

"And after him was Eleazar the son of Dodo the Ahohite, one of the three mighty men with David, when they defied the Philistines that were there gathered together to battle, and the men of Israel were gone away: He arose, and smote the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand clave unto the sword: and the LORD wrought a great victory that day; and the people returned after Him only to spoil." 2 Samuel 23:9-10 KJV

We're often grow weary laboring for God. Eleazar fought so hard "his hand clave to the sword," but it was "the LORD wrought a great victory that day!" We don't laud the hammer that drives the nails. When the work is complete, tools lie quietly in the tool box, and the Builder receives praise. Men are tools the "hand of God" to perform His work; the building of the Church of Jesus Christ through the sanctification of Truth! Jesus prayed, in His last hour, "Sanctify them with Thy Truth; Thy Word is Truth." Until Jesus said, "Lazarus, come forth!" Lazarus' corpse lay stinking and rotting! God's Word written, spoken, and believed through the faith it brings, itself, is the difference between an eternity of pleasure or an eternity of perdition! God has purposed from eternity past to save all who will come to Him. From the Muslim to the Hindu and the pagan to the atheist, those who resist His Word, resist their own salvation and foolishly implement their own destruction!

"He that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." Men who believe they are without sin need not God and have sealed their own fate! Jesus said, "They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." If you work for God for personal gain, be it notice, prize, or praise, you labor in vanity and God cannot be part of, nor will He bless it! You may fool men, but "the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for...the LORD looketh on the heart." Your intentions are an open book to God, the "discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Men are fickle and proof is evident in the rise and fall of leaders. Those who love you today hate you tomorrow. Men love you, because you have benefitted them. God loves you in spite of you! "God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." His kindness benefits even those who hate Him, breathe His air, and live by His will. If men do righteously, "the LORD wrought [it], for there is none righteous; no, not one." If it's good, God wrought it! "Every good and perfect gift cometh...from the Father of lights!" Be excited God deems you worthy of His use!

Think not good deeds are done in vain,
God knows your fears and all your pain,
This vale will pass and evil wane,
For all who trust in Jesus' name! ~CGP

The faithful more often than not receive rejection or persecution for their efforts which should be of little or no consequence to them if they truly serve the Lord. Their reward is the Voice of God saying, as they cross eternity's threshold, "Well done! Thou good and faithful servant." We "labor not for the meat that perisheth," but for eternal rewards only God can give. He will reward us for the work He does. We have God's Word on it!

"Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." Matthew 5:10-12 KJV

