

The Wonder of Work – Here or in Heaven

It is not unusual for caring, generous employers to have incentive programs for their employees. Outstanding work is compensated with commendations, recognition, promotions, pay increases, profit sharing, awards, rewards, prizes, pension plans. This applies (or at least appeals) to most men and women. It is interesting that, consciously or unintentionally, much of secular employer-employee relations and management philosophy (especially in the West) take many of their principles from the Bible: *Don't lie, don't cheat, don't steal. Put in an honest day's work. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. It is more blessed to give than to receive.*

So, it should not be surprising that the Lord has an advanced and perfected work ethic and reward program. Working well for him on earth means advancement in the next life. Taking your responsibilities seriously here means greater responsibility in heaven.

God's true children are workers. Why? Because they have a working Father. Jesus said, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working" (John 5:17). We, too, are to be at work for our Lord. We will always be workers. God will continue to work and so will we, no matter where we are – on the new earth, in the new heaven or elsewhere in his vast, expanding universe. "For we are God's fellow workers..." (1 Cor. 3:9)

So, do not entertain the idea that you will spend eternity in a rocking chair, sometimes strumming on a harp. We will never retire because we will never tire; we'll have new, heavenly, glorified bodies. In eternity we will have sin-free personalities. We will not want to be idle. We will not be stressed. We will not be bored. We will not hate our work. On the contrary, we will enjoy it. We will be eternally challenged, motivated and fulfilled.

Our attitude toward work will probably be what it was for Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, before they lost their innocence (Genesis 2:15). God is creative and productive and we will be like him.