

We Have A Lot of Work to Do As Co Workers With Jesus Christ

The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few. A recent Pew Research Study conducted between 2009 & 2019 revealed that over those 10 years, the number of adults who identified as Christians has decreased by some 12% from 77% of the U.S. Population saying they were, at least at some level I assume, Christians to 65%. While that may not to be a great number,

consider that as recently as August of this year, Robbie Dawkins, an evangelist closely related to the Vineyard Movement has witnessed a verifiable 10% increase in the number of believers of Jesus Christ in Iran. Incredible. Among those same adults polled in the aforementioned Pew Research Study, those who claimed no religious affiliation increased from 17% of the U.S. Population to 26%. That means over a quarter of the U.S. Population are either atheists, agnostics, spiritual but not religious, or just not a part of any

religious group at all. This tells me that we, as a part of the greater Church, as citizens of the Kingdom of God, have much work to do. Whose fault is it for the moral decay and turn towards disbelief in God? Others? Us? Satan? Jesus himself? It's all of those but I confess that I must accept responsibility for my lack of furthering the Gospel by having been willfully disobedient to the Great Commission given all of us by Jesus Christ. We have a lot of repenting to do and even more work to do. I'm not going to beat

myself up over it, we know God forgives and will still use us in His plan.

Matthew 9:35-38 *Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. 36 Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the*

workers are few. 38 Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

Latin etymology "labor" toil, trouble

"Labor": NOUN work, especially hard physical work.

"the price of repairs includes labor and parts"

Similar: work, toil, employment, exertion, industry, industriousness, toiling, hard work, hard labor, drudgery, effort, the sweat of one's brow, donkey work, menial work,

slog, grind, sweat, elbow grease,
graft, travail, moil, task, job, chore,
undertaking, mission, commission,
assignment

Opposite: rest, leisure, ease,
idleness

Workers

Similar: workers, employees,
workmen, workforce, staff, working
people, blue-collar workers, hands,
laborers, labor force, hired hands,
proletariat, wage-earners,
manpower, human resources,
personnel, liveware

Opposite: management

VERB work hard; make great effort.

"they labored from dawn to dusk"

Similar: work (hard), toil, slave (away), grub away, plod away, grind away, sweat away, struggle, strive, exert oneself, overwork, work one's fingers to the bone, work like a Trojan/dog/slave, slog away, kill oneself, plug away, put one's back into something, peg away, graft, drudge, travail, moil

Opposite: rest, relax, laze

Romans 12:9-13 *Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. **10** Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; **11 not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; **12** rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, **13** contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.***

Diligence vs Negligence

Discipline vs Indiscipline

2 Thessalonians 3:7-10 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, **because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you, 8** nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we kept working night and day so that we would not be a burden to any of you; **9** not because we do not have the right to this, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, so that you would follow our example. **10** For even when we were with you, we used to give you

this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.

Genesis 2:15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to ***cultivate it and keep it.***

*** Cultivate : Work

*** We were made for God's pleasure, to worship; not necessarily with songs and music, but we show we value God in our

lives, we show that He is of Worth by our Work. Doing what we were created for.

*** We were made with the purpose of working in this world in the Now and in the Kingdom of God in both the Now & Not Yet.

1 Corinthians 3:5-9 *What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one. 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the*

*growth. 7 So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. 8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. 9 For **we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.***

3 John 1:5-8 *Beloved, you are acting faithfully in whatever you accomplish for the brethren, and especially when they are strangers;*

6 and they have testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God. **7** For they went out for the sake of the Name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. **8** Therefore we ought to support such men, so that **we may be fellow workers with the truth.**

Sheep  Among Wolves

Matthew 10:5-20 These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them: "Do not go in the way of the

*Gentiles, and do not enter any city of the Samaritans; **6** but **rather go to the lost sheep** of the house of Israel. **7** And **as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'** **8** Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give. **9** Do not acquire gold, or silver, or copper for your money belts, **10** or a bag for your journey, or even two coats, or sandals, or a staff; for the worker is worthy of his support. **11** And whatever city or village you enter, inquire who is worthy in it, and stay at his house*

*until you leave that city. **12** As you enter the house, give it your greeting. **13** If the house is worthy, give it your blessing of peace. But if it is not worthy, take back your blessing of peace. **14** Whoever does not receive you, nor heed your words, as you go out of that house or that city, shake the dust off your feet. **15** Truly I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city. **16** "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves.*

17 But beware of men, for they will hand you over to the courts and scourge you in their synagogues; **18** and you will even be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. **19** But when they hand you over, do not worry about how or what you are to say; for it will be given you in that hour what you are to say. **20** For it is not you who speak, but it is the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.