Acceptance of Assignments

2/6/22

Eph. 2:10 / Matt. 9:37-38 ***/*** John 17:4

You were put on earth to make a contribution!

Christ accepted & was committed to the assignment of the cross until “It was finished”

What happened in the Garden of Gethsemane on the night of Jesus' arrest proves that His assignment to die on the cross was a hard one.

Jesus took his inner circle with Him to the garden to pray. He told Peter, James, and John that His soul was deeply grieved. Then He fell on His face and prayed. The second time He prayed, “Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” In other words, Jesus prayed to His Father to let His assignment be carried out another way, if possible, but if not, thy will be done." Jesus was in agony, and He prayed a third time. He prayed so fervently that His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground (Matthew 26:36-46; Luke 22:40-46).

After Jesus prayed and came to terms that it was not His will but the will of His Father, He died on the cross and fulfilled the hard assignment for which He had come to earth to do.

With Christ our example we can accept our assignments that our given to us to “finish”

***Assignment to “Answer the call of service”***

**You were created to serve God.**

* ***Eph. 2:10 - We are His work. He has made us to belong to Christ Jesus so we can work for Him. He planned that we should do this.***
* Eph. 2:10 (Tev) “*God has created us for a life of good deeds, which He has already prepared for us to do.”*

These “good deeds” are your service to the world. Whenever you serve others in any way, you are actually serving God and fulfilling one of your purposes.

**You were saved to serve God.**

* **Eph. 4:11-12 -” And *he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,***

Have you ever wondered why God doesn’t just immediately take us to heaven the moment we accept his grace? Once you are saved, God intends to use you for his goals. God has a ministry for you in his church and a mission for you in the world.

**You are called to serve God.**

* **1 Cor. 12:27 *“All of you together are Christ’s body, and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it.”***

Each of us has a role to play, and every role is important. Be committed to the service you’ve been called to.

* God will equip you for the call at hand
	+ “The day it becomes work, is the day it’s no longer service”

**You are commanded to serve God.**

* **Col. 3:23: “*Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,”***
	+ Let it always about service for God, and don’t let become a job
	+ The day it becomes work, is the day it’s no longer service

The mature follower of Jesus stops asking, “Who’s going to meet my needs?” and starts asking, “Whose needs can I meet?” Do you ever ask that question? One day God will compare how much time and energy we spent on ourselves compared with what we invested in serving others.

***Assignment to “Go into the Highways & Hedges (Fields)”***

* ***Luke 14:23 - Then the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.***
* **Matt. 9:37-38 *- Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”***
	+ Harvest is ripe
	+ Harvesters are few

Jesus said these words after seeing crowds of people in need of healing and salvation. His heart was moved with compassion, and he told his disciples that the need in this world is great, the harvest is ready, but the laborers are few. In **Matthew 9:38**, Jesus goes on to encourage the disciples to: "Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

According to this scripture, we can be sure that there is a harvest of lost and needy souls out there ready to receive salvation and healing, waiting for someone to share with them the good news of Jesus Christ. Just like ripe fruit on a tree, this spiritual harvest of lost souls are ready to be picked. But what happens to ripe fruit that does not get picked from the tree? It rots, falls to the ground, and dies.

Where does that leave us? We, then, are a part of the workers in the harvest field. We are to labor and reap the bountiful harvest the Lord has prepared, ripe and ready to receive salvation and healing. We are called to lead people into what Romans 6:23 says: "... the gift of God ... eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Closing:

Are you laboring in the harvest field? Are you a laborer for Christ Jesus?

When we do not walk in the calling God has given us, we allow the harvest meant for our reaping to rot. **Ask yourself today:**

* **What am I doing for God's kingdom?**
* **How can I labor for the kingdom and reap a harvest?**
* **Am I asking God to send out laborers who will work in the harvest field?**

By definition, laborers labor. We are called to work. There is so much work available in God's kingdom. The harvest is plenty (there's lots of work available to us), but the laborers are few (but there's a shortage of workers).

Be encouraged! In God's kingdom, there is a place available for you to labor:

* You can share Jesus Christ with your family, coworkers & friends and invite them to church & Bible Studies.
* You can serve on one of the many ministry teams here at PGC

You have a harvest waiting for you to reap for God's kingdom. You have talents and gifts that were specially given to you. (1Corinthians 12) You are a part of an intricate body and have a function that only you can complete.

So the next time you feel discouraged or inadequate to work for God's kingdom, remember: The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. God is calling you to work in the harvest field. There is a ripe harvest awaiting.

Are you going to be able to say as Christ did in John 17:4 *“I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.”?*

Knowing that your labor is not in vain, but has been divinely assigned you personally, should fill your heart with joy & fulfillment; especially knowing that when you’ve completed your assignments here on earth, He’ll be waiting for you and His first words to you will be “*Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.” (Matt: 25:23)*

**The assignment of the cross makes it so we can be forgiven of our sins and receive “Grace to Grow”, as become “Reconciled to Christ”, in order to “Accept the Assignments” He has for us to “Finish”.**

Let’s get to work for the Kingdom!

\*Salvation Point:

You can’t be assigned unless you’ve been forgiven.

1 John 1:9: *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Will you give your heart to Jesus today, in order to become assigned for His Work?