

## HAVING THE RIGHT GOAL IS ALL IMPORTANT

On several occasions, by way of illustration, I have explained the difference in goals of some when cutting grass. Let's think about that for a minute and then make an application to our spiritual lives. The question that needs to be asked is this: Why are you cutting the grass? Now, when it comes to cutting the grass at the church building, some might answer: "Because it is my week to cut it". At home, one might answer: "Because it needs cutting". Actually, the best answer would be: "In order to make the yard look as good as possible". Now, the difference in one's goal for cutting the grass can make a world of difference in the way the job is done. For one goal, the quicker and easier that it can be done is best. For the last goal, attention to detail and total outcome is really important so that we end with the best looking yard possible.

Now let's apply that line of reasoning to other matters. When washing the car, are we just trying to get some of the caked up mud off the car, or are we trying to make the car look as good as possible, even if it is an old clunker. Painting the house, cooking a meal or any number of other labors can be used for this same reasoning.

So what would our spiritual life look like if we had our eyes firmly fixed on the ultimate goal of reaching heaven? Paying attention to detail, we would be spending quality time in a study of God's word that we might KNOW just what it is all supposed to look like when it is as God would have it to be. Also, we would realize that knowledge is needed in order to fulfill the grooming of the vineyard and the planting of the seed.

For some, worship would take on a whole different meaning. No longer would one attend because they feel like they must, but they would attend as an honored opportunity to actually WORSHIP God with those of like minds. No dreading attending, but looking forward to the experience.

No one who has the ultimate goal of being in the presence of God Almighty, Jesus Christ the Lord, the Holy Spirit, the angels and all the saved of all times would dare become lax and lazy in their efforts to do the very best job possible, making their lives before God and their fellow man, as attractive as they possibly could. Not just getting the grass cut, but laboring to realize their real goal, which is eternal life in heaven. Why is it that you "cut the grass"?

*Robert*

## ABOUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD

Paul wrote, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (I Cor. 15:58). Often, a good way to study a verse or passage is by asking the old questions of (1) who, (2) what, (3) why, and (4) when? Lets do that with this statement.

Let us start with the "what". That which is commanded is to "abound in the work of the Lord". The work of the Lord is whatsoever the Lord has commanded us to do. Christians are the workman in the Lord's vineyard. We are the laborers used by the Lord to do His work. We generally refer to the work of the Lord as evangelism, benevolence and edification. Far too many are busy as was the "many" Jesus spoke of (Matt. 7:22-23), but busy doing things that are not really the work of the Lord.

Who is it that is commanded to abound in the work of the Lord? The epistle in which this command is found is addressed to "the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours" (I Cor. 1:2). Every person who has obeyed the gospel of Christ, thereby being born again, being a child of God and having been added to the body of Christ is commanded to abound in the work of the Lord. Far too many that wear the name "Christian" have become slothful, lukewarm and unprofitable servants in the kingdom.

Why should one abound in the work of the Lord? Besides the fact that we are commanded to do so, we also must understand that our labor is not in vain in the Lord. It is profitable labor. No one wants to work for nothing, but what we stand to gain is so far above whatever labor, trial or hardship we might face that it is not even worthy to be compared (Rom. 8:18).

When must we abound in the work of the Lord? Paul said that we are to "always" be abounding in the work of the Lord. The sooner the better (Ecc. 12:10). We know not how much time we have available to do the work that God has set before us. We know not how long we shall live (Ja. 4:14; Prov. 27:1; I Pet. 1:24). Also, we know not when the Lord will return (Matt. 24:36; 25:13; II Pet. 3:10). The only time we know we have is right now!

*Robert*