

A CHRISTIAN'S JOB DESCRIPTION

Phil. 2:12-18

INTRODUCTION

- A. A Job Description.
 - 1. Expectations about the job.
 - 2. What we will be required to do.
 - 3. How to fulfill the responsibilities.
- B. Example of Job Description (Different Perspectives).
 - 1. George Banks: firm, respectable, no-nonsense. A general who can get command. Run the house with precision, tradition, discipline and rules.
 - 2. Jane and Michael Banks: cheery disposition, rosy cheeks, no warts! Play games, be kind, witty, very sweet and fairly pretty. Take on outings, give treats, sing songs, bring sweets. Never be cross or cruel, never give castor oil or gruel. Love as a son or daughter, never smell of barley water. Don't scold and dominate.
- C. We are left no question as to expectations as a Christian.
 - 1. Paul describes the job we as Christians are expected to fulfill.
 - 2. Then, he lists the requirements to fulfill the job.

I. JOB REQUESTED.

- A. "*So then,...*", vs. 12.
 - 1. This is really in reference to 1:27, "*...conduct yourselves...*"
 - 2. It also looks back to vs. 8.
 - a. Because of the obedience of Jesus.
 - b. His followers are to be obedient (Have this attitude...).
- B. "*Obey ...*," vs. 12.
 - 1. They had always obeyed God's instructions.
 - a. Keep on keeping on.
 - b. 2 Thess. 2:15
 - 2. Easy to live the right life when someone is watching.
 - a. More difficult when on your own.
 - b. Heb. 10:24 – stimulate one another....
- C. "*Work Out Your Salvation*," vs. 12.
 - 1. This is not suggesting that we can earn our salvation – we can't!
 - a. Clear that we are saved by the grace of God, Eph. 2:8.
 - b. We are saved by an obedient faith, Heb. 5:9.
 - 2. Good start when baptized, but must continue service to God, Jas. 1:3.

II. JOB REQUIREMENTS. vss. 14-18

- A. Work Reverently, vs. 12.
 - 1. Work with a sense of awe and respect, 1 Pet. 3:2.
 - a. The word used is "fear."
 - b. A respectful behavior.
 - 2. We should not be paralyzed with fear, but should never forget the seriousness of the task and the greatness of the One we serve, Heb. 12:28.
- B. Work Confidently, vs. 13.
 - 1. God is at work [to energize] in you, Eph. 2:10.
 - a. Understanding that we are not working alone.
 - b. God will give us the strength and wisdom.

2. To will for His good pleasure.
 - a. What is His will?
 - b. Not necessarily day to day choices, but His will to live for Him, Rom. 12:2.
 - c. 1 Tim. 2:3-4 – all men to be saved.
3. Work for His good pleasure.
 - a. God takes pleasure in those who serve Him willingly, Ps. 149:4.
 - b. Demands an active response – faith and works, James 2:17.
- C. Work Willingly, vs. 14.
 1. “Grumbling” is a term referring to “expression of secret discontent.”
 - a. Used to describe the complaining of the Israelites in the wilderness.
 - b. 1 Cor. 10:10 – grumbled and died.
 2. “Disputing” refers to “evil thoughts.”
 - a. This could be disputing with Christians.
 - b. But could also include disputing with God.
 - c. When the Israelites complained to Moses (Num. 16:41) – they were complaining to God (Num. 17:10).
- D. Work Blamelessly, vs. 15.
 1. Living a life at which no finger of criticism may be pointed, Heb. 4:15.
 - a. Blameless – good outside (others can see).
 - b. Lights for the world to see.
 2. Innocent is often considered as ignorance or being naïve.
 - a. “Innocent” means “unmixed,” as in wine unmixed with water.
 - b. A good heart (inside) that is unmixed with evil – pure.
 3. Above reproach – doing nothing which would hold the church in ridicule to the world.
 - a. The world is crooked and perverse.
 - b. We must be opposite in all things – shining as lights, Col. 1:13.
 - c. Once dead (Eph. 2:1) – but now alive in God (Eph. 2:4-6).
- E. Work Steadfastly, vs. 16.
 1. Holding the light securely so others can see it and follow.
 2. The light is God’s Word, Ps. 119:105.
 - a. The teaching that gives life, 1 Jn. 1:1.
 - b. 1 Tim. 4:16; 2 Tim. 2:15
 3. Holding forth Jesus – through His Word!
- F. Work Cheerfully, vs. 17-18.
 1. Paul being poured out as a drink offering.
 2. The sacrifice and service of faith.
 - a. Faith is not only their acceptance of Christ and their trust in Him.
 - b. Faith is also the deeds and devotion by which their faith is expressed.
 3. Rejoice in the same way Paul rejoiced (while facing death).
 - a. The word for “rejoice” is found four times in vss. 17-18.
 - b. Share that joy with Paul – we share wit each other.

CLOSING

- A. Can you work for the Lord?
- B. Are you filling the requirements for serving the Lord?