

Financial Stewardship – The Hard Worker and God’s Material Blessing

We live today in an entitlement culture. A culture where hard work and God’s material blessings are not equated. Learning the Biblical value of hard work and the legitimacy of the material blessings associated with hard work is a lost doctrine of the 21st century.

Children feel entitled to their parents material possessions irrespective of their behavior - whether or not they work hard at home or school. For many children the Prodigal Son has gone from a parable of embarrassment to a role model of acquisition. All to many adult children feel resentment if they and their children are not regularly called, regularly visited and showered by gifts and material blessings from their parents on every occasion rather than vice versa. All to many adult children feel that they are entitled to any type of behavior, expecting their parents to step in and rescue them time after time.

School children feel entitled to not only every benefit that other peoples money might grant them but there is no feeling of humility from their parents that the government is taking money from others to care for and educate their children. Not only does the average child (and parent) feel they should have a free education, but school supplies, meals, field trips, entertainments, parties and more must be supplied at no cost – they are entitled. I remember a personal experience in this area. I was serving as a volunteer parent worker selling cokes and pizza at after school events to raise money for the senior class. Child after child came up to me demanding pizza and coke and incensed that they would have to pay. I still remember the mantra – “This is school, I don’t have to pay for nothing!”

When my children applied for their University education, they like all American school children at the same time applied for grants and scholarships. I remember being grateful when these were awarded but I never felt slighted that my children did not receive the money of others to go to school. This was not the case however with many of the parents I interacted with at school functions. Many were frustrated and angry that their child was not receiving free money to go to college. I was happy for any of my children to receive financial help for college but I never considered myself nor my children slighted if other peoples money was not used to pay for their education. I always assumed that both myself and my children would have to work hard to go to college, just as I did and my father did before me and his father did before him.

This feeling of entitlement has spread throughout our culture. People who do no work, people who work in a lazy manner, people who do their job poorly, all feel entitled to material gains. All feel entitled to that which belongs to another. The Word of God has a number of terms to describe this – greed, avarice, covetousness, no matter the term it is sin. To desire for yourself that which belongs to another is sin.

This is also seen in the church. Promises of health, wealth and prosperity as a result of mystical faith rather than hard work abound in Christian books and messages of our age. We live in an age where men stand on stages and shake their fists at God demanding from God blessings of wealth and prosperity. We have lost sight of an important life principle and virtue of the Bible – hard work. In the Word of God, the blessing of God and hard work are inseparable. Whether at school, at home or on the job, one of the greatest witnesses of the 21st century Christian is that he is a hard worker. I remember a testimony by Mr. Warr. Mr. Warr is now with the Lord but during his life time Billy Graham called him the most effective lay witness of his day. Mr. Warr was a hard worker. His testimony in part is that he had a home building and development company. He was touring the homes his builders were constructing and noticed that one worker consistently worked harder than all the others. In fact he said he worked harder than any two of his best workers. When he asked about this man the foreman said that he did not know anything about him except that he was a lay preacher. Mr. Warr thought that any man who worked that hard was worth listening to and this hard working lay minister was the instrument which lead Mr. Warr to Christ.

Now might be a good time for us to reflect and consider the impact of the testimony of our work ethic. Be it as a student, a housewife or a businessman – would your work ethic, the public testimony of your hard work, lead another to consider the claims of Christ?

Now might be a good time for us to reflect and consider our own convictions concerning hard work, God’s blessing and God’s will. Are you looking for God to bless you apart from hard work, by taking from others and giving to you or do you view the blessing of God and hard work as inseparable, one from the other?

Now might be a good time to consider the values our children are learning in this area. One application would be to sit down with your children daily and go through these quiet times alone with God with them.

Rev. John S. Mahon – Grace Community Int. All Rights Reserved - for more free Q.T. and Bible study materials visit www.gciweb.org

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: The Hard Worker and God's Material Blessing

TOPIC & PASSAGES FOR MEDITATION: Exodus 23:12

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?

TOPIC & PASSAGES FOR MEDITATION: I Thessalonians 4:9 - 12

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TOPIC & PASSAGES FOR MEDITATION: II Thessalonians 3:10 – 12

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TOPIC & PASSAGES FOR MEDITATION: Colossians 3:17, 23 – 25

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TOPIC & PASSAGES FOR MEDITATION: 2 Timothy 2:6

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TOPIC & PASSAGES FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 90:17

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TOPIC & PASSAGES FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 104:1 – 23 (:14 & 23)

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TOPIC & PASSAGES FOR MEDITATION: Proverbs 6:1 – 11

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TOPIC & PASSAGES FOR MEDITATION: Proverbs 10:4

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TOPIC & PASSAGES FOR MEDITATION: Proverbs 12:24

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TOPIC & PASSAGES FOR MEDITATION: Proverbs 13:4

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TOPIC & PASSAGES FOR MEDITATION: Proverbs 14:23

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TOPIC & PASSAGES FOR MEDITATION: Proverbs 18:9

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TOPIC & PASSAGES FOR MEDITATION: Proverbs 19:15

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TOPIC & PASSAGES FOR MEDITATION: Proverbs 21:25 & 26

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TOPIC & PASSAGES FOR MEDITATION: Proverbs 22:13

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TOPIC & PASSAGES FOR MEDITATION: Proverbs 22:26 - 29

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TOPIC & PASSAGES FOR MEDITATION: Proverbs 24:30 – 34

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TOPIC & PASSAGES FOR MEDITATION: Ecclesiastes 2:24 & 25; 3:12 & 13

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TOPIC & PASSAGES FOR MEDITATION: Ecclesiastes 5:18 & 19; 9:7 - 10

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TOPIC & PASSAGES FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 25:14 – 30

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TOPIC & PASSAGES FOR MEDITATION: Ephesians 4:28

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