

# The University Heights Messenger

May 9, 2010

## “Work, For The Night Is Coming”

By Royce Chandler

God stood back, checking His work. All was finished--everything as it should be, in its proper form and place. A work so perfect, so stunning, so profound, that its Creator could say with divine satisfaction: “This is good.”

In the beginning God gave Me His own example of work ethic: work with a clear purpose, work with diligence, finish the task, do it well, and rejoice in it. Nothing negative or dreadful here to make me view work as a curse, as a plight to be avoided or passed off to others. I was created to work--given the tools of a workman’s mind and body, supplied with a world full of resources, and assigned to responsibly use them all for the good of man and the glory of God. And I was given a time-frame within which to complete my task, the days between the sunrise and sunset of my life.

It was not God who made “work” an ugly word. It was probably some weary, complaining toiler, fancying his task too much for him who, in a state of self-pity, took that little word of terror--“hard”--and coupled it with “work.” He passed it on to others, so that work became something to shirk; and the ambition of men’s hearts was chilled, dreams faded, youth faltered like plants under a withering frost, and men then had to be motivated to do what should have been done by nature. Thus, the words of Jesus: “**We must work...while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work**” (John 9:4), are often perceived as words of threatening and warning and are used to move us to do the work which we are neglecting.

What sort of tasks are assigned that are so repugnant that we, images of the divine, would seek to escape them? Reflect holiness, help others, discipline one’s character, love each other, provide for our family, train children in righteousness, worship our God, encourage the weak, learn truth, teach truth to others. Are these the works we must be driven to, threatened and cajoled to perform? Apparently so.

Knowing this to be our state, Jesus supplied the need. It is He who attempts to move us by speaking of the unprofitable servant being cast into outer darkness (Matthew 25:30); and of the foolishly unprepared virgins to whom He will say, “**I know you not**” because they failed to heed the warning: “**Watch therefore, for ye know not the day or the hour**” (Matthew 25:12-13).

For many years now I have remembered the words of a teacher who observed: “*The door opens for those who are prepared to enter it. If you are not prepared, someone else will get to go instead of you.*” Spoken in a context of the need to prepare educationally for secular opportunities we hope to receive, I have had ample opportunities to apply it to spiritual opportunities as well--wishing so much that I could do a certain type of work that I, by choice (or negligence), simply did not fit myself to do. So the advice, “**trim your lamps,**” “**watch ye,**” and “**work while it is yet day,**” is clearly appropriate, applicable, and often necessary for the servant who is distracted from his essential tasks.

The solution is to train my mind to the mind of God, to view work--especially spiritual tasks--as a great part of my very nature and purpose. Whatever the job, let my heart pursue it with an eagerness to do it

happily, diligently, and well, delighted to be used as a workman of God. Of necessity, I must train my heart to distinguish the valuable from the frivolous, the holy from the carnal. Whatever role or secular occupation I fill, let me face it with a desire to be a “**workman approved by God.**” When God opens a door to me, a chance to serve Him in any capacity, may I not be timid or lazy; rather let me boldly step into it with both feet and positively pursue the opportunity with faith and zeal. There is so much to be done! May the Lord help me to replace the fearful aspect of “hard work” with the joyful prospect of “good work”--as in, “This will take a lot of good work, but in the name of the Lord, I’ll get it done.”

How better pleased my God will be when I learn to anticipate my coming sunset: not to get out of work, but to be promoted to an assignment more sublime and eternal. It will mean everything if He can review my work and say with divine satisfaction: “Royce, this is good, this is really good.”

### **IN NEED OF PRAYERS:**

**Esmeralda Agustin** is struggling spiritually. Let’s continue to pray that God touch her heart and blesses our efforts to encourage her.

**Glenn Kimberlin** is battling pneumonia.

**Gail Stein** continues her treatments for breast cancer.

**Shannon Gilbert** continues to receive her treatments for breast cancer.

**Robert Brundige**, Richard’s brother, is in Parkside Manor in Cynthiana dealing with some issues. **Sarah** Brundige, Richard’s mother, is in Cambridge Place Nursing Home and in need of our prayer.

**Reid Braswell**, an American preacher laboring in Colombia, is suffering from ataxia. It attacks the cerebellum which controls the movements of the body. Brother Braswell is deteriorating rapidly and the doctors cannot figure out the cause of the ataxia as it is a symptom, not the underlying problem. Things appear bleak but remember that we serve the Great Healer.

Let’s also remember **David Day and his wife, Michelle Oxendine, Ron Catchen, Chuck McDavitt, and David Blakeman.**

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

The men’s meeting will be today at 3:30.

### **BIBLE READING SCHEDULE FOR 5/9-5/15:**

**Sunday:** Deut 25-27, Ps 92, Acts 16

**Monday:** Deut 28, Ps 93, Acts 17

**Tuesday:** Deut 29-30, Ps 94, Acts 18

**Wednesday:** Deut 31-32, Ps 95, Acts 19

**Thursday:** Deut 33-34, Ps 96, Acts 20

**Friday:** Josh 1, Ps 97, Acts 21

**Saturday:** Josh 2-4, Ps 98, Acts 22

### **SERMON TOPICS:**

Sunday AM. “We Consider Those Blessed Who Remained Steadfast”

Sunday PM. “The Offense Of The Cross”

### **CLASS INFORMATION:**

Lesson 15, section I, letter A (1 Cor, 12:12, 13, 20, 27)