

CO-LABORERS WITH GOD

"We are God's fellow workers." I Corinthians 3:9.

These words teach us that: --

I. God is a Laborer.

God is ever working. Creation declares and illustrates His labors. Providence gives emphasis to His labors. Redemption proves His ceaseless activities. From the birth to the death of an individual, God never ceases to exert Himself on his behalf. He constantly works for the welfare of people.

II. We should be Laborers.

Nothing worth while is ever accomplished without work. This fact is recognized everywhere except in the religious realm. Nothing will take the place of work; not even dependence on God or talk. It is one thing to talk, and quite another thing to work.

III. We should be Co-laborers with God.

Together as Christians we are God's fellow workers. There is a difference in our natural powers, spiritual gifts, position in the church, and the length of our service. But, there should be a unity in aim and in hope. If mutual good will and helpfulness are lacking, it is a discredit to our common profession, a hindrance to our usefulness, and a grief to our Lord. Every Christian is invested with the power to work for God and is therefore obligated to do so.

Our scripture says that "we are God's fellow workers." What a title! That is the highest tribute that can be paid to us. How august the dignity! What distinction it confers upon us! We are workers with Him in His field. He furnishes the soil, the seed, and the sunshine, but He expects us to do the cultivating. Let us do our part, and then look to Him in faith to accomplish His part.

There are two extreme schools of thought which we must avoid: --

1. The one which teaches that man does not need God.
It claims that man can get along alright without God.
2. The one which teaches that God does not need man.
It claims that God can accomplish anything He wants to without man. That is, God can save a people if He wants to without man doing anything to help bring it about. In other words, "What is to be will be whether it ever comes to pass or not."

Our text implies that God will not do anything for a man that he can do for himself, but God will do everything for a man that he cannot do for himself. God gives the soil, the seed, the sunshine, and the rain, but man will never have a loaf of bread unless he prepares the soil, sows the seed, harvests the wheat, grinds it, mixes it, and bakes it. God made the stone, the clay, and the wood, but man will never live in a house unless he puts these together and builds the house. A church never grows without human hands using God's gifts. Church work is hindered because some members try to do things without God's help, and others sit around and wait for God to do everything. God wants all to be saved, but only those will be whom we win to Christ. Co-operation works both ways. If we will work with God, He will work with us. When we work together success is certain.

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