

Having A Mind To Work

by

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October 12, 2011

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Nehemiah 4:6

Neh. 4:6, *“So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.”*

About the text:

Under the leadership of Ezra and Nehemiah, the Jewish people returned to Jerusalem after the Babylonian captivity. It was there that they began to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

The Samaritans opposed the work of rebuilding the walls.

The Jewish people had a mind to work; criticism, adversity didn't stop them.

About this tract:

When we think about the work, we usually think about our jobs.

Work isn't necessarily something that many enjoy doing. Some do, some don't. There is a reason. Work is man's punishment for Adam's sin.

Gen 3:17-19, *“And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.”*

However, we recognize that it must be done and so we do it.

But in contrast to the “physical” work that we do, God has a spiritual work for his people. We do this work because of our love for God and His kingdom.

Eccl. 9:10, *“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.”*

“A mind to work” is a mind that:

Recognizes a need to work

There is always a need to work.

The Lord has given us his commission.

Matt. 28:18-20, *“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”*

We have mission work to be done around the world as well as home. All nations includes our nation!

The church here will exist, and will continue to, if we do the work of God.

We all need to be keenly interested in the work!

Desires to work, regardless of personal interest

We each have a personal life.

It is often convenient to excuse ourselves from the Lord’s work to attend our person work and desires.

When it come to the Lord’s work, we need to avoid this kind of attitude.

The welfare of God’s kingdom must come first in our lives. Matt. 6:33, *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”*

We each need to make some sacrifices in our personal life.
Example:

- Jesus.
- Paul. Phil. 2:5, *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”*

What can we sacrifice?

It is a great thing to sacrifice time, and personal interest. We need to sacrifice and make time for spiritual things.

Will work even under adverse circumstances

Adversity defines character.

How do we respond to adversity?

- Early church. Acts. 8:4, *“Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.”*
- Paul. 2 Cor. 2:14-16, *“Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?”*

We cannot afford to let criticism stop us.

We cannot afford to stop working because we can't see any visible results.

Consider Noah (100 years with little or no response).

God's work must go on regardless of visible results.

