

Christian Service

Everyone who has been saved from sin through the grace of Christ should have one important purpose in life--to serve the Lord and to advance His work. This is God's calling for every Christian.

The fact that some men are ordained and set apart for the Christian ministry can easily give a false impression. Other Christians may think of a minister as one who performs their religious tasks for them, but this cannot be done. Every Christian should perform Christian service. Every Christian should witness to Christ. Every Christian has an important duty in praying and carrying on the Lord's work. The minister is not a substitute but a leader.

God expects each man to find a way to support himself and his family. To some He gives talents and gifts that make other Christians glad to support them in full-time Christian service, but He calls on all the saved to make Christian service the primary goal of their lives.

It is a false idea that God may call a man to be a researcher, a lawyer, a politician, or a department store manager. These are all honorable ways of earning a living, and God expects His followers to find a way to support themselves. In the course of performing these activities a man can do a great deal of good, but if he is a Christian his real calling is to serve the Lord.

Since it is the duty of every Christian to reach others for Christ and to help them grow in grace, every believer needs to study God's Word and to learn to present it effectively. Truly Christian theological training is never wasted. When God gives one the abilities that lead others to feel that he can effectively serve as a minister, a missionary, or a teacher of the Word, it becomes especially important that he endeavor to prepare himself to serve effectively in that capacity. If the Lord has not given him these abilities he should find another way to earn his living but should still make God's service his primary effort.