical, done in Jesus' name.

Galatians 6:8-9

⁸ For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. ⁹ Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.

Commission:

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