

1 Peter 2:9 presents us with one of the great doctrinal passages of the New Covenant – ***“But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;”*** This doctrine, “The Universal Priesthood Of the Believer” is one that Christians through the ages have viewed as important enough to suffer imprisonment and even death rather than relinquish.

How does this great doctrine apply to work? Simply put it means that we all work for God. Most so-called Laymen live under the shadow of the supposed sub-spiritual life. They were not called to be ministers, they were not called to be missionaries so theirs is the lot to sit for the most part on the sidelines during their workday and hope to labor for the Lord with those few discretionary hours that their work and family allow.

Praise God that He did not reduce the majority of His Church to such a low estate. Because of the great doctrine of the Universal Priesthood of the Believer we are all laboring for God no matter our labor. We are all priests before God carrying out His work. There is not such thing as the Layman. It is a phrase alien to Scripture both in the fact that the word is not found in Scripture and in the fact that the word is in direct contradiction to the doctrine of the universal priesthood of the believer. The brick layer and the missionary; the engineer and the pastor; the businessman and the full time minister; we all work for God and receive our reward based not upon our supposed ecclesiastical position but rather based upon our diligence and hard work as carried for Him and to His glory.

Colossians 3:23-25 makes this abundantly clear – ***“Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.”*** That means that the bricklayer who works very hard for God and His glory will receive a greater reward in heaven than the lazy missionary. That means the university student who works very hard for God and His glory in his studies will receive a greater reward in heaven than a lazy pastor. That means that the businessman who works very hard for God and His glory in his chosen profession will receive a greater reward in heaven than the lazy full time Christian minister. Now we begin to understand what Christ meant when He said in Matthew 20:16 ***“So the last shall be first , and the first last .”*** The rewards waiting for us in heaven are not based on a feudal birthright system to which we have no access. It is not just the chosen elite ecclesiastics who have an opportunity to great rewards in heaven but rather every child of God may receive His reward based upon his labor. We all work for God.

This protects us from the despair of the empty life. This protects us from bitterness derived from the lie that we exist in a meaningless dead-end job. No matter your job, no matter your career field, man can “pass over you” but God will not. You can, through your hard work, your diligence and your proven Christian character on the job, ***“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”*** (Matthew 5:16). Can you imagine Adam saying to God, “I hate my work. This is just a meaningless dead-end job. I just go through the motions.” God gave Adam work to do and Adam was working for God and Adam was not a priest, a missionary, a pastor or fulltime Christian minister. Adam was a farmer. Your work is your garden, you like Adam can see satan and listen to him or you can concentrate on the job God has given to you and bring glory to Him.

Working hard for God as a priest, appointed by God for work, bringing glory to God by our work, accruing riches in heaven through our hard work and taking opportunities to witness in our work, our mission field – these are lost doctrinal truths in the church today.

Busy housewife, take heart, your work is for God. Harried student, be encouraged, your work is for God. Battered businessman, be of good cheer, your work is for God and your reward is in heaven. Do not let the world, do not let the flesh, do not let satan and yes, do not let the church cheat you out of your ministry nor your rewards.

Get up early every morning. Spend time with God. The go out and work hard for God and bring glory to His name.

**THEME: God Is Our Boss and We Work Hard For Him**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Colossians 3:22 - 25**

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Ruth 2: 1 -12: II Timothy 2:6**

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Ephesians 6:5 - 8**

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

*JEREMIAH 15:16*

**THEME: As Priests Before God – We Work Hard For God and Not For Man**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: In the market place – I Peter 2:9; Colossians 3:23; II Thessalians 3:10 - 14**

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: In the home – I Peter 2:9; Colossians 3:23; Proverbs 31:10 – 31; Titus 2:4 & 5**

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: In the church – I Peter 2:9; Colossians 3:23; II Thessalonians 3:6 – 10; John 9:4**

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

*JEREMIAH 15:16*

**THEME: God Our Father Models Working Hard**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Job 9:10;**

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 66:5; 104:24; 121:4**

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: John 5:17**

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: John 4:34;**

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: John 5:17; 9:4**

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: John 17:4**

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**THEME: The Apostles Modeled Working Hard For God**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: I Thessalonians 2:9 – 12**

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: II Thessalonians 3:7-12**

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: I Corinthians 4:11 & 12**

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**THEME: The Early Christians Worked Hard For God**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Romans 16:6 & 12**

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Ephesians 4:28**

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Thessalonians 3:10 – 12; 4:11, 12**

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**THEME: The Ministers Of The Early Church Worked Hard For God**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: I Timothy 5:17 & 18**

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Philippians 2:20 – 30**

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: I Corinthians 3:9**

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**THEME: God Will Reward The Hard Worker and Judge The Lazy Worker**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 25:14 – 23**

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 25:24 – 30**

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Luke 12:35 – 40**

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

**THEME: Working Hard For God Is A Privilege and Blessing That Will Come To An End**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Revelation 7:6; 14:9 - 13**

**How does this passage relate to the theme? (How is the eternal state of the righteous compared with that of the wicked in terms of “rest”?)**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Revelation 22:1 - 9**

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Revelation 22:10 - 21**

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**