

DILIGENCE!

The dictionary describes DILIGENCE as – *persevering and careful in work – industrious – done with careful and steady effort.*

This is one of my favorite words found in the Bible – throughout the Old and New Testaments – referring to sticking to a task until completed, and doing it with your very best effort – whatever your hands find to do.

A Bible verse was taught to me in a business group which I was associated with many years ago – *“Diligent in Business, Fervent in Spirit, Serving the Lord”* (Romans 12:11), which only proves that whatever we do in life, it must Glorify the Lord.

With that in mind we must constantly be aware that we have a purpose in this life – not only to study to get an education – not only to learn an occupation and get a good job – not only to marry and raise a family and enjoy life – but, to do it all with fervor and the joy in knowing that you will encourage others to make something better of themselves.

The Apostle Paul goes even further in admonishing his son-in-the-faith, Timothy – *“I challenge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom – Preach the word! Be instantly ready when it is convenient and when it is inconvenient – convince, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine – but after their own lusts shall heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears – and they shall turn away their ears from the Truth, and shall be turned aside to fables. But watch in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an Evangelist, make full proof of your ministry”* (2 Timothy 4:1-5).

In the Old Testament King Solomon has recorded, *“Keep your heart with all DILIGENCE, for out of it spring the issues of life”* (Proverbs 4:23). So we must be diligent in whatever enters our heart (and mind), because it is the center of our affections and we’re to keep it pure and undefiled.

The Apostle Peter tells us, *“Giving all DILIGENCE, add to your Faith Virtue, and to Virtue Knowledge, and to Knowledge Self-control, and to Self-control Patience, and to Patience Godliness, and to Godliness Brotherly Kindness, and to Brotherly Kindness Love – for if these things be in you and abound they make you that you shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Wherefore rather be EVEN MORE DILIGENT to make your calling and election sure – for if you do these things you shall never fall”* (2 Peter 1:5-10).

This may all sound like it is meant only for Preachers, Pastors, and Missionaries – but let me remind you that every true follower of Jesus Christ is in full-time service and is expected by God to spread the Good News of Salvation to everyone we come in

contact with. The Apostle Luke quotes Jesus Christ as saying just before His ascension, "You shall receive Power, after that the Holy Spirit comes upon you – and you shall be witnesses of Me in your local surroundings and all over the world" (Acts 1:8).

King Solomon tells us, "The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing – but the soul of the DILIGENT shall be made rich" (Proverbs 13:4) – and, "He who tills his land will have plenty of food – but he who follows frivolity will have poverty enough" (Proverbs 28:19).

The Bible also warns us, "If anyone will not work – neither shall he eat" (2 Thessalonians 3:10) – a REAL WARNING! – and, "Let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful" (Titus 3:14).

So we find that DILIGENCE depends on our entire outlook on life and our surroundings. If we see a need, or know of something that is not right, it is up to each of us to do all in our power to correct the situation and offer a helping hand.

In simple and modern terms we could say we should have – "stick-to-it-ness" or to "keep-on-keeping-on" until the task is completed properly. Too often when the going gets tough the tendency is to give-up and quit.

DILIGENCE seems to be a lost art today – we must get back to basics and seek completion in everything we do – especially in our faith. God has a wonderful plan for each of us – a plan of victory – a plan of success – a plan of overcoming adversity. We cannot do it on our own – we need His Power in every phase of our lives – and that is only obtained by complete surrender to His Will.

"Seek the Lord while He may be found – call upon Him while He is near" (Isaiah 55:6).

"Wait on the Lord – be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart – wait, I say, on the Lord" (Psalm 27:14).

And remember, *"They that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength" (Isaiah 40:31).*

BE DILIGENT IN SEEKING AND SERVING THE LORD!

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