

# WORKERS TOGETHER WITH CHRIST

[BIBLE TEXT](#) : [I Corinthians 4:1-21; 9:16-27; II Corinthians 5:17-21; 6:1-10.](#)

LESSON 391 Junior Course

**MEMORY VERSE:** "We pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God" (II Corinthians 5:20).

## [BIBLE TEXT in King James Version](#)

### **1 Corinthians 4:1-20**

<sup>1</sup> Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

<sup>2</sup> Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

<sup>3</sup> But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self.

<sup>4</sup> For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord.

<sup>5</sup> Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

<sup>6</sup> And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think *of men* above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another.

<sup>7</sup> For who maketh thee to differ *from another?* and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive *it*, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received *it*?

<sup>8</sup> Now ye are full, now ye are rich, ye have reigned as kings without us: and I would to God ye did reign, that we also might reign with you.

<sup>9</sup> For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.

<sup>10</sup> *We are* fools for Christ's sake,

## [BIBLE REFERENCES:](#)

### [NOTES:](#)

#### **Learning of Jesus**

Before Jesus went into Heaven, He gave His disciples the commandment to preach and to spread the Gospel into all the world. Some of His followers had been with Jesus for three and a half years. Jesus was an example to them. Jesus went about doing good (**Acts 10:38** <sup>38</sup> How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.). He "healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils" (Mark 1:34). When a multitude gathered around Jesus in Capernaum, "he preached the word unto them" (Mark 2:2). He taught His disciples and gave them the Sermon on the Mount.

As He went about "preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God" (Luke 8:1) the twelve were with him. The followers of Jesus learned of Him. After Jesus had given the parable of the sower, the disciples asked Him to explain it to them. Often Jesus kept the choice teachings for His disciples because it was for them "to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 13:11). Jesus told His disciples that many prophets and righteous men desired to know the things that He had taught His followers. He said, "Blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear" (Matthew 13:16).

#### **A Command**

When Jesus sent out the twelve disciples, He gave them instructions as to what to do. Jesus said, "As ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 10:7). Not only did Jesus tell the disciples what to do but He also gave them power to do it (**Matthew 10:1** <sup>1</sup> And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power *against* unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.).

Later on, Jesus appointed 70 others to preach the Gospel. Jesus said: "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are new: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2). These 70 went out to work for the Lord. When they returned, they told that, in the name of the Lord, they had cast devils out of the sick and unsaved. But Jesus told them: "In this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven" (Luke 10:20).

#### **To Witness**

In all these ways Jesus had prepared His followers to spread the Gospel, to teach, and to preach. Jesus told them that He was going away. He said: "He that believeth in me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father" (John 14:12). One of the last commandments that Jesus gave His followers was "that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father" (Acts 1:4). He went on to explain that they should be baptised with the Holy Ghost and that that would give them power to be "witnesses" for Jesus in all the earth.

Jesus promised to be with His people "always, even unto the

but ye *are* wise in Christ; we *are* weak, but ye *are* strong; ye *are* honourable, but we *are* despised.

<sup>11</sup> Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace;

<sup>12</sup> And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it:

<sup>13</sup> Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, *and are* the offscouring of all things unto this day.

<sup>14</sup> I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn *you*.

<sup>15</sup> For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *have ye* not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

<sup>16</sup> Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.

<sup>17</sup> For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.

<sup>18</sup> Now some are puffed up, as though I would not come to you.

<sup>19</sup> But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the power.

<sup>20</sup> For the kingdom of God *is* not in word, but in power.

### **1 Corinthians 9:16-27**

<sup>16</sup> For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

<sup>17</sup> For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation *of the gospel* is committed unto me.

<sup>18</sup> What is my reward then? *Verily*

end of the world" (Matthew 28:20). The people who heard Jesus speak those words have not lived unto the "end of the world." Jesus meant that He would be with all His people, in the years and generations to come, and not just the ones who were alive when Jesus was on earth. As His promises are for us today, so are His commandments. If God's people do not spread the Gospel, some people will not hear of salvation. God has no other plan for spreading the good news of salvation.

"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ" (II Corinthians 5:20). That means that we who are saved represent Jesus, the King of kings. A part of our work as ambassadors is to plead with the unsaved to be "reconciled to God." We pray for them and encourage them to turn to the Lord.

### **Compelled by Love**

When one is saved it is put into his heart to tell others what the Lord has done for him. The love of God in the heart seems to compel a person to tell others. Everyone may not be able to preach but one who is saved will want to testify and to invite others to the meetings.

When one is saved his life is changed. "Behold, all things are become new." Perhaps before he was saved he was selfish, and cared not for others. But the "old things are passed away" and now he wants to share with others what God has done for him. He has been saved to serve the Lord and to be helpful to others.

