

THE BEST WAY TO SERVE THE LORD

Psalm 100:2

Introduction: Not everyone sees things as an artist does nor does everyone hear sounds like a musician does. Not everyone serves the Lord the same way either. Some act like they are being treated like slaves, some like they have to be paid, some are insulted that they are expected to "serve" anybody, even the Lord.

"Serve the Lord with gladness..." is the way God wants and His Word clearly reveals why and how a Christian should gladly serve the Lord.

I. SOME REASONS TO GLADLY SERVE THE LORD

1. The Christian is not bound by laws and commands as were the Old Testament family of God.
 - No Christian has to "work" for heaven or work in order to escape hell.
 - Salvation provided by Jesus frees the Christian and he/she has peace that is beyond any person's understanding.
2. God's Word shows the Christian of his/her great deliverance.
 - In the Old Testament God's Word shows how God delivered Israel out of Egyptian bondage using Moses and Joshua.
 - The Christian has been delivered from an even greater bondage by Jesus alone.
3. The Christian has been given a new nature.
 - Everybody has certain instincts that they were born with that enable them to get along in the world.
 - The Christian is given new instincts at his/her birth into God's family that enable him/her to serve the Lord and be about "the Father's business" as Jesus did.
 - Being glad to do something for the Lord, to serve the Lord is a strong mark of a true believer.
4. The sense of being honored causes the Christian to gladly serve the Lord.
 - God chose the Christian. God called the Christian and God walks with His Christians.
 - People have given their lives for much less honor. How much more is being recognized and honored by God worth than any human recognition or honor?

II. SOME WAYS TO SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS

1. Serve the Lord with gladness when in public worship.
 - Worship services have more hypocrites and miserable people in them than happy, at peace Christians.
 - God wants Christians to be happy and to serve Him with happiness.
 - Worship is dreary and dull to some but not to the Christian who is glad to put aside his/her cares of the world and withdraw into God's house to spend some time with Him.
 - What makes worship dreary and dull to so many?
 - Is it being in God's House?
 - Is it what the hymns/music is all about?
 - Is it the reading of God's Word?

- Is it during prayers?
 - Is it the fellowship with other Christians?
 - Or is it a backslidden condition of the Christian or just simple, plain unbelief?
 - For six days Christians face the world and all that the world gives but on Sunday!!!
 - All the world is put aside and Christians focus only on God and what God has done what God is doing and what God is going to do.
2. Then there is private worship.
 - The Christian can worship God any place.
 - The Christian tries to be in a constant attitude of worship, no matter where he/she is.
 - An insincere Christian will not worship God very often privately.
 3. Christian leaders should reflect gladness at all times that they are serving the Lord and helping other Christians learn how to serve the Lord with gladness.

III. SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS DOES HAVE SOME DIFFICULTIES

1. There is the "inbred sin" or the old sin nature everyone is born with.
 - Paul cried out, "*...O wretched man that I am...*"
 - Often the ailment one suffers causes him/her to forget the "cure" and therefore complaints, excuses for lack of service are made.
 - The Christian must continue to try to serve the Lord with gladness even in his/her weakness for he/she won't always be weak.
2. There are outward trials the Christian struggles with.
 - There is making a living, lack of adequate money, then sickness within the family.
 - The Christian knows that he/she does not live by sight, but by faith and is to cast his/her cares upon the Lord, however sometimes the outward trials almost overwhelm and keep the Christian from being able to serve the Lord with the gladness he/she wants to serve with.
3. Being in the midst of unbelievers and even ungodly people make it difficult at times.
 - For some Christians their surroundings are like the three men in the fiery furnace and how that other person (Jesus) is needed.
 - It is impossible to pick and choose life's choices/offers, but every person must take what life gives out.
 - The scripture "*...I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me...*" seems like a wish and a dream at times and impossible to do.

CONCLUSION:

1. Does not every Christian escape some chastisements when he/she serves the Lord with gladness?
2. Are not others benefited when Christians serve the Lord with gladness?
3. Is not the Lord pleased when Christians serve Him with gladness? Christian, let's do it!