

## **At The Front Or At The Back**

Have we become guilty of placing more emphasis on one aspect of the work of the Lord over that of another? Have we made some feel guilty that they are not doing as much as we are? Or, that what they are doing is not important? If we are not careful, we can make some feel guilty for not doing the same things as we are.

For example, a young mother may be made to feel guilty because she is not as “actively involved” as others. The older members may feel guilty because they cannot do what they used to do. The one talent individual may be made to feel guilty because he only has the one talent. Some may not be used because we want to put forth “our best.”

There is an interesting statement in **1 Samuel 30:24**, “...as his part is who goes down to the battle, so shall his part be who stays by the supplies; they shall share alike.” We need to remember that when we have done all that the Lord commands us, we are still unprofitable servants doing what was our duty to do (**Luke 17:10**). God has placed us in the body as He desired (**1 Corinthians 12:18**). It is God who has composed the spiritual body and has given greater honor to that part (member) which lacks it (**1 Corinthians 12:24**).

There is one body and many members but all the members do not have the same function (**Romans 12:4-5**). One member cannot say that because he is not as talented as another, he is not part of the body (**1 Corinthians 12:15-17**). One member is not to say to another member “I have no need of you (**1 Corinthians 12:20-24**). Every part of the body is necessary (**Ephesians 4:15-16**).

There are those who teach/preach and those who support them (**Romans 10:14-15**). As Jesus went about doing good (**Acts 10:38**), He had those who supported Him (**Luke 8:1-3**). Paul desired to preach the gospel where Christ was not named yet (**Romans 15:20**). Paul had those who helped support him in this mission work (**Philippians 4:15-16**).

What is our goal? We are to be followers of God as dear children (**Ephesians 5:1-2**). It is that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ (**1 Peter 4:11**). Whatever we do in word or deed, we are to do all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God the Father through Him (**Colossians 3:17**). This involves our loving one another as Christ has loved us (**John 13:34-35**).

Our talents (or our abilities) are given by God's manifold grace (**Matthew 25:15**). One day we will give an account for what God has entrusted to us (**Matthew 25:14-30**). We are not to squander what has been given to us by God. We are to be zealous to use what we have been given to be well pleasing to God (**2 Corinthians 5:9**). The faithful will receive the same reward (**Matthew 25:21, 23**). This is what Jesus taught (**Matthew 10:41-42**).

Wherever we serve, we are doing it as good stewards being found faithful by God (**1 Corinthians 4:2**). We are to do it heartily, as to the Lord (**Colossians 3:23**). Sometimes one may say that all they can do it pray. Remember, that the prayers of a righteous soul will accomplish much (**James 5:16**). We are to be faithful unto death to receive the crown of life (**Revelation 2:10**).

We are to be found, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts (**1 Thessalonians 2:4**). We are to have a walk worthy of God (**1 Thessalonians 2:12**). We are to welcome hearing the Word of God (**1 Thessalonians 2:13**). May God indeed make us increase and abound in love to one another and to all (**1 Thessalonians 3:12**).

Something to think about!

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