The Lord called Paul to be a preacher. Paul felt that it was necessary for him to do the things that God asked him to do. Paul knew that there would be a reward if he did it willingly. He was very careful that he was obedient to God lest he "should be a castaway." Paul won many souls for the Lord but he did not boast in himself. He said, "I have nothing to glory of: . . . yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!"

### **A Steward**

Sometimes we are called "stewards" because God has entrusted us with the things, which belong to Him. What we have, God has permitted us to have. He has put into our care our lives, our time, our talents, and our possessions. Jesus taught a parable about stewards. It was a parable of the Kingdom of Heaven, in which His servants were required to give an account of what they had received (Matthew 25:14-30).  
14 For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. 15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. 16 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. 17 And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. 18 But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. 19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. 20 And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. 21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. 22 He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. 23 His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. 24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not straved: 25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. 26 His lord answered and said

that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.

<sup>19</sup> For though I be free from all *men*, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.

<sup>20</sup> And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law;

<sup>21</sup> To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law.

<sup>22</sup> To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all *men*, that I might by all means save some.

<sup>23</sup> And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with *you*.

<sup>24</sup> Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

<sup>25</sup> And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

<sup>26</sup> I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

<sup>27</sup> But I keep under my body, and bring *it* into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

## **2 Corinthians 5:17-21**

<sup>17</sup> Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

<sup>18</sup> And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

<sup>19</sup> To wit, that God was in Christ,

unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: <sup>27</sup> Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. <sup>28</sup> Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. <sup>29</sup> For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. <sup>30</sup> And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.).

We learn from this parable and other portions of Scripture that someday each one of us will give an account unto God (**Romans 14:12** <sup>12</sup> So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.). Perhaps you will be asked: Has your life been lived for the Lord? Have you given your talents for the glory of God? Have you lived in obedience to God and the Bible?

## **To Be Faithful**

Along with the privilege of serving God and receiving His many blessings comes the responsibility to share them with others. Those who work willingly for the Lord will receive a great reward. Working for the Lord is sometimes compared with running a race in which each can win the "prize." "So run, that ye may obtain" the prize, which God will give His faithful followers.

God does not require more than we can do or more than we can give. But He does ask His people to be faithful to Him (**1 Corinthians 4:2** <sup>2</sup> Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.). Even though to you your talents seem very small, God expects you to use them for Him and to gain more.

## **Workers Together**

God's people can witness for the Lord by their lives and by their testimonies but they cannot save others. The Lord is the only One who can save a soul. God's people pray for others and encourage them to be saved, but the Spirit of God draws them to Him (**John 6:44** <sup>44</sup> No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.).

When Paul stood before Felix, he reasoned with the governor "of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come" (Acts 24:25). As Paul talked, God sent conviction upon Felix so that he "trembled." Paul was faithful to witness, and God did His part by sending conviction. Paul said that we are "workers together" with God (II Corinthians 6:1).

**"He knows how I am longing some weary soul to win,**

**And so He bids me go and speak a loving word for Him;**

**He bids me tell His wondrous love, and why He came to die;**

**And so we work together, my Lord and I."**

We must also be "workers together" with one another. Paul started a church in Corinth before he left there. Then another minister by the name of Apollos preached there to help the people. Paul explains that they must all work together as one. Paul said: "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. . . . Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour" (I Corinthians 3:6, 8).

God's people have also been likened to members of one body (**1 Corinthians 12:12** <sup>12</sup> For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. ). One part or member of the body

reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

<sup>20</sup> Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

<sup>21</sup> For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

## **2 Corinthians 6:1-10**

<sup>1</sup> We then, *as* workers together *with him*, beseech *you* also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.

<sup>2</sup> (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.)

<sup>3</sup> Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed:

<sup>4</sup> But in all *things* approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses,

<sup>5</sup> In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings;

<sup>6</sup> By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,

<sup>7</sup> By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,

<sup>8</sup> By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and *yet* true;

<sup>9</sup> As unknown, and *yet* well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed;

<sup>10</sup> As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and *yet* possessing all things.

cannot do the work of all. Each member has his part to do. When one part fails, the whole body is affected. As each one is faithful to do his part, the work of the Lord will go on. Are you doing your part?

## **QUESTIONS**

1. What is a steward?
2. What does God expect of His stewards?
3. In what way are God's people ambassadors for Christ?
4. What does it mean to be reconciled to God?
5. What is changed in a person's life when he is saved?
6. How can one witness for the Lord?
7. Who will give an account of himself to God?
8. How can we be workers together with God?
9. If God's people are members of one body, who is the head?
10. How can we use our talents for the Lord?